



PROGRESS REPORT ON CONGREGATE HOUSING SERVICES PROGRAM

The Minnesota Board on Aging has organized a Steering Committee and Task Force structure that is working with staff and the research consultant in the development of the findings, implications and recommendations.

On January 25, 1990, the Program Operations Committee and the Steering Committee held a joint meeting for the purpose of hearing a progress report from the consultant and for reviewing a proposed schedule for review of the findings and implications, and input regarding the recommendations.

At that meeting, the consultant presented analysis completed to date that included:

- Demographic profiles of each County, Region and the State of Minnesota for 1990, 2000, and 2010 organized to provide the data base for projections of housing and service demand
- Demand analysis for congregate housing and congregate housing services by County, Region and the State, separating demand by persons needing a subsidy and persons able to pay for housing services
- Partial completion of inventory of senior housing, both subsidized and market rate, by County and Region
- Completion of focus group research and intensive provider interviews at three of six sites identified for the completed report
- Review and presentation of findings of other studies that will relate to this study, including the Wilder Foundation Senior Study as well as the STEP Study completed by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
- Definition of congregate housing and congregate housing services for the purposes of this study



The on-site focus group research which has been completed has identified that there is considerable variability in locations throughout the State regarding the availability of congregate housing for seniors, the availability of services for seniors in congregate housing, and the capability of seniors in accessing available services. The models that have been observed thus far also demonstrate considerable variability in costs from a variety of housing and service sources.

The Findings and Implications from the research will be presented to the Board on Aging on February 15, and the Board is expected to authorize the staff to disseminate the Findings and Implications to various interested groups throughout the State at its meeting on February 16.

There will be approximately a two-month period of time, ending April 15, for general dissemination and discussion about findings and implications. The Project Steering Committee and the Task Forces will review the feedback and comments. Recommendations for Legislative action will be considered by the Board at its regular meeting, April 20, 1990.

The Board has made considerable effort in the study process and research design to look at "hard" numbers, consider all programs that are currently in operation to avoid duplication of effort in providing services for seniors in the congregate setting, and working "in the field" so that we see programs in action, both ones that work effectively and ones that need more support.

The major objective of the Board is to deliver to the Legislature a report with accompanying recommendations that will enable you to consider an effective and complementary program to better enable older persons to age in place and avoid premature placement in a nursing home.