Connecticut Council for Philanthropy EngAGEment Initiative
Program on Connecticut’s Aging Population
State and Federal Perspective
April 27th, 2011

Program Summary

Presentations:
1) Bureau of Aging (SUA), Community & Social Work Services
   Pam A. Giannini, MSW, Director
   www.ct.gov/agingservices
   Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) Aging Services Division, State Unit on Aging:
   - Coordinates activities that impact quality of life for older state residents.
   - Responsible for the “State Plan on Aging, 10/1/2010-9/30/2013”, which is a plan to provide comprehensive services to older residents via accessibility and consumer choice. (Report Handed Out at Meeting will be posted to The Council’s website).
   - DSS mainly funds Nutrition Programs, Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC), Affordable Healthcare Act programs (federal), Older Americans Act programs, CHOICE program and others listed on their website. They also offer the Rx Express Bus which is a mobile unit screening people for eligibility of state and federal programs.
   - Main Challenges: reauthorizing Older American’s Act, care transition-state has a problem educating people upon discharge of services, ADRCs funding, need to focus on more evidence based chronic disease management programs.

2) Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging
   Marie L. Allen, Executive Director
   http://www.ctagenciesonaging.org/pages/home.php
   - The five regional Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) represent older adults, individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers throughout Connecticut and are all private not-for-profit corporations. They are part of Connecticut’s Aging Resource Centers.
   - AAA’s provide stewardship for Older Americans’ Act funds and fund programs for nutrition (home-delivered meals and community based cafes for older adults).
   - Depending on regional needs and region-specific contracts, some AAA’s administer programs such as the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, Resident Service Coordinators, Senior Employment, Veterans Services, Volunteer Support and Evidence Based Health Programs.
   - Main Challenges: Getting information to older adults in accessible places, safe and affordable senior housing, transportation-mobility especially on weekends, lack of mental health services for seniors, and general access to healthcare.
**Presentations:**
3) Connecticut Commission on Aging

*Julia Evans Starr, Executive Director*

http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa/

- Commission is a non-partisan research and public policy agency, which services as a credible source of information on issues affecting Connecticut’s older adults, to prepare our state for the needs of its soaring older adult population and to provide accountability within state government.

- Major work: Lead efforts to streamline Medicaid long-term care services and supports, present solutions and savings to untapped federal programs, analyze demographics, develop and comment on legislation. Mentioned report called “The Elder Economic Security Standard Index for Connecticut” (to be posted to The Council’s website) this is a measure of income that older adults require to maintain their independence in the community and meet their daily costs of living.

- Main Challenges: presenting Aging as a “family” issue. Older adults who are not defined as poor, still do not have enough income to meet their basic needs, Medicaid reimbursements to providers are low. Money Follows the Person (MFP) challenges like workforce development, affordable housing communities to go from nursing home to community, help with transitions to care.

**Next Steps for Aging Leadership Team**
- Connecticut Council for Philanthropy will post reports given out at meeting.
- Ideas for future Programs/Roundtables/Issue Briefs
  - Aging in Place, Aging Ready Communities/municipalities
  - Older Adult Healthcare issues-dental, mental health
  - Workforce capacity issues
  - Senior Centers-where do older adults get information
  - Care Transition
  - Creativity and Healthy Aging
  - Intergenerational funding
  - Transportation Issues

**Program Statistics**
Number of Attendees: 3 speakers, 17 participants, 2 staff
Evaluation Responses: 90% said Program was excellent or very good