

## Section 6

### Area Plan Summary

In the initial phase of the North Delta Area Agency on Aging four year Plan, information was shared about the agency and its pending existence. Since its inception several programs have been implemented to address the needs of various communities within the region. North Delta is a Multi-Planning District administering numerous programs. The Agency is housed at 1913 Stubbs Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana, 71201.

The Area Agency which is part of the district's services is required by the Older American Act and Governor's Office to do a four year Area Plan. This plan phase will begin July 1, 2011-12 and ends June 30, 2015-16. The Plan is designed to do the following:

- Educate and inform the Public, Service Providers, and local Officials of Activities
- Fulfillment of Older American Requirements
- Use as a management tool to guide, make decisions, and navigate
- Communications with the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, Councils on Aging, and Service Providers
- To become acquainted with new Service Providers
- Coordination of local services
- To monitor, assess the effectiveness of services provided

It took several months to compile information for the Area Plan. Initially, training was provided by the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs on August 26, 2010. Their main purpose was to clarify the following:

- Present Purpose of Plan
- Administrative Functions
- Overview of the Format
- Write Plan to be "Reader Friendly"
- Purpose of Goals/Objectives
- The Needs Assessment
- Strengths and Challenges of the Plan
- Community Meetings/Public Hearings

After the meeting, preparation was made for a mailing list to mail the Needs Assessments. The purpose of the Assessments is to do as stated, "Determine the Needs." At that point, Assessments were mailed to over 1,000 individuals. Some of the forms were returned immediately whereas others were received months later. Assistance was also received from the Council by disseminating the Assessments throughout their community whereas others were mailed to the Area Agency.

After the assessments were returned, we assorted them by Walk-Ins, Advisory Council Members, Board of Director Members, Politicians, Participants, Baby Boomers, and also other Community Providers. Several volunteers within the Office rendered their services to learn the process, therefore the

outcome/final results of the Assessments were done manually. Afterward, we met with the Advisory Council to inform them of our plans and their input needed.

The results of the Needs Assessments assisted me in conducting one Community Meeting. Several individuals/Providers not associated with the Council daily were invited to this meeting, although only two from the groups were in attendance. Very good comments were received from the Community Meeting which assisted me in the preparation of presenting the Needs Assessment at the Public Hearings. A Public Hearing was held throughout the seven parish region.

A second meeting of the Advisory Council has been scheduled in January due to the holidays. At that meeting, a final report of all activities will be presented. Although they are aware that the Priority Services are:

- Personal Care
- Minor Home Repairs
- Transportation to Doctor Appointments, Visiting, Shopping
- Innovative Approaches to Information on Health Issues/New Meds
- Innovative Approaches to providing more Home Delivered Meals
- Revisions in Legal Service Assistance