



Champion Report

Theme Area: **Changing Populations**

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REPORTING PERIOD: Oct 15, 2014 through January 13, 2015

Goals/Strategies or Action Steps:	What NEW success have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the reporting period?
CH1 A&B	Work continues on transportation issues. Meeting with MNDOT took place in November on identifying opportunities to move this goal forward. Here continues to be need for more transit in rural areas and for this to be successful it will require more involvement of state agencies as well as private nonprofits.
CH2A	<p>The Brainerd Center's programs for increasing individual's in home longevity:</p> <p>Tele Care Program: a personal phone call to shut ins Monday through Friday where our front desk volunteers make the contact call at a specified time, have a short "How you doing today" conversation with the individual. No medical advice is given. Individual's on the program provide a family member or neighbor that can be called if we don't receive a response in a timely fashion.</p> <p>Exercise Programs: from safe chair exercises to core workout classes are available for individuals to participate in. Classes are offered on days/times Monday through Friday and repeated so that if you miss one, you can join in later in the week.</p> <p>Socialization/peace of mind, activities with others that get individuals out and about; The Center offers thirty to thirty-seven activities, events and programs weekly.</p> <p>New programs are Great Decisions, Art & Wine Classes, Summer Second Saturday Craft Fairs; extended hours for The Center to accommodate those that are still working yet want to participate in the offerings.</p>
CH2 A&B	There appears to be an increasing problem with providing adequate funds and services for food programs for dining sites and meals on wheels. Funding is shrinking at a time when the need is increasing. Some senior serving organizations are having good success utilizing local caterers to provide this service.

CH 2A	Working with Friends in the Field to discuss Housing issues with other Community Development people working in greater Minnesota. Meeting will take place on January 15 th And will focus on transition of housing as far as the needs of seniors and younger families And how those two may intersect.
CH3 AB	The Initiative Foundation, as part of a new program called Communities of Leaders, is identifying where new Americans are settling in the region as well as the people and organizations that are trusted leaders with those groups. Existing organizations that are serving those groups are also being mapped. Funding has been secured to do this work. An event is scheduled for late March that will bring together people of different generations and ethnic backgrounds to work on cultural agility and leadership development.
CH3 AB	Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP) received a grant from the Blandin Foundation to assist the Mille Lacs community (3 schools) and Brainerd schools on implementation of their Promise to Act: Race Equity and Excellence Action Plan. Part of this work includes training school board members from all 3 schools on race equity work and eliminating the opportunity gap and understanding and implementing board policies that address race equity and excellence.

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

1. Continue to work with the Transportation theme on opportunities to improve rural transportation for all people.
2. Work with Health theme to insure that their work on healthy living is well communicated to both the senior population and people of color.
3. Need to work with education and workforce theme on training for seniors who are working longer and to people of color who will make up most of our workforce growth in the future.
4. Need to work with the housing theme to learn more about the extent of senior homelessness within the region and the high cost of housing in general with a larger percentage of people paying over 30% for housing.

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

Pretty much all of them as so many of our seniors and new Americans are affected by all of the themes and are struggling in so many ways. There are lots of agencies involved and few of our communities are well prepared for what is happening in both of our areas.

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.