Douglas County, Colorado

Responding to Increasing Numbers of Older Adults

Valerie J Robson, MSW
Douglas County, Adult Services Program Manager
Senior Population Growth

- 1990: 6.6% of total population
- 2000: 6.6% of total population
- 2010: 11.9% of total population
- 2020: 18.4% of total population
- 2030: 23.9% of total population
- 2040: 25.3% of total population

60 years and over

% of total population
Douglas County Senior Initiative

Partnership of Douglas County Governments
Collaborate • Innovate • Lead

DC Senior Initiative
Living Well, Aging Well
The Senior Initiative Project
Process

- Focus Groups
- Provider Survey
- Citizen Survey
- Listening Tours
- Recommendations
- Implementation
The Senior Initiative Project Provider Survey

- Purpose: to better understand the network of providers and how they interact
- 85 Providers invited to take part in an online survey, 68 responded; 80% response rate
The Senior Initiative Project
Community Survey and Listening Tours

- Community Survey:
  - Surveys were conducted online, at meetings and events, and with the help of volunteers who delivered the survey to home bound seniors
  - 648 surveys were collected, representing all parts of the County
  - Almost 75% of the respondents were between age 56 and 75
  - Female respondents = 64%
  - Male respondents = 36%

- Listening Tours
  - 13 Listening Tours Held – 260 total attendees
  - Held in all areas of Douglas County
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Community Results

- Top three ways residents prefer to get information:
  - Internet, websites or social media
  - Local newspapers
  - Television (top choice for those over age 76)

- 90% of respondents indicated they would use a website for issues, services, and information
  - 25% of those would like to have someone to call
The Senior Initiative Project
Community Results

- 80% of survey respondents feel connected to the community where they live

- 75% respondents indicated they do not feel local government does a good job of communicating with seniors
The Senior Initiative Project
Community Results

Key needs determined through the process:
1. Affordable and accessible transportation options
2. Affordable housing
3. Quality and affordable in–home services
4. Employment opportunities
5. Appropriate and timely information
6. Ability to communicate with elected leaders
The Senior Initiative Project Implementation

Senior Services Provided
July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

- Parker Senior Center
  "Where Active Seniors Meet"
- Neighbor Network
- Auburn Ridge
  Senior Apartments, Castle Rock, Colorado
- To The Rescue
  Your Support Team
- Sky Cliff Center

Graph showing services provided:
- Adult Day Care: 7,674 vs. 9,100
- Assisted Transportation: 11,000 vs. 3,000
- Chore/Handyman: 399 vs. 772
- Homemaking: 44,000 vs. 8,500
The Senior Initiative Project Implementation

Senior Life in Douglas County

Douglas County is experiencing the nation’s most dramatic percentage of population growth in the age group 60 and older. According to the State Demography Office, by 2030 it is estimated that one in four residents of Douglas County will be age 60 or older - approximately 30% of the county's population.

The Douglas County Adult Services program strives to enhance the quality of life for aging adults and persons with disabilities through the community. The goals of the program are to provide community-based services, conduct ongoing needs assessment, and provide a means of exchanging information, networking, promoting the development of resources and services, and serving as an advocate for County residents.

With the rapid increase in our older adult population, many seniors find that they do not have access to the services they need in order to continue to live safely and comfortably in their homes and communities.

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Senior Initiative Project Implementation

Seniors’ Council

The Seniors’ Council promotes Living Well/Aging Well™ in Douglas County, Colorado.

Meeting Information

The Seniors’ Council meets monthly at various locations throughout the County. Meetings are normally held the first Thursday of each month from 9 – 10:30 a.m.

To view Senior Council Meeting Agendas and Minutes click here.
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