

Aging in Place: Community Based Challenges to Sustainability

Facilitator:

Larry Voight, ACSW
President
Catholic Social Services
Blueprint for Aging sponsor

- Washtenaw County demographics, unique characteristics, retirement destination, older adults critical to economy of southeastern Michigan
- Broad holistic perspective of Blueprint for Aging, systems level reform in numerous areas
- Different groups of aging residents: Baby boomers—affluent, educated, skilled vs. those elderly most likely to seek services from community agencies
- Community need to serve both populations—responsive to needs of seniors, needs of worker with older family members, cultural attractions, critical to retaining high standard of living in count
- Challenges to non-profit sustainability

Panelists will address from the perspectives of their agencies:

Seniors overwhelmingly want to age in place- but what is required, what are the critical features that must be in place, what are the challenges, and can aging in place be sustained in our community?

Virginia Boyce, LMSW, MPH
Blueprint for Aging Project Manager
Older Adult Services Staff
Catholic Social Services

- Seniors face an ongoing struggle with health care financing and other bureaucratic systems like the Internal Revenue Service.
- The value to our health care system and community of unpaid caregivers \$350 billion dollars in 2206 (AARP, 2007) which equaled the total Medicare budget of 2005 (\$345 billion dollars). Support for caregivers may be the single most important issue to face our nation.
- Challenges and opportunities in recruiting, retaining and utilizing volunteer support in human service organizations.

Barbara Penrod
President
Neighborhood Senior Services

- Older adults struggle with transportation, most critically medical transportation, especially accompanied transportation unmet by public sources essential to basic health needs
- Home modifications – chore work, safety concerns, home maintenance
- Coordination of multiple issues and needs, niche expertise by agencies

Carolyn Hastings, LMSW
Executive Director
Housing Bureau for Seniors

- Stumbling blocks to appropriate housing
- Challenge of housing and support services combined
- Managing the transitions emotionally and financial
- Eviction, Foreclosure and Hoarding

Phil D'Anieri, PhD
Program Director
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

- A funder's perspective
- A systems approach to priority setting/meeting needs/outcomes
- Sustainable programming without sustainable funds (challenge of start up vs.ongoing funds)
- Future Goals