

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON NANCY L. WILSON



Nancy is a professional social worker who has specialized in gerontology since completing her master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1974. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine-Section of Geriatrics, Assistant Director of the Huffington Center on Aging, and Assistant Professor, Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy, all at Baylor College of Medicine. She is also an associate of the Baylor-VA Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies and the Texas Consortium of Geriatric Education Centers. At Baylor her work has largely been devoted to the development and oversight of interdisciplinary education and community training programs in aging as well as participation in community-based research in community-long term care and mental health. Most recently as the leader of an interdisciplinary academic-community team, she spearheaded the development of Healthy IDEAS, an evidence-based model program for depression in older adults, which is currently part of a national demonstration project funded by the Administration on Aging.

Nancy has been an active collaborator with colleagues at the University of Houston and the University of Texas Houston Health Science Center on several educational endeavors, including the establishment of the interinstitutional course, Issues in Aging, the creation of the gerontology concentration at the UH Graduate School of Social Work and the implementation of the Houston Geriatric Interdisciplinary Team Training Project funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Nancy has over a 30 year history of community service and leadership in aging services and community long-term care in Houston/ Harris County, including serving as Director of Community Services for the Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences (TRIMS) Gerontology Center and Director of the Houston site of the National Long-Term Care Channeling Demonstration Project. Her past volunteer roles include service as board president for both Sheltering Arms Senior Services and the Houston and Southeast Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association as well as chair of the committee that developed the Sheltering Arms Alzheimer's

Day Center. In her current role as chair of the Governing Council of Care for Elders, supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Nancy remains committed to improving the quality, affordability, availability, and accessibility of long-term care and mental health services.

Nancy has co-authored or co-edited over 35 publications including eleven book chapters and two volumes as a co-editor entitled Aging 2000: Our Healthcare Destiny - Psychosocial and Policy Issues and Long-Term Care Decisions: Ethical and Conceptual Dimensions. For seven years she served as Practice Concepts Editor for *The Gerontologist*, the premiere interdisciplinary journal in applied aging, and she currently serves on a number of national advisory or action committees including ones for the Hartford Geriatric Social Work Initiative, the Institute for Geriatric Social Work, the National Council on the Aging and the Gerontological Society of America.

A true believer in the importance of social support in maintaining quality of life, Nancy's most prized life roles are as wife, mother of two, daughter and sister. Most of her dearest friends are life-long professionals devoted to advancing the functional health and quality of life of older adults and those who care for them. She is a native of Kentucky, and the person who influenced her life and work the most is her grandmother who lived in Kentucky until her death at the age of 98.