PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS WORKSHEET – AGING IN PLACE

Problem	Potential Solutions
INFORMATION NEEDS **Problem:** Not enough information on available services, especially in rural parts of the county. Special attention to unbiased financial advice, financial planning, and legal considerations around aging. **Problem:** Some older adults are not computer savvy and/or don't have computer and internet access. Many programs and services are too "web-centric". **Problem:** Some people (young and old) experience "aging denial" and as a result, are not planning for the future. **Objective:** Increase awareness of services and programs that meet aging in place needs in Orange County	- Increase marketing of existing services, workshops, programs, and the aging help line through use of radio, social networking, and existing infrastructure such as churches. - Establish a non-profit or community working group (Orange County Cares) to provide information on aging in place services, connect seniors to resources, and conduct advocacy. - Create a mobile aging in place information unit (be it a van, a team of health professionals, or a table) that goes around the county to different events/places (i.e. churches, supermarkets, community centers) that seniors frequent, especially in rural areas. - Brief/train/educate aging liaisons (people who interact with older adults on a regular basis such as EMS, MDs, police, pastors) on services available. Establish mechanism to update liaisons periodically. - Encourage BOCC, SHIP, and Senior Tar Heel Legislature to promote more monitoring of Department of Insurance's responsiveness to complaints regarding long term care insurance. - Use volunteers with financial expertise (like those working with SCORE and VITA) to provide unbiased financial advice to older adults - Provide assistance with computer and technology for older adults → help them become more "linked in" - Provide patient advocate services for free to low-income adults - Research and assess potential marketing campaign to combat "aging denial".
NUTRITION/FOOD SECURITY **Problem:** Lack of nutrition and meal services in northern and other rural parts of the county. **Problem:** Food insecurity.	- Explore expansion of Meals on Wheels to other parts of the county (keep in mind that this would require resources (volunteers, funds) and that Meals on Wheels serves a specific segment of the population). - Link volunteers willing to assist with or cook meals, and/or

Problem: Many older adults who suffer from poor nutrition go unrecognized.	personal shopper systems with volunteers willing to pick up groceries (requires organizational component). - Support efforts to create villages - Assist people in enrolling for SNAP and food stamp programs - Provide financial support to seniors who can't afford home health/companionship services that assist with cooking and meal preparation
HOUSING MODIFICATIONS & HOME AFFORDABILITY **Problem:** Need for housing repair and accessibility services to be offered to more moderate-low income residents (not just extremely low income). **Problem:** Lack of awareness of home modification's impact on quality of life coupled with reticence to seek out assistance. **Problem:** Homes are becoming increasingly unaffordable and/or difficult and/or expensive to maintain. **Problem:** Income qualifications for relevant programs/services are too stringent, and as a result many older adults "slip through the cracks".	- Create a fact sheet of housing repair/modification services available as well as a list of trustworthy contractors. - Train cadre of volunteers to assist with home modifications. - Work with non-profits to expand income requirement (perhaps no income requirement for folks over a certain age). - Encourage programs/services relevant to aging in place to have qualifications that are age-based not income-based. - Support efforts to create villages - Increase awareness of universal design principles and the positive impact of home modifications on quality of life and health. - Raise Homestead Tax Exemption rate in Orange County (currently $27,000) so that more seniors can qualify.
IN-HOME CARE & SUPPORT, CAREGIVING **Problem:** Need for more services that support aging in place and to support existing efforts.	- Provide more support to CNAs on identification of depression and other mental health issues. - Support efforts of organizations like Project Compassion, A Helping Hand, Soltys Adult Day Care, & Carolina Villages. - Offer more caregiver support groups at Senior Centers and expand Caregiver Day Out programs at Senior Centers - Expand Adult Day programs in Orange County