

November 17, 2011 Basic Needs Workgroup Meeting

Jefferson County Aging Well Project

Mission Statement: To analyze information on basic services for older adults in Jefferson County, and to develop strategies to assist older adults who are economically disadvantaged in accessing, maximizing and utilizing resources to meet their basic needs.

Attending: Susan Franklin, Pat Stoehr, Chandra Matthews, Nicole Hartog, William Kistler, Pam Stephens (remote access), Edie Richey, Carol Mitchell

Purpose of Today's Meeting:

Pat shared that June 2, 2012 will be the date for the 2012 Jefferson County Senior Law Day.

New attendees were updated on the discussions regarding the Information and Access goals. Pat reported that the Leadership Team also agreed that strengthening the DRCOG Network of Care and promoting it as the single entry point call center and website should be the revised objective. The group discussed the best way to measure results and Chandra and Nicole assured the team that DRCOG can share measurables filtered in any way we need. Chandra also shared that the Network of Care website is launching a new look in the next month. DRCOG will be promoting the new look through email blasts, relaunch events and demonstrations. In the meantime, Susan will ask all Workgroup Chairs to review the current Service Directory to verify that all agencies represented by their members are participating. Edie will bring this task to the JCCoA as well. The deadline for this task is the end of the 1st quarter in 2012. Nicole receives all incoming requests for inclusion in the Directory and agreed to keep an eye on whether there is an increase in requests from Service Providers serving Jefferson County. The next task will be to improve the Keyword Search function of the website. DRCOG is working toward this by adding categories. Agencies can then cross-reference all the categories under which they'd like to appear. Future goals include efforts by the Social & Civic Engagement Workgroup to add Lifelong Learning programs. The Aging Well Leadership Committee is also looking at adding Advocacy and Legislative information to the Directory. Pam and Susan agreed to meet to revisit the original goals established by the ad hoc I, R&A group in order to make sure that the revised objectives cover all the bases.

Susan shared the Aging Well Annual Report with the team and thanked them for their efforts in providing information for the report.

Edie reported that she'd met with the Deputy City Manager to discuss the possibility of marketing the Network of Care to businesses who have caregiver employees. Team members unanimously supported this effort. Edie is going to meet with the city's human resources person in Jan. Susan reported that the County's HR director sits on the Caregiving and Supportive Services workgroup and that we should hook the two of them up. Susan has some articles about Caregiving employees that she will share. They are also posted on the Aging Well/Caregiving website.

Pat provided an update on Senior Nutrition, reporting that accelerated growth of needs would require the adjustment of the Nutrition goals established in Year 1 of the Project. She challenged attendees to think about what each of them would want in a congregate meal site. Team members suggested that being able to eat in a restaurant would be a very attractive choice. Pat informed the team of a model in Illinois in which restaurants are contracted as congregate meal sites. Another suggestion is to use the dining rooms and kitchens of nearby assisted living communities as meal sites. The benefit to the residence would be offering tours of their facilities to people who come for the meals. These options would have rather complicated requirements to satisfy, such as separate menus that meet the nutritional needs and a separate payment system.

William reported that some seed money for a mailer had been awarded to the Workgroup. He is working on a postcard to mail out. Susan offered to see if the county can print the postcard saving money in that way so then the funds can go for mailing.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2011, at the Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow Street, Lakewood, CO 80214, tel: 303-987-4820, from 3:30 PM – 5 PM.