



Legislative Task Force on Aging Recommendations September 17, 2024

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Minnesota Board on Aging | mn.gov/board-on-aging

We Need A Bus Driver

The MBA is committed to leading the effort to identify and implement creative solutions that will pave the way toward all Minnesotans thriving as we age.



Minnesota Board on Aging Overview

Mission: Ensure that older Minnesotans and their families are **effectively served by** state and local **policies and programs**, so they can age well and live well.

Federally designated State Unit on Aging duties:



Advocate



Administer



Advise

Minnesota Board on Aging Overview

We are a **25 member volunteer board**, with a broad range of expertise including:



Tribal



**Medicare/
Medicaid**



Clinicians



**Long Term Care
Support & Services**



Legislative



**Area Agency
on Aging**



Academia



**Managed
Care**



Advocacy



**Organizational
Change Management**



**Resource
Development**



**Social
Services**

We conducted a thorough self-assessment and examined the broader landscape of aging within Minnesota to critically evaluate our practices and ensure we are not merely reinforcing the status quo.

Importance of Co-Designing the Solution

Co-design: Users Are the Experts



our intention is to present a vision for aging that is part of an **ongoing design process to move us closer to the goal of every Minnesotan aging well and living well. Our recommendation is not meant to be “the” answer nor is it meant to represent every differing viewpoint, as there are many voices and perspectives that have yet to be heard. Overall, we believe the best solution will be co-designed by all interested parties.*

We Are Working Towards

A supportive and inclusive Minnesota, where aging is celebrated, services are accessible, and older people actively shape policies, ensuring we can all thrive as we age.

Guiding Principles

- Empower a state structure that values and seeks out the **voice** of older Minnesotans
- Eliminate **ageism** (*negative thoughts, attitudes and behaviors towards older people due to stereotypes*)
- Measure **impact** of aging services across the state and understand how state funds related to aging are allocated and utilized
- Increase public **awareness** & ease navigation
- **Leverage** existing expertise & maintain existing efficiencies
- Champion Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access, **DEIA** is a central tenet - We are all aging
- Extend the focus **beyond provision of services** to the creation and support of sustainable communities across the lifespan
- Sustain and expand collaborative **partnerships**
- Lead comprehensive **Multisector Plan** for Aging through permanency of the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council
- **Dedicate staff** and **resources** to carry out critical functions

A Proposed New Structure



Essential Elements of a New Structure



Provide a direct line of communication to the governor and their office to **give voice to older people**



Commit resources to support advocacy, research/analysis, community education, outreach, and cross-agency coordination



Integrate work with the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council through the Multisector Blueprint for Aging



Revise MBA's legislative statute to strengthen its authority to work directly with the governor and their office, the legislature, state agencies, and Tribal Nations

Provide a direct line of communication to the governor and their office to give voice to older people



- Advocating for state and national policies to support aging throughout the lifespan
- Addressing the needs of older people in their communities and residences of their choice
- Advising the governor and their office, legislature and state and federal agencies on aging policy
- Co-designing solutions & elevating the voice of:
 - Older Minnesotans
 - Service providers
 - Counties
 - Area Agencies on Aging
 - Tribal organizations
 - Policy experts
 - Geriatric Clinicians/Gerontologists
 - Any other interested parties
- Elevating aging in Minnesota across state agencies

Commit resources to lead advocacy, research, analysis, community education and outreach, and cross-agency coordination



- Leading planning, coordination, and oversight of state aging related work
- Broadening advising and advocacy functions
- Dedicate resources to effectively carry out critical functions
- Champion effective and efficient stewardship of public dollars
 - Time
 - People
 - Resources

Integrate work with the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council through the Multisector Blueprint for Aging



- Leading a cross agency Multisector Blueprint for Aging
 - Driving advocacy & policy to align efforts
- Elevating the state plan on aging as a cohesive statewide strategy
- Informing decision makers on emerging trends related to aging in Minnesota
- Championing local community based efforts across Minnesota

Revise MBA's legislative statute to strengthen its authority to work directly with the governor and their office, the legislature, state agencies, and Tribal Nations



- Revising the statute giving more authority and autonomy to advise state government and advocate on behalf of all of us as we age
- Reprioritizing to elevate advising and advocacy
- Rebalancing the time and resources dedicated to advocacy and advisement to meet the needs of all of us as we age

What Could This Look Like?



Engagement To Date...



Intergenerational Public Health Interest Group

We are a collective of residents and students dedicated to exploring Minnesota's most pressing societal issues through an intergenerational lens.

A collaboration between the University of Minnesota Aging Studies Interdisciplinary Group and The Pillars of Prospect Park.



This Is Not The End...

Aging must be elevated to a higher priority within Minnesota state government



Our recommendation for a new Aging Entity is a **dynamic framework** that will evolve, be refined and updated as conversations continue

We aim for **tangible solutions** that adapt to the realities of complex systems

By seizing this **opportunity**, we will positively impact the lives of older Minnesotans and all of us as we age while supporting **vibrant communities**

The Minnesota Board on Aging is committed to remaining actively engaged throughout this process to ensure the final structure included in the Legislative Task Force on Aging report reflects the **best possible solution.**

Our FAQs

Discussion