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“Measuring What Matters”

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Susan Franklin
From: National Research Center, Inc.
Date: August 6, 2010
Subject: CASOA™ 2010 Results Compared to 2005 Needs Assessment

In 2005, the Colorado Department of Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services, in conjunction with the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), conducted a statewide older adult needs assessment. In 2010, using a new survey instrument called CASOA™, Jefferson County chose to survey its older residents with funding from Rose Community Foundation. The CASOA™ contains a few questions for which a comparison can be made between the 2005 Needs Assessment and the 2010 CASOA™.

The table below compares Jefferson County’s results from the 2010 CASOA™ for problems experienced by older adults to similar items from the 2005 Needs Assessment survey. Overall, the portion of older adults reporting having at least “minor” problems in their lives increased from 2005 to 2010. However, the differences between survey administration methods and question wording may at least partially explain any differences in results. The 2005 survey used a 3-point response scale (“no problem,” “minor problem,” “major problem”) while 2010 used a 4-point response scale (“no problem,” “minor problem,” “moderate problem,” “major problem”).

Comparable Items from Questions 6A and 6B: Problems Percent at least a "minor" problem	2010	2005
Your physical health	58%	52%
Feeling bored	35%	17%
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	33%	24%
Dealing with legal issues	29%	14%
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	28%	18%
Affording the medications you need	27%	28%
Feeling lonely or isolated	27%	22%
Providing care for another person	25%	17%
Getting the health care you need	22%	16%
Having housing to suit your needs	13%	5%
Being a victim of crime	12%	9%
Having enough food to eat	8%	5%
Being physically or emotionally abused	5%	4%

Two additional questions on the 2010 CASOA™ matched questions on the 2005 Needs Assessment:

- In 2010, 88% of older adults reported spending at least one hour a week providing help to friends or relatives, up from 72% in 2005.
- In 2010, 17% of older adults reported receiving assistance from someone almost everyday, down from 21% in 2005.