

Columbia County Changing Populations Summit Evaluation

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  January 21, 2009

N=74

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about this workshop/program by circling the appropriate response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. The information presented will be useful to me.	1-0	2-0	3-58	4-15
2. The program was a good use of my time.	1-0	2-0	3-59	4-18
3. I learned about resources available to me related to changing populations of Columbia Co.	1-0	2-7	3-49	4-59
		Not changed	Some Increase	Greatly Increased
4. My knowledge about changing populations has		1-0	2-48	3-27
5. How do you plan to use the information presented in this workshop/program?				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present to members of organization we represented • As a research tool • Begin more discussions- Be more aware • Be more active on City, County and Village level • I will be inviting Wendy Metcalf to speak to a group about all the services available to help people out • Share with family • Increased awareness • Now sure, think about this in daily routine • Share with our plan commission and the government • Design program • Discussion with our Human Resource leadership team at Grande Cheese • Share with co-workers and other organizations • Use it to make better discussion • Share with community group and friends • To better run our community • Our town is working on our comprehension plan • Present and talk with other city officials about what we discussed today • Working on my township's comprehensive plan. I think it will be of assistance • Good to use when talking to clients, or just as general knowledge to have • Change some of the things I do, change my thinking • Often • Development/enhancement of partnerships • Share this summit concept with other counties/UWEX professional/elected officials • I plan to take this information back to my co-workers and discuss possible solutions • Plan to ask for more staff to handle the mass unemployed • Use it with discussion at my manufacturing employer • When I plan to do things in the future 				

- Better awareness of resources handed
- Business planning
- Help me as an elected official to understand problems in community
- Taking this back to the workplace and the community groups that I am involved in
- Keep info in mind to share in other groups I/m involved in
- Share with other groups
- I am chairman of CCEDC. I knew much of this, but we need more communication on what caused the program in this county
- Personal, potential (or lack of) for home sale employment more realistic view of what future holds for staffing (govt. employee)
- Need to look at data our agency has and how that connects to the data presented here
- When I make decisions concerning the taxpayers monies
- Tell it to other people. Spread the news
- Use it at local planners meeting
- Continue with opportunity
- Will take back to village board and source of the business
- Become involved verbally with people in workplace and friends to become more innovative in thinking of ideas. To help promote voluntary assistance
- It broadened my perspective and was a great networking opportunity
- As an elected official for future planning and direction in the county
- Short and long term business plan for our company
- Future planning in my profession with customers
- Share with friends, family and organization
- Continue local community collaboration
- Use in daily job for future planning volunteer locally
- Help in planning sustain Columbia next steps
- Use in plans for school district-volunteers, building
- Use in plans for library expansion
- Get administrators to continue with voluntary opportunities, talk to elderly friends to get involved
- Inform several groups that I belong to, many people are not aware of much of this information
- In local government
- To help with local land use plan
- I will try to begin conversations with others
- Identify opportunities
- Incorporate it into Sustain Columbia and Stewards of the Dells activities/awareness
- I'm active in politics and on board of WSHC Equine Foundation and interested in making this area stronger and better. I/m sure I will use contacts from here to build on things I come about.

6. Tell us about any information presented today that surprised you.

- The number of foreclosures to come in Columbia County
- Unemployment rates/foreclosure rates
- Level of projected unemployment and school age children
- The projection of 3000 out of work
- Terry Ludeman- his compiled trends
- Information presented by Terry on statistics in Wisconsin
- Wisconsin position as a low wage state
- The rate of unemployment and foreclosure projected in the next two years

- Columbia County is not alone- Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Dodge Counties are experiencing similar issues.
- Unemployment rates will double this year
- Unemployment change
- Education for minority is dead last in WI
- Aging is faster than I thought
- That we are dead last among all the states in minorities
- Have youth involved
- The dramatic rise in the elderly population within Columbia County
- Unemployment rate increase
- 3000 loss of jobs
- The numbers and impact of agriculture in the state
- Wisconsin way comparison
- To get local unemployment to near 10%
- The scope of the problems we face
- The drastic unemployment rate increase
- That we are still in for bad economic times for three plus more years
- Comparison with Minn, person vs. educational spending/investment, quality of internet service as a factor in keeping young people here
- The unemployment rate doubling-wow
- Why Minnesota is leading us in areas
- The age changes how old the county is getting. Also, how many job changes will be made by the young population coming in
- The aging of county, high unemployment
- Trends
- Amount of unemployment
- The fact that WI was higher than MN in the 70's but now lags significantly behind
- The trends indicating the percentage of individuals who will be retiring
- Need to know about things like F.L.A.G? The Chamber's Adult leadership program? Why no "Welcome Major" to educate our new neighbors?
- Expectation that unemployment will double in the very near future
- Projected increase in unemployment
- WI is an aging state. One in eight meet on the internet, unemployment will double in next two years
- Not surprising referenced- information on community. What are we doing on regional transplant?
- The amount of government employees in Columbia County
- How huge Columbia County government is
- Aging population
- Low income in Columbia County
- Declining school enrollment
- Almost $\frac{1}{2}$ not working in future
- 9-10% unemployment in the next two years
- The Amish population is mobile
- That we live in a low wage state. That nearly half the people are not employed, that foreclosing has been rising for 30 years
- Bottom 1/3 of income between states
- Wisconsin is a low paid state

7. Follow-up sessions on Changing Populations are planned (2/11, 2/24, 3/17, & 4/21). What topics would you like to see addressed at future sessions? Please list any suggestions you may have for speakers on these topics.

