



MASSACHUSETTS
SENIOR CARE
ASSOCIATION



MASSACHUSETTS
SENIOR CARE
FOUNDATION



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

The Massachusetts Senior Care Association convened two regionally-based “**Long Term Care Nursing Shortage Work Groups**,” in 2003 to begin 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 nursing programs at Massachusetts colleges, universities and vocational schools); and **state agencies** (Board of Registration in Nursing, Department of Public Health, Department of Higher Education, Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office and the Commonwealth Corporation). Semi-annual group meetings provide a forum for members to collaboratively identify barriers and identify strategies to improve the recruitment and retention of nurses in long term care. Meetings also facilitate networking among members that have resulted in valuable new school-provider partnerships.

Initiatives to date have included joint advocacy for LPN state funding, the development/distribution of an educational video on long term care nursing for students and educators, and sponsorship of an annual statewide conference, “**Long Term Care Nursing Day- Explore the Possibilities**,” featuring educational workshops and networking for the over 1,000 nursing students and faculty that attend the event. 2009 priorities include increasing and enhancing the use of long term care facilities as student placement clinical sites.

For more information or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Carolyn Blanks, Mass Senior Care’s Vice President of Labor & Workforce Development, at 617.558.0202 or cblanks@massseniorcare.org.