

Living the Questions
Listening to Leaders Sessions
Foundation Leaders
May 24, 2005

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 housing and community developers, civic groups, education officials, transportation representatives, faith communities, disability organizations, business and industry, and others.

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

Background

The foundation leaders who participated in these sessions provided input from both an organizational and personal involvement in aging issues. A significant number of participants were, or had been, caregivers to older family members. The participants asked to be kept informed of the results of any additional discussions with other sectors.

Key Questions

1. How do we make the health and long-term care service systems more workable for an aging population?
2. How can the needs of teenagers and older adults be balanced by communities in the first-ring suburbs when both represent significant proportions of the population and require significant community support?
3. What is the learning of communities that have a high proportion of older adults and have experienced a significant influx of new immigrants?
4. What is the learning from individuals who need long-term care, organizations that provide this care, and the increasing proportion of caregivers who are new immigrants?

Other Questions

- How pervasive is the denial of communities, organizations, and individuals about the aging of society?
- How do foundations balance the competing needs of the aging community with all other communities in need (i.e., persons with AIDS, children, etc.)?
- Does the livable communities model provide a framework with which to organize efforts to prepare for an aging society?
- Can we engage communities, organizations and individuals in transformative education about the aging of the population?

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