

Topic: Care giving

Convener: Sandy Silva

Room: D

Discussion Summary:

- Question as young adult (KU student) with aging parents, she wants to know how to care for them?
- Three care giving groups – older adults caring for spouses, parents caring for parents, kids caring for parents
- Younger generation wants to make a difference with older parents.
- What would your one question be as a young adult? Issues with Medicare, Medicaid, and no good access to information for going through process. Where to get this information, how to go through process? How to make system work?
- Programs in place, but no funding. What are the resources and how do we support those resources? When caregiver is trying to figure out how to care for aging parent, what kinds of resources are out there and how to find those resources?
- Changing demographics will make issue bigger? Twelve percent of KC area is age 65 and older. In short amount of time, will move towards almost doubling. What changes need to be made to make community friendly towards aging?
- Sheppard Center – four in community currently. Developing KC caregiver support line. Web site is being created that will provide info. for caregivers in KC. Can get in touch with somebody in similar situation and access cross over information.
- Got to find better ways to raise awareness of what's currently going on and where we're going with demographics. Number of people aging will affect everything in community.
- Some authors say it will be greatest societal shift that will happen in our lifetime.
- Aging sessions here are not being well-attended. It's a tough topic. In five or seven years, if we talked about this issue in a setting like this, people would want to get involved.
- Have to figure out ways to raise awareness for curriculums, like urban planning.
- If you look at the numbers, it's real – it's not going away. Our culture prevents us from talking openly about this issue. It's going to cause us a lot of problems in the future. Need to find acceptable ways to talk about it.
- Should we call "aging" something else?
- Need to look at things at a generational level. Combining youth groups with older adults. Enriching for young people, delight for older people.
- Retirement community in KC has on-site daycare center.
- Older demographic controls money in country, they have a lot of wisdom to share that would help a youth group – mentoring. They have the time; they're looking for meaningful things to do. They're interested in helping youth. What keeps this from happening currently? We need to find ways to connect youth and aging populations. One group wants something to do; one group has something to do. If only a small portion of aging population is interested, it's still a large number because there are so many of them to begin with.
- In urban planning context, good planning would encompass a lot of societal concerns. YMCA has a variety of activities. They created a place where community can gather that's not bounded by age or interests. Community centers are like this, too. Connections between young and old are only going to happen in places like these because planning will connect the two. Need to consciously incorporate aging population into work with youth (one participant is doing planning thesis on youth engagement).
- By year 2030, 20 percent of people across nation will be over 65 – In KC area, 20 percent will be over 65 by 2020. KC Star says it will happen in 2018. The fact that it will be here before we know it, means we have to do something now and do it well.
- Part of what we have to do is use this resource (aging population).
- Need to consider all care giving – special considerations for disabled, as well.
- People who are care giving need to recognize that they are doing so earlier. Cutting grass for dad (when you used to not do this) is starting down path. We begin to care give much earlier than we typically identify.
- There's familial and commercial care giving. 75-80 percent of care giving provided by family and friends.
- Aging will affect every issue that was listed on the issue board today. We are living longer.
- Need leaders to step forward on this issue.

Meeting time: Session 2: 10:30 a.m.

Recorder: Lisa Pool