



Champion Report

Theme Area: **Changing Populations**

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REPORTING PERIOD: April 15, 2014 through July 15, 2014

Goals/Strategies or Action Steps:	What NEW success have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the reporting period?
<p>Changing Populations R1 B</p>	<p>Communicated detailed information on the public transit that is available within the region to MNDOT officials responsible for planning and aligning transit resources. In communication with MNDOT regarding a new initiative for their outstate MN session planned for volunteer driver programs....agenda not yet nailed down."</p>
<p>Changing Populations R2 B</p>	<p>In communication with state task force member regarding the status of a proposed increased mileage rate for rural Minnesota areas that will dramatically increase the rate paid beyond the existing IRS level to compensate volunteer drivers for driving no load miles (i.e. no rider miles).</p> <p>Dean will be participating in 2-4 sessions on Mental Health, affecting Region 5, there will be a 4 hour session (in St. Cloud but for the full St. Cloud VA service region) sponsored/hosted by the VA in July, a mental health session as part of the HOPE Advisory, hosted by LSS in Brainerd and internally we (CMCOA) are determining how to incorporate mental health needs/gaps/work priorities with the MN Board on Aging.</p>
<p>Changing Populations R3 & R4</p>	<p>Theme Champions have made a number of presentations and/or served on panels to city and county officials and professional design groups sharing data and information on the shifting age and ethnic demographics and what communities need to be doing to take advantage of these opportunities. Members are also sharing data on aging and ethnic demographics recently provided by the Sate demographer and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce that shed light on the coming impacts of our aging population and the financial and workforce contributions of new immigrants in Minnesota.</p>
<p>Changing Populations R3</p>	<p>CLC's Race Equity Promise to Act work has been recognized as a best practice across the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System.</p> <p>All MNSCU College and University presidents have been trained on addressing American Indian achievement gap issues.</p> <p>Work in Brainerd School District on Race Equity Promise to Act is on hold as the new school superintendent gets in place. Funds and staff are needed to move this forward.</p>

How are you working with any of the other RR Theme areas?

- With transportation group on rural transit data and mapping that we are using to work with MN DOT.
- Following the work of the Health theme on tele health, mental health and other services that affect senior population.
- Following the work of Connectivity on the ways that issues affects seniors services
- Following work of the Housing theme on issues related to seniors and new American's
- Connections between education theme and achievement gap issues

List any Goals or Recommendations within the plan that your team of theme Champions are struggling to address?

- Transit issues are complex and difficult to resolve where there is not much density. As more people can no longer drive this problem will become bigger. It also affects people's abilities around housing, health care and mental health. We need a better system that serves the needs of all populations together and is available in more places at more hours. Current resources are inadequate, we need better solutions.
- Issues relating to the mental health of seniors. We are hearing more about the need, not sure what needs to be done but it seems that the problem needs more attention.
- Though it is clear that we are aging as a nation and that any workforce growth in the future will be dependent on being more welcoming to people of color. This includes both existing populations and new immigrants. Every child needs an opportunity to succeed and we need every child to succeed. We do not see the amount of attention being paid to either of these issues that should be. We need all of our themes and communities to be more aware of these coming changes and to be more thoughtful and progressive in considering these realities when planning for the future. **Our theme is considering our role in bringing this issue up for discussion in the region, perhaps getting the involvement of the State Demographer, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and DEED as well as other local partners.**

Changing Populations

Changing Populations Issues

Changing populations: As our future workforce shrinks and ages, it is important that every citizen has the skills necessary to be productive, valued, and self-reliant, rather than dependent on society. Ethnic diversity will continue to grow and expand from existing clusters that are now mostly associated with areas of food processing jobs and will be an important source of future workforce growth. The region's aging population impacts every area for which we are planning. Housing, transportation, land use, and the current and future workforce will all be affected by the age of our population.

Changing Populations Goal

Changing populations: As the region's population changes, make adjustments to meet the need and seize the opportunities these changes present.

Recommendation 1

Public transit: Focus on developing low-cost, reasonable access to transit service for communities, specifically to serve the aging population.

Action Step A

Map transit system and identify gaps: Examine current data to map the region's existing and planned public transit system. Identify gaps in the systems and seek opportunities to provide appropriate forms of public transit for the region's existing density pattern and that will support independence and self-reliance to the extent possible.

Action Step B

Funding: Work with county, state and federal transportation organizations to pursue funding for Public Transit and get regional needs on their plans. Consider the ability of some parts of the aging population to contribute toward the cost of these systems as they utilize them

Recommendation 2

Housing support services: Provide housing support services to the elderly and mentally ill that would allow them the option of remaining as independent as possible under their circumstances.

Action Step A

Map services and identify gaps: Map existing services for elderly and mentally ill individuals throughout the region. Identify any gaps in housing support services for the elderly and mentally ill populations.

Action Step B

Collaborate: Bring together organizations with an interest in these areas to collectively plan how to meet identified support service needs.

Recommendation 3

Diverse workforce: As our population becomes more diverse and the need for new workers increases, the region must offer services and opportunities to welcome newcomers into our communities and workforce.

Action Step A

Identify changes: Use data to track and identify areas in the region where newcomers are commonly locating.

Action Step B

Map services: Research and map existing and planned services for newcomers in areas where they live and/or tend to be locating.

Action Step C

Identify and address service gaps: Collaborate with local governments, schools, nonprofits, churches, and local businesses to identify and address gaps in services needed to incorporate newcomers into the social and work fabric of the region.

Recommendation 4

Older workers: As the workforce in the region grows and many older workers need to continue working longer for financial reasons, or for personal satisfaction, the region will need to offer opportunities and services to update the skills of older workers.

Action Step A

Identify and address skills gaps: Work with local and regional businesses to identify the gaps between the existing skills of older workers and the skills they will need to be productive workers in today's world. Support the efforts of local and regional educational organizations and businesses as they work together to address older workers' skill gaps in a way that is effective and timely

Action Step B

Funding: Gain and coordinate local support and advocate with federal elected officials to increase funding levels for effective programs for older workers.