

2011 Linda Flowers Literary Award: NC Humanities Council Calls for Submissions

The North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, invites original entries of fiction, creative nonfiction, or poetry for the 2011 Linda Flowers Literary Award. The postmark or deadline for submissions is August 15, 2011. There is no entry fee.

The Linda Flowers Literary Award is given annually by the North Carolina Humanities Council for unpublished writing that portrays North Carolina, its people, and cultures. While authors do not have to be North Carolinians, entries are expected to draw on North Carolina connections and/or memories.

The Humanities Council will award the author of the winning entry a cash prize of \$500, publication in the Council's biannual magazine North Carolina Conversations, and support towards a weeklong writer's residency at Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities in Southern Pines.

Entries should be no longer than 2,500 words and five copies of the entry should be submitted. For a complete description and full submission guidelines for the Linda Flowers Literary Award, visit the North Carolina Humanities Council website at www.nchumanities.org.

With the Linda Flowers Literary Award, the Council honors a humanist, professor, and writer who achieved the extraordinary despite extraordinary odds. The award recognizes people writing now who care, as Flowers did, about writing truthfully and well. The Humanities Council was privileged to have Linda Flowers as one of its members from 1992 to 1998. In 2000, a colleague at Flowers' funeral remembered her "tenacious" commitment to truth-telling, "not being polite,

but telling the truth." Flowers reflected on her experience with cancer in "I Have Come Home," published in the Humanities Council's NC Crossroads (May 1999). Flowers' *Thrown Away: Failures of Progress in Eastern North Carolina* was published in 1993.

Mail entries to: North Carolina Humanities Council, Attn: Dr. Shelley Crisp, Executive Director, 122 N. Elm Street, Suite 601, Greensboro, NC, 27401. Questions may be directed to Crisp at scrisp@nchumanities.org or (336) 334-5383.

The North Carolina Humanities Council is a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Humanities Council supports through grants and public programs vital conversations that nurture the cultures and heritage of North Carolina. In addition to grants and publications, the Council offers the Teachers Institute, a free professional education development program for NC's K-12 public school teachers; Road Scholars, a speakers bureau bringing scholars and NC communities together to explore issues in the public humanities; Let's Talk About It, a library discussion series of literature and film in partnership with the North Carolina Center for the Book; Museum on Main Street (MoMS), a traveling exhibition in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution and rural NC towns statewide; NC Roadwork, an initiative encouraging the examination of local NC history related to routes of human passage; and Literature and Medicine, a scholar-facilitated book discussion group for hospital staff to reflect on the larger mission of medicine. Learn more about the work of the North Carolina Humanities Council at www.nchumanities.org.

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Two New Innovative Programs Improve Birth Outcomes and Healthcare Management of High Risk Children

New programs for Medicaid enrollees

Since 2002, Community Care Partners of Greater Mecklenburg (CCPGM) has been overseeing and coordinating healthcare for Medicaid recipients in Anson, Mecklenburg and Union counties. Last week it announced the Pregnancy Medical Home and Care Coordination For Children (CC4C) programs, two new initiatives for high-risk mothers and children. In Anson county these programs will be carried out by Dana Thomas, BSN, RN, Nursing Supervisor for the Anson County Health Department and her staff. They will work in partnership with local provider practices and community agencies to ensure the success of the programs. They will also work closely with Linda Griffin, RN, BSN, Nurse Care Manager for CCPGM. Ms. Griffin is responsible for coordinating the care of Medicaid patients in Anson, Mecklenburg and Union counties.

The Pregnancy Medical Home program enlists local physicians to provide maternity care for high-risk Medicaid mothers and their babies while adopting the program's best practices in maternity care. Participating physicians also follow evidence-based guidelines and quality improvement strategies. A medical home facilitates partnership between patients, physicians, families and community services to provide patient-centered, coordinated and culturally effective care. To become a Pregnancy Medical Home, providers become affiliate members of CCPGM. In exchange for meeting clinical performance standards, Pregnancy Medical Home providers receive enhanced reimbursement for risk assessment and services delivered.

