



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20415

The Director

Friday, May 10, 2002

MSG 2002-035

MEMORANDUM FOR: Human Resources Directors

FROM: Teresa M. Jenkins, Director, Office of Workforce Relations

Subject: Elder Care Symposium on Coping with the Longevity Revolution: Elder Care and the Federal Workplace

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will offer a symposium during Older Americans Month on May 29, 2002, *Coping with the Longevity Revolution: Elder Care and the Federal Workplace*. This event will be held in OPM's Alan K. Campbell Auditorium, 1900 E Street NW, Washington DC, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We have invited Federal agency's Work/Life Coordinators, Employee Assistance and Health and Wellness Program Directors to the symposium, but I encourage you to extend this invitation to other Human Resources specialists at your agency who may have a professional interest in learning more about best practices for Elder Care programs in the Federal workplace.

The relentless demographic trend of longevity is touching managers and employees in every workplace. Eighty percent of all long term care of the elderly in our society is provided by families, not formal institutions. Without this family care, our nursing homes and hospitals would be overwhelmed. Furthermore, with the permanent entry into the nation's workforce of women, the traditional caregivers, today's workers are also today's caregivers. In many ways, elder care is more complex and complicated than child care so that employees who are caring for aging loved ones face very high levels of stress.

The symposium will feature expert speakers who will help us understand the costs of caregiving in the workplace to the employer and the employee and learn about successful low cost Elder Care programs that many Federal agencies have already implemented. In addition, we will hear about some innovative new options, such as the OPM-sponsored Federal Long-Term Care Insurance program, an on-site geriatric counseling program, and the Last Acts Tool Kit.

We ask that participants from your agency who are interested in attending advise Patricia Kinney in the Office of Work/Life Programs at (202) 606-1313 or by e-mail, pfkinney@opm.gov.