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For Immediate Release

Free Advance Health Care Legal Forums For Seniors and Caregivers

February 9, 2011: The best time to make advance health care decisions for yourself or loved family members is not during a medical crisis. Beginning on February 23rd, 2011, a once monthly series of free advance health care legal education forums will be available for Central Texas residents. Presented in collaboration by Lutheran Ministries and Social Services of Waco (LMSS-Waco) and the Heart of Texas Area Agency on Aging (HOT-COG AAA) each session will be held at the AAA facility located at 1514 South New Road in Waco, Texas. Each event will be held on a Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. – noon.

Much stress and confusion during a family member's immediate medical crisis can be avoided with proper planning. But many persons are unaware of which legal documents are needed, and many families believe there is nothing they can do if they cannot afford the services of an attorney to put these documents in place. In the state of Texas there is one attorney for every 335 persons who can afford to hire one, but only one poverty law attorney for every 7,250 persons who cannot. The State of Texas freely makes available some of those forms for Texans to use, but many are not aware of what they are or how to access or complete them.

Led by staff from the *Seniors Count/Legal Assistance Project* programs of LMSS-Waco along with staff from the HOT-COG AAA, group participants will learn how advance legal preparation can help minimize problems for families while helping seniors to maintain control over their health care decisions. Legal documents, such as a Medical Power of Attorney, Advance Health Directive, and Declaration of Guardian in the Event of Later Incapacity, will be provided at no cost to attendees. Come join this educational opportunity and bring your friends and family!

Dates: February 23rd, March 16th, April 27th, May 25th, September 7th, October 12th

For scheduling at rural locations during the months of June-August, contact the *Legal Assistance Project/Seniors Count* at 254-757-3401 during regular business hours Monday thru Friday.

These forums are sponsored in part through the generous support of the Texas Bar Foundation.

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For more information about this topic or to arrange for an interview, please contact

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