

**Beaumont**

**SENIORS AND ADULTS  
WITH DISABILITIES  
PUBLIC FORUM**

**February 15, 2007**



# **Problems and Challenges Impacting Quality of Life For Senior Residents**

**In Partnership with: City of Beaumont and Riverside  
County Office on Aging.**

## **Co-Sponsors:**

- \*Beaumont Senior Center \*Riverside County Advisory Council on Aging**
- \* Soroptimist International of Beaumont \*Riverside County Foundation on Aging.**

## INTRODUCTION

The Advisory Council on Aging in partnership with the City of Beaumont and the Beaumont Senior Center convened a public forum on February 15, 2007 to identify issues and concerns of seniors in the area and to identify potential solutions.

The Forum was intended for seniors, adults with disabilities, caregivers, service providers, and community leaders to present their views on the problems and challenges in every day life.

Comments derived from the forum will be used to:

- Highlight critical needs facing seniors and adults with disabilities in our community,
- Pinpoint gaps in services and programs, and
- Assist program planners, policy makers and service providers to be more responsive to their constituents.

There were approximately 135 persons in attendance.

## MAJOR ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY PARTICIPANTS AND SUGGESTIONS AND RESOURCES FOR ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

Overview remarks:

Lu Molberg, Director of the Office on Aging, presented introductory remarks on the trends and challenges in aging that face all communities today. She identified the following trends:

Longevity: people are living longer and 2/3 of all people who reached age 65 are alive today.

Changing expectations about aging with more emphasis on the right to service and the right to be heard and have choices.

Aging as HIP

HEALTHY: more emphasis on remaining fit and healthy

INDEPENDENT: diversity in life styles and options to have support service at home

PRODUCTIVE: opportunities to have meaningful activity, employment, recreation

Retirement as we have known it is disappearing as more and more seniors choose to continue working at jobs, or to have their own business.

Ongoing challenges

The rise in crimes against older adults including financial scamming and physical and mental abuse.

The rise in addictions to alcohol, gambling, medication misuse and overuse.

The rise in the number of family caregivers needing support and assistance including grandparents raising grandchildren.

The need for new ways to tap into the talent, leadership skill, expertise and life experiences of older adults to assist family and community stability.

2.

Community needs/challenges identified in Beaumont by participants

Needs:

A demographic profile of the aging population in the Beaumont area to guide planning and decision making.

An adult care center providing service daily 8:00 to 5:00

A free standing Senior Center which can better link to the 55 plus communities in the area.

Posting speed limits on side streets

A medical supply store with a wider range of offerings

Expanded Dial a Ride service to destinations outside of the area.

Emergency Dial A Ride service off hours

More convenient hours and wait time for Dial A Ride.

Improve Dial a Ride complaint process

Bus service available 24 hours and more accessible bus stops and paths of travel

Safer upgraded street lighting

Access to 3 months of prescription drugs.

More low income senior apartments

Central resource for available senior apartments and a waiting list

Community Fitness Center for seniors

New Senior congregate nutrition sites with activities

More disaster awareness programs and forums (door hangers)

Low cost companions for seniors and for in home care

Improved transportation to doctor, community activities.

Stoplight on Beaumont and Cougar Way

Challenges;

Getting a larger and better located Post Office for the community

Freeway capacity and ramps, and clear signs that keep pace with population growth.

Geriatric/gerontology specialists in care

Downtown redevelopment and revitalization

Widen Highland Springs Road along Wilson

Improve customer service between police Dept and seniors and disability community

More opportunities for employment for seniors

Part D Medicare Prescription Drug Donut Hole

Health care coverage under age 65 when Medicare becomes available.

More health eating practices

Better housing for those age 25 to 55

Service for those who are homeless due to illness or financial hardships.

More social worker outreach to advise seniors of available services

Redevelopment to welcome more group homes in the community

Increased business parking capacity

#### Positives Noted

Bus system has improved.

Central location is a plus

Traffic lights on Highland Springs

CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Program)

Braille Institute Program

Diabetic resource at Senior Center

TRIP Program

#### City Comments

Name, representing the City of Beaumont, commented on the progress already under way on many of the areas noted, and thanked those in attendance for their input and guidance. The summary results will be reviewed for future consideration.



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