



## Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Changing Populations

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**REPORTING PERIOD: March 17, 2015-June 16, 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>---Kept MNDOT informed of transit needs and involved them with a Wadena Senior Provider group that Dean facilitates, where transit was the primary focus. That helped in getting a bi-county (Wadena and Becker Counties) Director of Transit hired earlier this year. Planning is underway for hours and places of transit expansion in that region.</p> <p>---AAA's (Area Agencies on Aging) were pursuing funding for responding to increased needs for assisted or companion-based transit. There is an increasing need for this level of service as more and more seniors are able to/needing to stay in their own homes but need home-based services. Unfortunately, this did not make the cut as will not be in funding legislation this year.</p> <p>---MNDOT/DHS Coordinating Councils have completed their regional meetings throughout the state. High level discussions, needs and directions were identified. The objectives include having better coordinated transit services by enlarging the groups participating in those efforts that will define/identify authorities, responsibilities, interests, expertise areas, accountability, etc. This is just the start of processes that will continue for some time going forward. I will remain a part of these efforts.</p>
CH2A	<p><b>CMCOA (Central MN Council on Aging) Outreach:</b></p> <p>---CMCOA is an active member of "Leading Age" (A senior advocate/lobbyist group for senior housing/service providers) and assisted in getting substantially increased funding for state Elderly Waiver and Alternative Care services funding.</p> <p>---CMCOA continues to provide outreach to create processes and provide some of the funding for services to keep elderly healthier and in their own homes (ex. Caregiver supports--Powerful tools, Living with Chronic conditions, health eating, better balance and preventing diabetes).</p>

	---Incremental funding for seniors (Region 5 area) was requested specifically for senior services/housing as part of a new application submitted by LSS-Brainerd. Funding response should be known in the next couple of months.
CH2A	Friends 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.
CH2A&B	Center in Brainerd is running a health and Wellness program that is having a great response. Includes exercise, diet and general health. Also working on Balance and safety issues.
CH3ABC	The new emerging leaders program at the Initiative Foundation is moving forward. Program is developed and between 30 and 40 participants will be announced on June 15 <sup>th</sup> . A good number of the participants will be people of color and all participants will be 18 – 35 years old. Parts of each of the 4 sessions, two of which will take place in Baxter will be open to the broader community to foster connections between emerging and established leaders.

**What future activities has your theme prioritized for the coming year?**

1. Continue to work with MNDOT on senior Transportation issues
2. Participate in the August Friends in the Field Housing meeting and continue to explore and encourage housing options for seniors.
3. Promote emerging leader sessions that will be open to established leaders in the area and work to foster connections between generations and different ethnic groups in the region.
4. 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.
5. Promote The Center’s Ageless Expo in September that will feature Don Shelby and will focus on Hobbies that may be of interest to seniors.

# 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.