

From: Kester, Tony
To: 'Melissa Benik'mbenik@marymount.edu
Date: 12/4/2013 7:34:21 AM
Subject: RE: State Plan on Aging

Funding is certainly a major concern. There will never be enough money to meet the needs of seniors. Education is very important. Raising awareness to both seniors and soon –to-be seniors about what can realistically be expected from government as their needs increase is also very important.. I believe current expectations are much higher than what can be provided both today and into the future. If we cannot provide direct services, then current and correct information is the next best service.

Transportation is the greatest unmet need today and I believe that will only increase as the population continues to increase.

I hope this helps.

Tony

From: Melissa Benik [mailto:mbenik@marymount.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 12:05 PM
To: Kester, Tony
Subject: Re: State Plan on Aging

Thank you so much for your reply. I hope you had a good holiday.

If you were to name the top three challenges South Carolina is facing in providing long term care what would you say they are? Funding? Organization of information available? Outreach?

Kind regards,
Melissa

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On Thu, Nov 21, 2013 at 3:31 PM, Kester, Tony <kester@aging.sc.gov> wrote:
Melissa,

The statement about 3% of the senior population is based on the number of seniors served by our HCBS programs vs. the total population in the state. We currently serve approximately 28,000 seniors with a senior population of approximately 950,000. The number is low because we have limited funding for service. There are about 8,000 seniors on our waiting list. These are non-medicaid seniors.

I hope this helps.

Thanks.

Tony Kester

From: Melissa Benik [mailto:mbenik@marymount.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 5:19 PM
To: Kester, Tony
Subject: State Plan on Aging

Mr. Kester,

I am a grad student studying Health Care Management. I am focusing on long term care in South Carolina with hopes to support the efforts like those laid out in the State Plan after graduation. I am currently working on a term paper about navigating LTC and ran across this statement in the State Plan (page 14 regarding Aging Trends) that I would greatly appreciate more information on:

"While the senior population is growing significantly, the LGOA only serves about 3% of the state's aging population. Ninety-seven percent of the senior population is not utilizing our services."

I am unclear as to when the plan says that the LGOA only serves about 3% of the state's aging population- what does this "service" include? And why is the number so low?

I understand that you must be incredibly busy and I would sincerely appreciate your reply. I am trying to understand the resources available in South Carolina.

Kind regards,
Melissa

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