

# VISIONEERING WICHITA



Solid Waste



Emergency Response



Urban & Regional Development



Elderly & Aging



Technical Training



Sedgwick County Arena



Healthy Lifestyles

June 15, 2005

## Infrastructure Foundation – Quality of Life Foundation

1. Elderly — services, support and community involvement

**Sedgwick County’s Action Step** – The Central Plains Area Agency on Aging will take the lead in this area and partner with residents and a number of partners.

### Current Situation:

- **Increase accessibility and quality of healthcare while simultaneously lowering the cost by encouraging healthy lifestyles, wellness, fitness, and education programs --** The Department on Aging is in the process of hiring a nurse to work specifically with various senior centers, service providers, meal sites and case-managed clients to provide consultation as well as program design and enhancement. Additionally, the department has submitted a grant application to fund an awareness campaign that provides information on healthy lifestyles and the implementation of a walking program for seniors. The department is also increasing the number of free health screenings available to attendees of the annual Senior Expo that will take place in September.
- **Provide social services that address local and emerging issues --** The department, in conjunction with community stakeholders, has been working to adopt a strategic plan that identifies the potential current and future needs of seniors in Sedgwick County. The plan will encompass various action steps, strategies and goals for the department during the course of the next five to ten years. Once in place, the department will develop a timeline to more accurately map out the work plan.
- **Create community volunteer opportunities to collaboratively provide services for those in need --** Over the course of the past year and a half, the department has focused on developing community impact volunteer placement opportunities for new and existing volunteers. Efforts have been successful and future action will continue to focus in this direction. Additionally, efforts have been made to expand the number of volunteers and the presence of marketing for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.

### Areas of Vision Alliance

- Image & Marketing
- Tourism & Visitors
- Health Care
- Recreation
- Arts
- Public Safety
- Sense of Community
- Human Services
- Good Government
- Downtown Development
- Transportation
- Water Resources
- Flood Control
- Housing
- Environment & Natural Resources
- Facility Accessibility
- Visioneering Wichita
- Communication



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Aging continues to work collaboratively with other senior volunteer organizations to provide additional funding for the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparents programs. As a final effort to expand both the number and scope of volunteers, the department is working towards establishing a volunteer transportation service in three rural communities.

- ***Embrace our elderly citizens as a community resource for history, education, employment, and other aspects of community life*** -- The department continues to encourage, support and utilize the variety of strengths and talents that older adults bring to the community through work with the Senior Centers and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Through these outlets, seniors are contributing to society, modeling their skills, teaching others and improving lives. The department continues to focus on this aspect of community life in various strategic planning efforts to increase the recognition and utilization of seniors in the community.
- ***Provide and maintain safe and affordable housing for the elderly*** – Through the Minor Home Repair program, the department works with a variety of partners to leverage funding and provide home modification to ensure that seniors' homes are safe and accessible. An identification program was recently developed that provides in-home safety assessments for seniors that will help identify issues of concern and provide referral information and recommendations for modifications. Continuous examination and public presentation at community events allows the department to expand the service and seek out new partnerships and funding opportunities.
- ***Increase services for the elderly and market them effectively*** – Funding from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment over the past few years has allowed the department to increase numerous service options. Currently, the department is working with the Kansas Department on Aging on a pilot project attempting to obtain increased mental health services for seniors. Additionally, marketing options that will increase the visibility of services for seniors are being discussed with the State Association and PBS. Efforts continue to be made to increase community visibility through assistance from the Wichita Eagle, Channel 3 and various other senior-focused resources.

**Next Steps:**

- Continued work on the Department on Aging Strategic Plan outlining goals and strategies to serve the needs of seniors over the next 5-10 years. The Strategic Planning process has involved numerous stakeholders to help define priorities and incorporating the Visioning goals into the Department's goals.