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FOUNDATION

Long Term Care **NURSING...** *Explore the Possibilities*

MA LONG TERM CARE NURSING SHORTAGE WORK GROUPS **EASTERN MA (Worcester East) WESTERN MA (West of Worcester)**

The Massachusetts Senior Care Foundation convened two regionally-based “**Long Term Care Nursing Groups,**” in 2003 to address the critical shortage of nurses in long term care. Members represent **nursing home providers** (nurses, administrators); **nursing educators** (deans, directors or faculty from schools of nursing and nursing programs across Massachusetts schools); and **state agencies** (Board of Registration in Nursing, Department of Public Health, Department of Higher Education, Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office). Semi-annual group meetings provide a forum for members to collaboratively identify barriers and identify strategies to improve the recruitment, retention and educational advancement of nurses in long term care. Meetings also facilitate networking among members that have resulted in valuable provider-school partnerships.

Initiatives have included the development/distribution of an educational video and related materials on long term care nursing for students and educators, and sponsorship of an annual statewide conference, “**Long Term Care Nursing Day-Explore the Possibilities,**” that provided educational workshops and networking for over 5,000 nursing students and faculty that attended the event from 2004-2009. Current priorities include increasing and enhancing the use of long term care facilities as student placement clinical sites, and enhancing nursing faculty expertise in gerontological nursing.

For more information or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Carolyn Blanks, Executive Director, Mass Senior Care Foundation at 617.558.0202 or cblanks@maseniorcare.org.