Tara Vick, MD Obstetrics and Gynecology with Carolinas Medical Center, serves as CCPGM's clinical champion for the program. According to Dr. Vick, "The foundation of this program is collaboration. The Pregnancy Medical Home physician serves as the link in coordinating a patient's care with other clinicians. For our at-risk patients, this model provides the level of interfacing needed to manage the care of more complex pregnancies."

Dr. Vick will also work to promote and implement the program in Anson, Mecklenburg and Union counties with CCPGM's Program Manager, Dana Baker, RN, BSN, CCM and OB Coordinator, Lisa Tucker, RN BSN. Health department collaborators in Union and Mecklenburg counties include Maria Reese, MS, Community Services Director for the Mecklenburg County Public Health Department and Laura Price, RN, Maternal Child Health Nursing Supervisor for the Union County Health Department.

The Pregnancy Medical Home program model achieves two goals. It improves the quality of obstetrical care and birth outcomes for both high-risk Medicaid mothers and their babies while reducing infant medical care costs. CCPGM's Dana Baker states, "The focus of the program is to identify patients who may be at risk for poor birth outcomes through the use of screening tools, promoting lifestyle modification and linking high-risk patients with care management services within the community."

In 2009, of the nearly 127,000 births in North Carolina, approximately 57% were to Medicaid recipients. One in seven children in the state is born preterm and premature birth is known to cause over 70% of perinatal mortality, the brief period of time immediately before and after birth. For children with chronic medical conditions ages five years to birth, The Care Coordination For Children (CC4C) program is offered at no charge for Medicaid recipients. It also provides healthcare for children living long term in stressful situations or referred by a physician. Upon receiving a referral, the CC4C Care Managers located within local health departments work with families to identify an appropriate medical home and design a coordinated care plan. Care Managers also provide referrals to other community services, offer educational information on health topics and help parents to become their child's advocate. Local health departments, in partnership with Community Care Partners of Greater Mecklenburg and the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance, provide CC4C services.

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Groggy Guests Fall for Hotel Credit Card Scam

Are you going on vacation soon? If you are planning to stay in a hotel or motel, the Better Business Bureau has advice about the latest travel scam. How the scam works: You get a telephone call in your hotel room in the middle of the night from a person claiming to be the hotel's 'night auditor'. He apologizes for waking you up and claims that there is a problem with the hotel's computer system. He states that his job is to reconcile and process room charges each night, but he cannot do so because the hotel's computer system is down. He explains that he needs to enter your credit card manually in order to process your room charge. For your inconvenience, he offers you a discount on your room rate.

Since the story sounds legitimate and the discount is appreciated, you give the 'night auditor' your credit card number so that he can complete his work and you can go back to sleep. Then, the scammer goes shopping with your credit card, maxing out the available credit before you even wake up the next morning.

The BBB has the following advice to keep you from becoming a victim of a vacation scam:

- Never give your credit card number to someone who calls you on the telephone. If you get a call from the 'hotel' about a problem with your credit card, hang up, call the front desk from your room and verify that there is a problem.
- Save your receipts during your trip so you can check the receipts against the actual charges that show up on your credit card bill.
- Set up alerts on your bank account and credit card accounts to receive text messages or emails on your mobile phone every time a transaction is made on any of your accounts.
- Limit the number of credit cards you carry when you travel to lessen the potential loss should your wallet be stolen.
- Be careful about checking your credit card or bank accounts from 'public' computers in internet cafes or airports. You may think you are using a secure internet connection that could actually be set up by a con artist to steal your identity.
- If you find unauthorized charges on your credit card or bank account, notify your credit card company or your bank immediately.
- Check your credit reports to insure that no new credit accounts have been opened in your name without your consent.

For more information about identity theft, phishing scams and travel scams, please visit www.bbb.org.

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