

SENIOR NUTRITION PRIORITIES and DIRECTIONS 2009 – 2014

Priority 1 - Maximize Resources

	Acceptance Y/N	Need More Information
Strategy 1. Target the most vulnerable.		
Tactics		
<p>Ensure that Older Americans Act targeting criteria are met.</p> <p>Balance the need for socialization with health and nutrition needs when possible</p>		
<p>Target older adults who are identified to be at high nutrition risk.</p> <p>Give priority to providing nutrition services to individuals who meet this criteria in both the congregate and home-delivered meals programs.</p> <p>Pilot nutrition risk targeting.</p>		
<p>Develop criteria for services – phase in migration to serving higher risk/need. In part, use CMS income data by zip code to target services.</p> <p>Develop statewide policy on opening and closing sites, and on allowable reductions in service.</p>		
<p>Investigate, and if warranted, pilot private pay approach as a way to assure sustainability and maximize resources.</p> <p>As one approach, investigate setting contribution levels based on ability to pay. Investigate ways to maximize contribution levels including offering enhanced meal options.</p>		
<p>Identify unmet need by tracking waiting lists, intake requests and Senior LinkAge Line calls (other potential methods to be determined).</p>		

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Strategy 2. Achieve a collective understanding of available resources and identify ways to leverage these resources.		
Tactics		
<p>Establish <u>Contracts Workgroup</u> of providers, AAA staff, and MBA staff to update and streamline the contracting process. Evaluate the new contracting process on an annual basis, with input from providers and AAAs.</p> <p>Use new RFP/Contract Template for CY2010. Include statewide standardized cost definitions, reviewed standards (aligned with minimum OAA requirements), and additional methods to minimize provider risk (including mid-course contract renegotiations).</p> <p>Separate payment for meals and related costs, nutrition education and outreach, and NAPIS registration through separate RFPs.</p>		
Increase communication about available resources between Area Agencies on Aging and providers.		
Clarify and maximize the use of Elderly Waiver, Alternative Care and Title III to provide nutrition services to older Minnesotans.		
Leverage other nutrition programs, including the Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS), Senior Farmers Market, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps).		

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<p>Strategy 3. Implement strategies, including expanding the use of technology, to achieve greater efficiencies in data collection and to more fully utilize data to inform program implementation.</p>		
<p>Tactics</p>		
<p>Establish <u>Data Workgroup</u> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) identify and facilitate implementation of technology that might include bar code cards, scannable forms and finger print tracking, 2) research financial sources and partners to implement new technology, 2) establish benchmarks to reach 100% NAPIS registration form completion, and 3) identify statewide data components that will be utilized to inform nutrition program planning. 		
<p>Explore options to facilitate completion of NAPIS registration forms, with particular emphasis on the nutrition risk assessment.</p>		

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Strategy 4. Enhance nutrition education to empower consumers to make healthful choices		
Tactics		
Investigate option of statewide nutrition education contract through competitive RFP for CY 2010.		
Partner with other organizations/networks that are focused on the health of older adults, including University of MN Food and Nutrition Network and University Extension.		
In collaboration with the MN Department of Health, disseminate evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention models statewide, including Eat Better Move More and Healthy Eating for Successful Living.		

Priority 2 - Build Relationships in the Aging Network

	Acceptance Y/N	Need More Information
Strategy 1. Rebuild trust at all levels.		
Tactics		
MBA will meet regularly with providers and AAAs to collectively address challenges in service delivery.		
MBA will establish and coordinate a meeting schedule to ensure regular communication between providers, AAAs and MBA. Meetings include quarterly provider association meetings. Bring everyone together for at least one in-person meeting per year.		
Implement feedback loop on requests and requirements.		
Encourage AAAs to have representatives from other AAAs participate in their proposal review process.		

Priority 2 - Build Relationships in the Aging Network

Strategy 2. Improve communication channels across Minnesota's aging network.	Acceptance Y/N	Need More Information
Tactics		
Establish an area on the MBA extranet to share program forms, information, new ideas, and challenges related to providing nutrition services to older Minnesotans. Area Agency and nutrition provider staff would have access.		
Build and expand referral networks for providers including long term care and home health providers. Assure that nutrition services are included and linked to other services as appropriate.		
Develop and use a consistent message about the value of the Senior Nutrition Program that can be communicated to funding sources including state and local government.		

Priority 3 - Improve Sustainability

	Acceptance Y/N	Need More Information
Strategy 1. Explore innovative methods of cost containment.		
Tactics		
Incorporate the nutrition program into federal long-term care reform efforts, such as Project 2020.		
Determine costs and benefits of existing and new service delivery models, including bundled service delivery, frozen meals, group purchasing and/or a single caterer for multiple programs. Disseminate models identified as cost-effective statewide, as appropriate.		
Strategy 2. Enhance methods to assure quality of service.		
Tactics		
Define and measure quality standards based on metrics that include consumer preference, costs, current research and cultural needs.		
Strategy 3. Develop new models to recruit and retain volunteers.		
Tactics		
Facilitate program exchanges between Minnesota's Area Agencies on Aging and providers on ways to engage volunteers. Learn from other states.		
Develop a process to assess the costs and benefits to using volunteers versus paid staff.		