

Partners in Personal Assistance

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2016

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BENEFITS ADVOCACY WORKSHOP FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MARCH 3 &

Ann Arbor, Michigan – “Self-Advocacy for Government Benefits” is the title of the next free workshop to be offered for seniors, people with disabilities and their advocates. The workshop is being offered twice in March: Thursday March 3 from 3-4:30pm at Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, 3941 Research Park Drive, Ann Arbor, and Wednesday March 9, 6:30-8:30pm at Washtenaw Community College’s Crane Liberal Arts and Science Building, Room 158. RSVPs are recommended by calling 734-214-3890.

The March workshops will give an overview of what benefits are available through sources like the Social Security Administration, the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and Washtenaw County Community Mental Health, and how to apply for these. Other organizations that can help a person with applications and/or appeals on negative decisions will also be mentioned. Attendees are encouraged to bring their stories and questions so that others can point them in the right direction for assistance.

The free workshop series, to be held through June of 2016 at these two locations, will educate the public about important issues regarding disabilities and aging, increase outreach about services available, and offer follow-up support/assistance for help in each area covered. The speaker series will be co-hosted and sponsored by Partners in Personal Assistance (PPA) and the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living as part of their missions of education and service to the community. Since seating is limited to approximately 30 persons per workshop, reservations are recommended by calling PPA, 734-214-3890.

“People facing issues of aging or disability need reliable sources of information to help them navigate the social service system,” said Sharon Pedersen, PPA Executive Director. “Many people who would qualify for assistance such as social security disability, food, housing and income support give up on applying for such assistance due to the cumbersome application process, and the lack of identifiable support people to help navigate complex social systems. People with disabilities need information like this to help them learn how to advocate for themselves. We are glad to offer these free workshops in accessible locations.”

Partners in Personal Assistance received a grant from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation's Anna Botsford Bach fund to support the speaker series. For more information on the free speaker series, or to request a brochure, see www.annarborppa.org.

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