

Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

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Contact: Rebecca Burns, Health Officer
517-279-9561, ext. 0148#
Laura Sutter, AAA3C Coordinator
517-278-2538 ext. 0137#

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AAA Assessment Underway – What’s Needed in Your Community?

(Coldwater, MI). The Branch-St. Joseph Area Agency on Aging (AAA 3C) is seeking input from older adults, caregivers and service providers residing and/or serving Branch and St. Joseph Counties. Every three years, the Agency, which is responsible for identifying community needs and responding to those needs through an established network of services and supports, conducts a Planning Survey to gain input and perspective.

The AAA 3C planning process begins this month. According to Laura Sutter, Coordinator for the AAA 3C, “If you are an older adult, caregiver of an older adult or provide services to older adults, we want to hear from you!” Laura adds “We have developed two surveys – one for older adults/caregivers and one for key leaders/service providers. The surveys are short, take only 5 to 10 minutes to complete and the information provided is anonymous.”

Surveys can be accessed online through the internet by going to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAA3CSrNeedsAssessment2016>

(for Older Adults/Caregivers)

Or

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAA3CLeaderAssessment2016>

(for Key Community Leaders/Service Providers)

Both of these links are also posted on the health department’s website at www.bhsj.org for ease of use. Each of the surveys will be open until **April 22nd**. Laura adds “For older adults/caregivers who are not internet savvy, we are also distributing paper surveys through various agencies, such as the Commission on Aging or through local senior meal sites. Please take the survey, your input is welcomed and needed.”

Input obtained through the survey process will be used to develop, expand and improve the various services and supports available across our two-county area. Feedback received via the survey will be presented at two local hearings, scheduled for April 28th and 29th. Public Hearing Notices containing details about times and locations for the public hearings will be placed in local newspapers and shared on the www.bhsj.org website later in the month. Information gathered through these processes will be incorporated into the Multi-Year Plan,

which will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services later this year. Questions regarding the process and/or concerning services that the AAA 3C provides can be directed to: (888) 615-8009 (Toll Free) or (517) 278-2538. Or visit our website at: www.bhsj.org/AAA.

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