



Champion Report

Theme Area: **Changing Populations**

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REPORTING PERIOD:

September 13, 2016-December 13, 2016

Goals/Strategies or Action Steps:	What NEW success have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the reporting period?
Low Cost, Reasonable access to Transit, especially for aging populations	Progress has been slower than anticipated for the MNDOT Regional Transit Coordinating Councils which intends to deliver more low cost and seamless service to residents of all MN counties. However there has been no progress on this for the quarter other than a request I have made within the state DHS and MNDOT divisions to seek more information on present timetables, organizational structures, spending divisions, etc. In a somewhat unrelated basis, I (Dean) attended my first TZD (Toward Zero Deaths) conference in Duluth. I learned a lot about processes to reduce roadway deaths which are unfortunately rising in the last two years or so after several years of appreciated declines. An emphasis area at the conference included addressing the needs of elderly people, especially as it applies to those dealing with dementia and no longer safe to drive.
Housing Support Services	Approximately 143 older adults will receive in-person visits and 49 consumers will have been returned home from a nursing facility and have gotten transitional assistance from one of 3 Central MN Council on Aging (CMCOA) Return-to-the-Community Specialists. There has not been any other work done for those with a lesser need of services whom are not at the nursing facility level of care. Participation in the LSS HOPE Advisory continues monthly. In December, 2016 discussions and anticipated enhancements for a 2107 grant request, to better meet the needs of elderly homeless and at-risk-of-being homeless, will be identified.
Diverse workforce and older workers- Recommendations 3 and 4.	In collaboration with many other agencies we (CMCOA) have become a partner in a HUD grant request process that will exceed one million dollars and is expected to have an office/focus areas in Brainerd, St. Cloud, Elk River and Mora. The intent is to reduce youth homelessness and sexual trafficking. An innovative aspect of this COC (Continuum of Care) endorsed project is to work with senior care providers and meet their dire need for more employees and to help youth (16-24) better understand and have better orientation to the jobs, training and career advancement in the senior services field. To complement this effort a grant will probably be pursued with Leading Age (Advocate group for senior housing/service providers). An attempt was made this quarter from grant submission but was pulled back for the next round for grants requests in March 2017.
Diverse Workforce and Older workers, Recommendation 4.	The Center collaborated with Lakeland Public Television on a forum on aging employment. The event was held on Thursday, September 15 and was entitled Employment Retirement and Beyond; are you ready for what is next? The panel of experts included Sue Hilgart, program manager Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program; Marcia Ferris, Lutheran Social Services, program manager for Senior Corps: Foster Grandparents & Senior Companions; and Dr. Stephen Frowley, organization development consultant. A great panel of experts! Discussion and interaction with attendees focused around individuals retiring, deciding retirement is not what they thought it would be and the transition of re-entering the workforce. Discussion was held on re-training options that are offered such as computer skills, resume updating and volunteering options that are available in the

	community. Knowing that there will be a gap in employment for the area, aging employment may be a great way to off-set that need. This age group has great work ethic, shows up on time and good face to face skills; qualities that are not always easy to find.
Diverse Workforce Recommendation 3	<p>Worked through Friends in the Field to include more diverse Community Developers in the network. This included native American, African, Asian and Latino organizations. Many of these organizations have as a primary goal serving diverse populations and helping them enter the workforce or start new businesses.</p> <p>Through the Initiative Foundations Entrepreneurship program selected several diverse entrepreneurs for assistance with bringing their idea to the market and/or expanding their businesses.</p> <p>Continue to educate community leaders through the Thriving Communities Initiative program on the importance of being welcoming to new immigrants and the importance of expanding our workforce as baby boomers retire and are not being replaced by existing population birthrates.</p>
How are you working with any of the other RR Theme areas?	
The work that is done within the “Changing Populations” goal area will inevitably always cross over into housing and transportation/transit. Recently it also has been getting into workforce/economic areas as well.	
List any Goals or Recommendations within the plan that your team of theme Champions are struggling to address?	
The biggest struggle has been with participating in the creation of Regional Transit Coordinating Councils. These should improve accessibility, availability, probable efficiency and provide greater seamless service. To better understand the nature of what is involved and what contributes to delays I (Dean) have asked for and received a MN Transit Funding Primer, previously prepared by the MN Council on Transportation Access by the University of MN/Humphrey School of Public Affairs.	