



Champion Report

Theme Area: **Changing Populations**

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REPORTING PERIOD:

June 21, 2016-September 13, 2016

Goals/Strategies or Action Steps:	What NEW success have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the reporting period?
Public Transit: Step A	Dean: A senior provider group was met with in Brainerd. I arranged for Andy Stone-Brainerd/Crow Wing County Transit Director to present his services and some potential expansion/future activities. Further he invited the group to identify needs (nothing specific was mentioned to act on, other than possibly later hours). A summary of this sent on to MNDOT/Sue Seimers/Transit Director-Outstate.
Funding/Transit	Dean-Communications have been sent to Transit Directors that had grant request opportunities from the National Aging and Disability Transportation group.
Housing Support Services. Step A and B	<p>Dean-work on housing support services (affordable housing) is limited but there are newly emerging federal (HUD) and state (MHFA/MHP) funds that should be specifically available for affordable senior housing. Support/education occurred in prior quarters when meeting with state and federal legislative and work staff.</p> <p>Dean-Continue work with the COC (Continuum of Care-13 central MN counties) advisory board, executive board as well as the scoring committee for 2017 grant review of housing/service projects.</p> <p>Dean-“Affordable Housing--Rural Counties” was the topic for a webinar that I attended and was conducted by The Ninth District Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis to highlight promising practices and programs that address important economic development needs in low-to-moderate income communities. Additionally, two seminars, one provided by Region 5 Development Commission on Crowd Funding and another on PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy-a new way to finance energy upgrades (efficiency or renewable) to commercial buildings) were of interest and will be shared as appropriate with developers or others that express an interest in senior housing or housing improvements.</p> <p>Dan- Initiative Foundation Staff toured Hilltop Kitchen site in Eagle Bend and recently provided \$5,000 more planning and design funding to assist in moving that project forward. This organization provides over 250 meals each week to seniors across Todd county and beyond. The new facility will help make the expansion of those services possible. NJPA made a grant of \$100,000 recently toward physical costs of the project. The project is now within \$20,000 of their goal and plans to have a ground breaking ceremony in October.</p>

<p>Diverse Workforce- Recommendation 3 & 4</p>	<p>Dean-Met with Karl Samp-Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation Director to discuss and assess workforce issues-especially for seniors. Karl acknowledged the need for/shortages of workforce in the care of seniors but willingly considered efforts to include seniors as a viable group for being a greater part of the workforce.</p> <p>Dean- my work with the LBLL (Live Better Live Longer, Morrison County) group continues. The intent here is to have people be healthier through better eating, greater physical activity and socialization. Healthcare and inadequate workforce cost employers money, time and diminishes service levels. There should be moreand... healthier employees available as a result of this effort and it looks like it will have greater CHI (Catholic Health Initiative/St. Gabriel’s Hospital) and Morrison County Social Services/Public Health supports.</p> <p>DeAnn- We are hosting an Aging Forum on Employment here on Thursday, September 15, 5:30 pm. We will be looking at those who have gone back to work after retiring, still working, employment services and gov. agencies that assist with employment</p> <p>DeAnn- After coordinating an Aging Form, we heard data on the work force, data on the numbers in the increase of an aging population. A resolution could be the aging population fills some of the employment gap.</p> <p>DeAnn- Mental Health is an area that we see increasing; and serving this group is not we are staffed for. We are coordinating a community meeting of other public service businesses, law enforcement and CWC social services trying to get everyone on the same page and establish the beginnings of a game plan.</p> <p>Dan- Initiative Foundation completed 3 part series on Paths to Civic Leadership this summer. Good participation from younger generations and people of color.</p> <p>Dan- Pequot Lakes is participating in the Thriving Communities Initiative kicking off in September. Over 30% of their core team will be younger adults under 40. Emphasis of program will be around planning for the future of the community in light of changing route of 371 and the need to attract and retain younger visitors and residents going forward.</p> <p>Dan-Work continues by CLC based SBDC in helping promote business transitions and provide counseling to business owners in transitioning businesses to the next generation.</p>
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How are you working with any of the other RR Theme areas?

Not actively at this time but some of the work does overlap with Housing, transportation, health and education and workforce theme areas.

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

Pretty much all of them at one level or another, these are big issues and are being addressed by many different organizations across our region.

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.