

## **2008 Senior Nutrition Task Force**

**September 16, 2008**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**American Heritage National Bank, St. Cloud**

### **Attendees**

Barb Arrell, Senior Services Consortium of Ramsey County  
Kari Benson, MN Board on Aging staff  
Margaret Bisek, MN Board on Aging staff  
Monica Douglas, Lutheran Social Service  
Linda Giersdorf, MN River Area Agency on Aging  
Rolf Hage, MN Board on Aging staff  
Ruth Hunstiger, Catholic Charities of St. Cloud  
Gail Jerve, Prairie Five  
Grace Lee, MN Board on Aging  
Beth Nelson, Task Force Chair, MN Board on Aging  
Marilyn Ocepek, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency  
Mary Pat Raimondi, Facilitator, The Milestone Group  
Lisa Rotegard, Aging and Adult Services Division, DHS  
Annette Sandler, Jewish Family and Children's Service  
Arlene Theye, Southeast MN Area Agency on Aging  
Ellie Vollmer, MN Board on Aging  
Lori Vrolson, Central MN Council on Aging  
Jean Wood, Executive Director, MN Board on Aging staff

The 2008 Senior Nutrition Task Force had a series of very productive discussions at the September meeting. Captured below are the next steps for which the Task Force reached consensus. Additional key points from the discussions included:

- Partnerships must be redeveloped and strengthened between the state, Area Agencies on Aging and the providers in order for the program to work effectively and to best meet the needs of older Minnesotans. One way to work towards this is to have regular meetings at which the providers, AAAs and state staff get together to learn from each and for trainings.
- A new process needs to be developed to identify and track unmet needs. This process needs to be different than tracking waiting lists.

## **Next Steps**

1. **Outline the requirements for the Senior Nutrition Program included in the Older Americans Act 2006 Reauthorization, the MBA Operations Manual and other relevant sources.** Determine minimum requirements for the program. Identify areas where statewide consistency is appropriate. Identify opportunities to meet requirements by procuring for – or organizing delivery of – program components at a multi-regional or statewide level. Determine flexibility within each funding source to support program innovations and maximize resources.
  - Mary Pat and Kari will prepare information for review by the Task Force at the October 10 meeting.
  
2. **Research costs and process to implement a bar-coding system for NAPIS participant level data.** Begin to explore potential funding sources for one-time equipment and start-up training costs. Implementation of this technology could dramatically reduce the time spent by program and site staff doing data entry.
  - Mary Pat and Kari will prepare information for review by the Task Force at the October 10 meeting.
  
3. **Gather program-specific cost information using a standard format.** Through this process, begin to gather information related to the factors that drive each cost and, in particular, those factors that are specific to different program types (with priority attention given to ethnic meal programs). This information will be used to discuss meal reimbursement rates, possible areas of coordination with EW and AC, and potential changes to the contracting system.
  - Mary Pat and Kari will work with the provider members of the Task Force to begin to gather this information and prepare it for review by the Task Force at the October 10 meeting.
  
4. **Draft framework and data sources of a decision-making process to set Senior Nutrition Program target populations and priorities.** Learn from other states' processes, including tiered levels of targeting (different target groups defined by different levels of need/risk criteria). This framework, if approved by the Task Force and full MBA, would be used by the state and area agencies, in partnership with the providers, to identify target populations for the program. A companion piece would be a set of talking points that everyone would use to explain the priorities that are set.
  - Mary Pat and Kari will prepare a draft for review by the Task Force at the October 10 meeting.

5. **Develop a first draft of the 2009-2014 Senior Nutrition Program Priorities and Directions.** This document, once finalized, will be shared with the full MN Board on Aging for their review and requested approval. If approved, the document will guide efforts by the MBA, state, Area Agencies on Aging, and provider organizations to meet the goal of “helping older Minnesotans maintain their independence through access to healthful foods.”
  - Mary Pat and Kari will prepare a draft for review by the Task Force at the October 10 meeting.
  
6. **Through the activities described above, begin to collect information that will be used to update the Senior Nutrition Program contracting process.** Begin to outline the steps that could be taken in the first half of 2009 to update the contracting process and to prepare for a statewide re-RFP for CY 2010, if such action is approved by the full MN Board on Aging.
  - Mary Pat and Kari will coordinate a “working list” of items to address in this process.

**Next Meeting**

Friday, October 10

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Whitney Senior Center

St. Cloud