

Living the Questions
Listening to Leaders Session
Leaders in the Disability Community
March 15, 2006

Living the Questions

The Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging is a collaborative of thirteen leading nonprofit organizations with statewide service and advocacy presence. Formed in 2004 to advocate for home and community-based services the Council has met with community leaders to raise awareness of and discuss the demographic, social and economic issues related to the aging of the Baby Boom generation through an initiative called *Living the Questions*.

Through a series of *Listening to Leaders* dialogue sessions, the Council is gathering information about community aging issues as viewed by foundations, housing and community developers, civic groups, education officials, transportation representatives, faith communities, business and industry, and others.

More information about the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging can be obtained from www.mnlcoa.org.

Background

Twenty leaders from the disability community participated in a *Listening to Leaders* session. Participants were very interested in continuing the dialogue. They suggested that the key trade groups, such as Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance and others, could provide the base on which to develop common ground and convene a broader community discussion. They questioned who was going to provide the leadership for this effort? They also suggested that we develop a universal road map based on consensus values that are non-negotiable and to think of ways to enhance collaboration within existing resources.

Key Questions

1. What will be the impact of managed care on the delivery of services to an increasing older population? What is the appropriate role of managed care? How does consumer direction fit into this new picture?
2. How can we change the dialogue to match what individuals want for themselves and their community, and what they need, instead of talking about "aging," "senior," and "aging in place"?
3. How can more coordination between aging and disability programs occur without losing resources?

4. How can we reinvent communities to become places where families and neighbors support each other?

Other Questions

- How can we increase the inclusion of universal design principles in housing development?
- What are the learnings from nursing homes that can be translated into service models delivered in individual or group settings?
- How can we learn from other countries like Australia and their efforts to prepare for an aging society?
- Will we be able to have a reasonable discussion about end-of-life issues and the right to die?
- How can we change the current business model of long-term care service delivery to support individuals with disabilities as they age?
- How can we increase flexibility, reduce regulation and stretch existing resources even further to support growing numbers of people needing long-term care?
- How can we deploy and match long-term care workers with those who need the services in new and creative ways?
- Will we be able to increase the social and economic value of caregiving?
- How do we facilitate dialogue that will result in more resources to support more people who will need long-term care?

The Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging exists to coalesce the resources and power of senior consumer, advocacy, social and health service organizations, and the individuals we serve and represent, to boldly advocate for and achieve positive system changes for elders in Minnesota.
www.mnlcoa.org