

A-3 PLANNING AND REVIEW PROCESS:

Scope of Need:

ALTC service area includes eight counties in south east Washington.



ALTC Service Area

Agriculture is the primary source of stability in the economy of all of the counties except Benton and Franklin. Agriculture provides income and wealth in widely disparate (and potentially divisive) ways. In the population of the elderly and the disabled, these disparities surface in key areas relevant to the Area Plan: Nutrition and hunger, transportation to nutrition and health care appointments, access to information (especially on computers via internet), health care access, and the housing options available to age in place.

The primary minority population in our service area is Hispanics. Most of the elderly Hispanics have experienced health issues related to early years of very strenuous physical labor, exposure to pesticides, and repetitive functions that can damage the arms, elbows, shoulders, and feet needed for work in the canneries and fields. Many do not have or never have had

access to any consistent health care, especially during the years of most intense physical work. Access to other services has been hampered by language barriers and fear of bureaucracies they may not understand.

Elders of any minority or special population tend to be the poorest members of our society and often this is worse for women. In rural areas, regardless of economic need, seniors and the disabled have long distances to travel, usually without benefit of public transportation. Senior Centers with limited resources have struggled to keep up with the need for services in the rural areas.

Services to people with a disability tend to be adequate when the person is very disabled, is eligible for assistance through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), or has access to a good support system among family members, friends, or church. Even then, the central issues here are isolation, advocacy, and a lack of sufficient knowledge concerning chronic disease .

Persons Consulted:

ALTC is especially challenged when trying to obtain local input in the planning process in eight different counties. In order to accomplish this, ALTC held two forums in April of 2015 on the 2016 - 2019 Area Plan at a centralized location (Pasco) within the eight counties. Nine individual members of the administrative staff: Lori Brown, Sheila Brogdon, Corrie Blythe, Emily Buechler, Eliticia Sanchez, Lynne Van Horn, Christy Ivy, Joyce Lucas, and Kathy Coffey participated. In addition, ALTC Advisory Council members, as well as contracted service providers participated in both forums which were open to the public as well.

Tools Employed: Forums as described above, data searches, and consultation with key stakeholders comprised the variety of methods used to gather data. Key stakeholders included mental health professionals, physicians, nurses, county and city planners, emergency medical personnel, aging network partners, contractors, social service agencies and staff members from the Greater Columbia 211 – Region 7.

Resources: Census data, ALTSA service data, regional demographic reports from Office of Financial Management (OFM), and county planning data (where available). Also utilized were data from national sources such as the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A), AARP, Administration for Community Living (ACL), National Council on Aging (NCOA), United Way, the Kadlec Neurological Resource Center and the Alzheimer’s Association.

The ALTC Advisory Council consists of six to eight members from each county who meet six times a year in Pasco. Additionally, local advisory councils meet twice a year for planning and setting priorities.. The Advisory Council participated in a forum at one of its meetings in the same format as was used for those described above, grouping each county as a single table, and reviewing the topics.

At the meeting, tables of Advisory Council members were able to review the Area Plan with respect to their individual communities. Opportunities were given for further clarification and input on both needs and resources.

Conferences about Care Transitions were held with many of our health home partners in Yakima and Richland in April 2014.

See Appendix D for documentation of forums, Advisory Council membership and public hearings.



ALTC Advisory Council meeting