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## **Broward County Hosts 2007 Elder Services Summit**

*What Does the Future Hold for Broward's Elderly Population?*

### **Did you know?**

- There are approximately 340,000 elderly people living in Broward County, representing 19 percent of the population. \*
- 10 percent of those are living below the poverty level. \*
- 16 percent are disabled. \*
- 20 percent suffer with behavioral health problems. \*
- 32 percent live alone. \*

Broward County is a caring community that has long been dedicated to providing quality services to its elderly residents. As the population changes, needs change and the services being provided must be routinely examined and assessed.

On Wednesday, January 31, 2007, an Elder Services Summit is planned from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Signature Grand in Davie.

### **The 2007 Elder Services Summit will focus on:**

- Themed facilitated sessions will focus on elderly issues including provision of basic needs, housing, and emergency preparedness
- The Florida International University Center on Aging 2006 Broward Elderly Analysis
- Development of a Broward County Elderly Care Business Plan
- Building community consensus on elderly issues and solutions
- Shared elderly care community resources

The Summit is a “must attend” for elderly residents, caregivers, elder care providers, governmental agencies and municipalities, businesses, Senior Hall of Fame recipients, condominium associations and all media.

“This summit will bring stakeholders together to discuss the challenges facing the elderly and bring focus to what must be done to provide necessary services,” said Broward County Vice-Mayor Lois Wexler, a longtime advocate for the elderly. “Changes in the economy, changes in healthcare legislation and increased costs in housing affect our elderly. We need to take a look at what is available and what needs are not being met and work together to fill the gap.” Vice-Mayor Wexler is a member of the Broward Aging Alliance and led the effort to have Broward County join the *Communities for a Lifetime* initiative. *Communities for a Lifetime* is an initiative of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. *Communities for a Lifetime* promotes awareness of the needs of senior citizens in a community and encourages future planning to meet those needs.

The 2007 Elder Services Summit is sponsored by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services Division, Florida International University and community partners.

If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please call Margaret Wolter at (954) 357-7005 or send an e-mail to [mwolter@broward.org](mailto:mwolter@broward.org) to request a conference schedule and registration form.

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\* *Broward-by-the-Numbers 2000 U.S. Census*