What Were We Thinking? The Past, Present, and Future of Aging Policy and Practices 1971 - 2021 - 2071

Todd Stump, MSW, Aging and Adult Services, MN DHS
LaRhae Knatterud, MAPA, Aging Transformation, MN DHS
Panelists: Megan Dayton, MN Demographer’s office and John Selstad, formerly of Aging and Adult Services

Presenters

- LaRhae Knatterud, Director, Aging Transformation, MN Dept of Human Services
- Todd Stump, State Programs Administrator Principal, Aging, MN Dept of Human Services

Webinar Sponsors
Panelists

- John Selstad, former director of Systems Development and Integration, Aging & Adult Services Division
- Megan Dayton, Office of Minnesota State Demographer Susan Brower

Agenda

- Looking back to 1971: what leads us to ask “What Were We Thinking?”
- Previous discussions:
  - 2019 and 2021 MGS Survey
  - 2019 Age & Disabilities Odyssey discussion
Agenda, Continued

► What within the present will lead us to ask that same question in 2071?
  ► LaRhae Knatterud
  ► John Selstad
  ► Megan Dayton

Agenda, Continued (3)

► Survey Findings: MGS Newsletters from Spring/Summer 2019 and Spring/Summer 2021
► Discussion of audience’s questions and stories
  ► Do you have any examples? Any stories? Put them in the chat, and we’ll discuss as many as we can!
Looking Back From the Present: Aging in 1971

If we were to look back 50 years to 1971, there were many ways in which we, as a government agency, and as a society, served and interacted with older adults that appear quite outmoded today. What are some examples that would make us ask, “What were we thinking?”

Looking Back From the Present: Aging in 1971 (continued)

How government and society interacted with older adults

- We undervalued contributions and potential
- “Annoyance” instead of a resource
- We heavily prioritized the nursing home rather than their current home, family, and the community they love
Looking Back From the Future: How 2071 will view 2021

▶ LaRhae’s observations

Looking Back From the Future: How 2071 will view 2021

John Selstad
▶ Former director of Systems Development and Integration, Aging & Adult Services Division
Looking Back From the Future: How 2071 will view 2021

Megan Dayton

Office of Minnesota State Demographer Susan Brower

Looking Back From the Future: Survey Results

Minnesota Gerontological Society membership

Aging and Adult Services Staff
Survey Question

Which policies, societal elements, or other items will be lead people in 2071 to ask "What were we thinking?", when we look back to our present day in 2021?

Responses

- Quality of services in NFs for vulnerable adults or those with greater needs
- Asking the right questions about end-of-life care as lifespans increase, especially re ethnic/spiritual diversity?
- Age segregation still being accepted - not just in "traditional towns vs. retirement communities" way, but actually within senior communities
- Social isolation as rural areas lose population
Responses, Page 2

- Expecting older adults to always make sound financial choices through their lives to prepare for retirement; a lack of protection against telemarketing scams/fraud
- Lack of acknowledgement of sexuality of older adults, and addressing the needs of LGBTQ+ population
- How little we emphasized supporting our informal caregivers
- How unprepared we are for global pandemics
- Lack of walkable communities safe for pedestrians of all ages

Responses, Page 3

- How little we value the caregiving role: low pay for caregiving jobs for the elderly, many of whom are BIPOC employees
- Potential lessons learned from Sweden’s view of options available to older adults, especially couples in a relationship
- Ageism as a driving force in consumer culture
- Restrictive immigration policies reducing availability of workforce
- Lack of acceptable environment for people with Alzheimer’s and dementia to live happily
Your questions

We will discuss your questions from the chat

Thank you for attending “What Were We Thinking?”

Please contact us if you have any further questions.

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Todd Stump: todd.stump@state.mn.us
Questions or Comments:  
Contact: info@mngero.org

Next Webinar:  September 27, 12N-1PM

Building a workforce pipeline in long-term care

With:  Traci Beach Larson,  LNHA, Presbyterian Homes & Services  
Deb Barnes, LNHA, Lakeview/Methodist Health Services  
Jenna Kellerman, MA, CPG, LALD, LeadingAge Minnesota