

PARTNERSHIP FOR AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

PROGRESS REPORT

HEALTH AND WELL-NESS

The health and wellness task force has adopted several objectives intended to raise awareness and opportunities for healthy aging.

CULTURE OF AGING

The culture of aging group has committed to projects which will positively impact the attitudes, values and behaviors in Larimer County with regard to aging.

HOUSING

The housing group's primary objective is to work toward increasing the variety and affordability of housing options.

MOBILITY

The Senior Transportation Coalition has been meeting for almost two years to review options and solicit community input regarding the mobility challenges facing older adults.



Task Force Efforts Build on Outcome of Stakeholder Workshop

On February 20, 2014 a group of 40 stakeholders from throughout Larimer County met to consider objectives and strategies that would enhance the capacity of communities in Larimer County to accommodate the basic needs of residents of all ages. The focus of the workshop was to ensure consideration of the needs of older adults as we plan for the future. Not surprisingly, one conclusion was that improvements that support wellness, housing and mobility for this group would also positively impact the lives of younger residents. Even changes to our overall culture of aging would encourage intergenerational connections that create a better understanding and appreciation of experiences across the life span.

The outcome of the day was twofold. First, round table discussions suggested a variety of goals and objectives that would encourage local resources and initiatives to acknowledge and incorporate the interests of older adults. Second, many stakeholders signed on to participate in ongoing task groups to develop specific strategies to further those goals and objectives. Those four groups, addressing wellness, culture, housing and mobility, have been meeting since the end of March to refine objectives and identify specific immediate and intermediate projects that would support them. The next step in this process is to identify and recruit teams of volunteers from the community, especially but not solely from the growing pool of talented retirees, to help move those projects to completion.

Our next update will include details about specific strategies and projects and about the self-directed volunteer teams (SDVTs) committed to those projects. SDVTs represent a recent concept in volunteerism designed to appeal to today's volunteers who want to contribute in ways that are personally meaningful, autonomous, flexible, and that produce identifiable outcomes within a relatively short time frame.