



MINNESOTA
GERONTOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



L. Knatterud T. Stump

FREE WEBINAR
August 18, 2021
12:00 - 1:00 pm

Handouts:
mngero.org

Type your
questions during
the webinar

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

Webinar Sponsors



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Presenters

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

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Panelists

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

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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

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Agenda, Continued

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

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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!

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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?”

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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

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Looking Back From the Future: How 2071 will view 2021

- ▶ LaRhae's observations



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Looking Back From the Future: How 2071 will view 2021

John Selstad

- ▶ Former director of Systems Development and Integration, Aging & Adult Services Division



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Looking Back From the Future: How 2071 will view 2021

Megan Dayton

- ▶ Office of Minnesota State Demographer Susan Brower



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Looking Back From the Future: Survey Results

- ▶ Minnesota Gerontological Society membership
- ▶ Aging and Adult Services Staff



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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?

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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

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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

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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

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Your questions

- ▶ We will discuss your questions from the chat

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Thank you for attending “What Were We Thinking?”

Please contact us if you have any further questions.

- ▶ LaRhae Knatterud: larhae.knatterud@state.mn.us
- ▶ Todd Stump: todd.stump@state.mn.us

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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