

published. It details the findings from 8 focus groups conducted across the county with individuals ranging in age from 51 to 91.

The Health District was inspired to develop this series through their participation in the Senior Consortium, founded by LTCA in 2007. SHD used the expertise of LTCA and other Senior Consortium members to develop the focus groups and identify key informants. The entire series of reports will provide analytical in-depth research on aging issues and should be completed by December of 2011.

- **2011 Snohomish County Low Income Needs Assessment** – The Snohomish County Human Services Division of Housing and Community Services conducts this needs assessment at regular intervals as part of being a community action program. Although this survey has always included some older adults, the group has often been so small as to be statistically insignificant. This time a LTCA staff member joined the needs assessment work group at the beginning and lobbied strongly for increased senior representation. Senior participants were recruited through Veterans' Assistance, the Energy and Weatherization Programs, health care providers, employment services sites, food banks, senior centers and aging services providers.

Review Existing Data & Other Surveys

In addition to forming new data partnerships, LTCA staff reviewed existing reports and data including information from past Snohomish County Human Services Low Income Needs Surveys, Snohomish Health District reports, and other community resources. This review was used to develop initial directions for the Plan.

LTCA also utilized other survey opportunities to generate information and ideas for the Area Plan. These included:

1. A survey of all the caregivers who received services in 2010 through the Family Caregiver Programs of Snohomish County. One hundred six caregivers responded, 70% of whom indicated that at least 50% of their time was spent in caregiving.
2. The 2010 Ethnic Elder Survey, which was translated into 6 languages and given to 275 participants. Responses were returned by one hundred fifty-five individuals.

Also during the course of the planning process, the Washington State Elder Economic Index Survey was completed by Wider Opportunities for Women and the University of Massachusetts. The economic data available for our County proved to be very helpful in crafting Area Plan objectives.

Other Meetings

A special meeting with representatives from the LTCA Case Management Program was held to discuss Home Care Quality goals and gain additional input from case management staff regarding stated objectives.

Issues related to the topic of Aging and Disability Resource Centers were discussed with Senior Information and Assistance. The Council on Aging formed an Ad Hoc Disability Committee which discussed and commented on facets of conversion to an ADRC, and ways to assist in the process.

Staff Contributions

LTCA staff members worked to refine and develop realistic strategies from all the collected information and ideas. In addition, direction given to the Area Agencies on Aging through the Older Americans Act and requirements from the state's Aging and Disability Services Administration were also incorporated into this document.

Public Review

A legal notice announcing the availability of the 2012-2015 Area Plan on Aging for review will appear in the August 7, 2011 Everett Herald newspaper. Additional notices about the review period will be sent to over 100 providers, elected officials and the general public who are on LTCA's mail and e-mail lists. A copy of the draft will be posted on the Human Services Department web site. Finally, a public hearing will be held on August 24, 2011, to gather comments on the draft of the 2012 – 2015 Area Plan

Council on Aging Review

Council on Aging members reviewed and commented on the Plan throughout the process. Comments made at the public hearing, along with staff response to the comments, will be presented to the COA at its August 24, 2011 meeting. When the Council on Aging passes a motion approving the revised Area Plan, it will be forwarded to the County Executive to recommend approval from the County Council.

County Executive and County Council Review/Approval

The Snohomish County Council and County Executive will conduct final review of the 2012-2015 Area Plan. Upon completion of the County Council's review and approval, the Plan will be completed and forwarded to the Washington State Aging & Disability Services Administration.