



Champion Report

Theme Area: Changing Populations

Champions: Dean Loidolt, DeAnn Barry and Dan Frank

REPORTING PERIOD: October 2015 - Dec 31, 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	<p>Transit: Dean continues work on several fronts to enhance transit efforts for Region 5 (as well as the other two regions in our 14 county area), these include being on the MNDOT TZD (Toward Zero Deaths) groups that meets quarterly to address what types of things can be done to help reduce highway deaths. Unfortunately, in late 2015 our death count was actually higher at 304, vs. 271 in 2013 which was lower than the count of 279 in 2012 (all being same-time-of-year counts over previous year). For example, driverless cars was one of the discussion items</p> <p>MNDOT Greater MN Transit Investment Plan: Dean is one of the 30 members on this statewide advisory and our effort is to improve public transit service coverage, regional connections, create investment and performance based policies as well as to support coordination between public and other providers in greater MN. We have about 2 meetings a quarter.</p> <p>Morrison County: Dean is a member of the Tri-CAP Advisory Committee. A new Transportation Director, Travis Gergen, has been hired and a review of Morrison County transit services is slated for the first half of 2016</p>
CH2A	<p>CMCOA (Central MN Council on Aging) Outreach:</p> <p>Wadena County: Dean facilitates quarterly senior provider meetings, with a transit focus, in Wadena each quarter. They (Friendly Rider--- that services Wadena and Becker Counties) has gotten increased MNDOT funding to increase service hours and marketing.</p>
CH2A	<p>HOUSING</p> <p>COC (13 county central MN Continuum of Care): I am a member of this executive board and we review applications that have tax credit/MHFA/HUD funding requests are we are driving changes to have a coordinated intake process for people in need of housing/services. Also, we have newly started discussions to evaluate interests/needs for merger of existing COCs in the state of MN.</p> <p>“Housing Link” has gotten funding to include outstate MN and I have assisted Josh Dye in reaching out to groups to promote those rental housing listing services. Most recently that has included having him speak to LSS HOP Advisory in Brainerd (reaches out to most of Region 5) this</p>

	<p>monthFriends in the Field group is working on hosting a housing meeting in August to further explore and Discuss housing, including senior housing and the changing needs of residents.</p> <p>Dan Frank is working with the Center for Small Towns and other partners on organizing a multi day housing summit that will be the Centers annual small town symposium topic. Housing for baby boomers and issues around aging in place will be some of the topics. This workshop will take place in early June in Morris.</p>
CH2A&B	<p>The Center (DeAnn Barry)will be working on developing town hall meetings on aging. There are many challenges that need to be addressed and openly talked about that are not being address on aging. A committee has been formed, will meet later this month and move plans forward.</p> <p>The Center is collaborating with Essential Health on four health education workshops for 2016. In the spring there will be a workshop on women’s health issues with two focus areas and men’s health issues with also two focus areas. Along with breakout session for fun there also will be activities for all to choose from and healthy food to end the sessions. Committee members are meeting to plan and schedule dates/times.</p> <p>The Center has begun a major fund raising effort; A Clearer View. We are fund raising to replace all of the windows, six entrances and window treatments on the main level of The Center. We have done a matching grant application and will know mid-February if we will receive it. We have begun fund raising within our own membership. We look forward to this project’s completion before winter next year. It will significantly increase our facilities energy efficiency!</p>
CH3ABC	<p>The new emerging leaders program at the Initiative Foundation has completed the first phase and is now supporting 35 emerging leaders under 40 with moving into community based mlewadership projects with non profits , businesses and civic organizations. There will be 5 peer leaning circles meeting throughout the Initiative Foundations region over the next 6 weeks to continue to support the engagement and growth of these leaders.</p>
<p>What future activities has your theme prioritized for the coming year?</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to work with MNDOT and other partners on senior Transportation issues. 2. Participate in developing and promoting the Housing Summit at the Univerity of Morris. 3. Continue to help develop emerging leaders through the Initiative Foundations program. 4. Look at opportunities to connect the dots with other partners around the issue of employment for older citizens who need or desire such opportunities. 5. Continue to track with Health Theme on services and technologies that can assist seniors to stay independent in their own homes as long as they like and can. 	

6. Learn from and support the efforts around health and other aging issues being addressed at the Center in Brainerd and look how we can share that knowledge with other organizations working with these populations.

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.