

## MAP Community Kick-off Event Update for Senior Times

On Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the Orange County Department on Aging (OCDOA) and students from UNC's Gillings School of Public Health hosted a Community Kick-off Event at the Seymour Center for the 2012-2017 Master Aging Plan (MAP). The event had great turnout with over 100 community members in attendance. The purpose of the event was to review information gathered over the summer about topics areas that are important for MAP to cover as well as to generate ideas about additional topic areas. The event received coverage in the *Daily Tar Heel*, the *Chapel Hill News*, and the *Raleigh News and Observer*.

The afternoon began with an introduction by the Director of the OCDOA, Janice Tyler, and a demographics presentation about Orange County by Mary Fraser, Aging Transitions Director. Attendees were then introduced to Gretchen Hurley, a community member, who described her perspective as a caregiver for her sister. Two graduate students, Rebecca Woodruff and My-Linh Luong, then presented the results from a community assessment that was conducted this summer through focus groups and surveys of Orange County residents to describe the key issues that will be important for the Master Aging Plan to address. The summer work identified five major topic areas, which were housing, navigation and transportation, health and wellness, community engagement and information sharing.

After the introductory presentations, community members broke into small discussion groups and were asked to identify additional topic areas for MAP to address. Notes from these groups were compiled and generated an additional eight topics, which were financial and economic security, aging in place supports, safety and security, long-term care and end of life care, food and nutrition, public education, mental health, and physician education. Participants then used a weighted voting procedure to vote for the five topics they thought were most important. Results of the voting process are listed below. These prioritized issues will form the basis for the work groups for the Master Aging Plan.

| <b>Topic</b>                    | <b>Votes</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Health and Wellness             | 185          |
| Navigation and Transportation   | 149          |
| Housing                         | 147          |
| Information Sharing             | 135          |
| Financial and Economic Security | 96           |
| Aging in Place Supports         | 88           |
| Community Engagement            | 79           |
| Safety and Security             | 56           |
| Food and nutrition              | 42           |
| Long-term care and end of life  | 38           |
| Mental health                   | 28           |
| Public education                | 26           |
| Physician education             | 10           |