

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Throughout this Strategic Plan for Aging Well, many concluding remarks have been included. In addition, recommended future strategies, policies and activities have been suggested. While most of those have been focused specifically on certain topics such as Housing or Transportation & Mobility, the items included in this section are relevant in a

broad sense to all of the work done by the Aging Well participants over the past two+ years. The conclusions and recommendations described below, if carried out over the coming years, will move Jefferson County further along the path to being a truly livable county for all ages.

## **Conclusions**

- The existence and implementation of the Jefferson County Strategic Plan for Aging Well will have positive effects on the quality of life for generations of families for years to come.
- 2. The timing of conducting this multi-year planning process and developing a wide-ranging Strategic Plan for Aging Well was very fortuitous. The county and its human services stakeholders are now in a better position to be proactive having the Plan in place as a guidepost to the future.
- 3. Partnering, collaborating, and being willing to bring resources together will be key to creating communities where aging well is the norm. Jefferson County now has a stronger network of partners who've developed a joint plan together and who have committed to implementing it together.
- 4. Those working to create livable and vibrant communities throughout Jefferson County can return to the vision and mission of the Aging Well Project when needed. Reflection can confirm whether the direction headed makes sense or whether realignment of priorities or resources is needed. As the economy ebbs and flows in the coming years, the vision and mission statements for this project can serve as a focus point for stakeholders and other interested parties.
- 5. Many items were deemed priority, reflected in the numerous goals, objectives, and action steps outlined in the short- and long-term strategic plans contained in this report. Though this is a somewhat daunting challenge, there are now visible and vocal organizational and individual advocates who have stepped forward in developing the Plan who have also committed to carrying out the Plan priorities together.

- 6. In essence, this Plan reflects the articulation of an explicit agreement that the well-being of residents in their later years will affect all communities and multiple generations of county residents. The strength of late life resources and quality of life for seniors also enhances life for their children, grandchildren and for others who care about them.
- 7. Stakeholders who put this Plan together and those who have heard about it to date believe that having this Plan in place strengthens the entire system of human services for Jefferson County.
- 8. As a result of working through this planning process together, agencies will increasingly partner on joint program development using the strengths of each organization. They will likely be more apt to do joint resource development activities such as grant writing and designing innovative initiatives in the coming years.
- The existence of this Jefferson County Strategic Plan for Aging Well, has already, and will continue to, increase awareness among many of what needs to be done to proactively embrace the aging of the population.
- 10. Finally, the Jefferson County Department of Human Services has willingly and explicitly taken the leadership role around creating a county that has declared it has a sophisticated understanding of the implications of population aging. Many partners have stepped forward to work with the county in this endeavor.

## **Recommendations**

- 1. Keep the Jefferson County Aging Well Process going.
- Follow short-term Sustainability Plan that was developed.
- Have staff at Jefferson County Human Services assigned to this Project on an ongoing basis so Lead Agency role will be maintained.
- Allow staff from the various county divisions to continue to participate as workgroup chairs and in various other capacities.
- Continue Leadership Committee and Workgroup Chairpersons meetings.
- Recruit new people to join project as new energy is needed to supplement those who have been at this project for a long period of time.
- Periodically reconvene stakeholder group comprised of CEOs, Agency/Program Directors, Elected Officials, and Business Leaders to report on accomplishments and discuss partnerships.
- 2. Make review and updating of the Strategic Plan explicit and do this annually.
- It may not be possible for all of the priorities and recommendations laid out by all of the workgroups as reflected in the Plan document to be fulfilled. However it is necessary to keep reviewing them, discussing them together, and selecting do-able strategies on an ongoing basis.
- Decide upon future date(s) for review and revisions to long-term strategic plans. Consider developing longterm plans for those topics that were not developed this go around.
- 3. Regularly review the overall progress of the Jefferson County Aging Well Project.
- Receive and review annual reports from workgroups using prescribed reporting format.
- Review and report to Rose Community Foundation the status of the seed money projects.
- Regularly assess overall project direction is it going where key stakeholders want it to go?

- 4. Dedicate efforts to publicize this process and the Plan throughout Jefferson County as widely as possible.
- Follow "Publicity" Plan created.
- Hold annual Summits on Aging where status of Aging Well Plan can be kept before the stakeholders.
- Publicize annually Aging Well Project accomplishments/successes.
- 5. Seek additional funding for carrying out aspects of the Aging Well Project and Plan.
- Get Aging Well participants to share grant-writing resources and submit grant proposals together, to work on projects outlined in the Plan together, whenever possible.
- Seek additional funding for future Summits on Aging and for future joint planning.
- 6. Strengthen key partnerships between Aging Well and other groups.
- Work with Jefferson County Council on Aging (JCCOA) liaisons to Aging Well. Assure ongoing dialogue especially around areas where JCCOA was listed as Potential Lead Agency or Potential Partner Agency.
- Consider appointing Aging Well liaisons to any regular ongoing Human Services advisory groups that meet, e.g., Children/Youth Leadership Committee, JEFFTAAG (Jefferson County Transportation Action & Advocacy Group), the county-wide Health Access group, and others.
- Building upon previous Jefferson County-based efforts, place increased emphasis on Minority Aging issues and concerns by, for example, forming a Minority Aging Task Force or holding a Minority Aging Forum with key partner agencies.

For more information, please visit the *Aging Well in Jefferson County Project* under *Aging Adult Services* on the Jefferson County Human Services web site: http://humanservices.jeffco.us