- Employers in Columbia County to get their perspective
- What would happen if nothing was done
- Wendy Metcalf- Columbia County Health & Human Services
- Create a committee that influences the schools on how to buy a house, live within your means.
- Labor Market Analysis, Speaker: Local SHRM group
- Declining of school age kids, more retired people we change needs in county service, health. Jobs for younger people to keep from moving away
- How to get current leaders involved in these things to help the county/state
- Youth
- State of manufacturing in Columbia, what is education doing to assist in recovery, transportation/financial sector overview
- Involvement of youth in governance opportunities, partnerships across the county, how we can all work together around priority needs
- How to address the unemployed
- Lets discuss those resources and what they would like to see from individuals, communities and businesses
- Do to other conflicts
- Globalization of the economy, cooperative economic structure, sustainability
- Need a bigger space- too cramped
- Creating opportunities for unemployed and or low-income residents
- What is being done regionally and how does Columbia fit into the region
- How to keep employees
- Tourism and county planning and employment potential
- Manufacturing jobs, what do we do to keep them
- How to get younger population involved?
- More vocational schooling of things that might interest kids
- It seems that meeting such as this in Columbia County are dominated by Government. Should that change and if so, how?
- Finding ways to involve volunteers and incentives
- Let's identify some changes to work on and who is going to do what
- Topics training resources for Columbia County employees and employers. How do Columbia County based companies get their employees involved
- I don't plan on attending
- Regional Transport
- County government, administrator vs. executive
- How to engage retirees to volunteer to give back to the community
- How our Columbia County population can become more of a sustainable county. Can we do better- more ability to have communities once again?
- Someone from Sustain Dane, Corrections- let's talk more about crime and incarceration, transportation- shuttle from Madison
- What can be done to move houses that are not selling?

- What can be done for the elderly who want to downsize but can't see and if there are no housing facilities for the elderly
- I do think agriculture has an impact on Columbia County economies and other demographics, workforce, Hispanics, aging farm owners. When retired, will they be low income families?
- Maybe housing
- Engaging youth and prospective adult learners
- Volunteerism, Government Budget, Economic Development, Job Creation

8. If there are others who you think should be part of the conversation about Changing Populations, please list them here (including name, affiliation, phone or e-mail).

- All food pantries in Columbia County
- Were school districts represented?
- More private sector participants
- Younger group
- City Managers- Boyd Kramer 623-5900
- Economic Development Directors- Steve Soclil 623-5900
- Government leaders
- Bring in Thrive
- Additional community leaders that weren't here today
- School officials who can let us know how to get kids involved
- Ray Voss- 1989 chairman of Columbia County city on committee. Have attended all of state hearing on video conference. I have information people need to know.
- Young people
- MATC- John Kinsler
- Someone from banking community
- Poynette School District
- Poynette School Board
- Public school officials
- Agencies providing housing related service
- Member of City Council
- Eric Helland- Mayor of WI Dells
- Master Gardener- Dairy promotion groups, Ag Group, Corn Growers
- Reverend Richard Craig III, 742-6054
- Faith based organization, tapped on the shoulder to attend and be involved. All elected officials. County Board emphasis Economics effect demographics- demographics-Economics

9. What would you like to see happen as a result of the Changing Populations initiative?

- Plan & execute
- Need a public address system
- Continued communication
- More time allotted to different groups who are already doing things- i.e. Sustain Columbia, Shuttle Bus between Portage and Madison, etc. We need to hear what is being done and possibly get more folks involved with these groups.
- Alert local news cast about recent trends to post on local news
- Additional gatherings would be helpful
- Increased collaboration and cooperation among organization and elected officials
- Stress that planning is so important for long term vision. Use planning to guide future in good and bad times

- Better understand of how the county is changing
- Yes
- Make changes in the county before it become a bad statistic, make Columbia county better
- Feed back
- Organizations working together to effect lasting change.
- Keeps this momentum going. Networking around major needs to address them
- Strengthened, community-based programs which address the local economic problems
- Work until things are improving
- Gives me an idea as an elected official what is coming
- Innovative ideas to grow the local economy
- Get on with the business of doing!!
- An upturn in economy and quality of life for our citizens
- Positive community changes
awareness of issues involving all people
A complete turnaround, which I believe can be accomplished through much hard work that others have learned. I believed if we do not move now, a revolution will be worse than a depression!
More involvement in community planning, smart growth, regional cooperation
- That people in this class get word out to others so that more and more people know about the problems we face
- A specific place with timeline on what we can do
- Continue to make it a bigger issue
- Info is used in future planning
- Need to develop outcomes and projects so after all is said, done and shared we have concrete results to demonstrate what has been accomplished
- More education on services and factory work
- Greater economic development in communities
- Need answers from leaders-not lectures
- A broader culture of volunteerism
- Designing a data base for groups or organizations already established in the county
- More people involved and connected-local politics, civic groups, and faith based groups.
- Collaboration between business and government- work together to resolve conflict
- Get more people involved in a wide variety, younger people. Offer free food/lunch, pizza, pop, etc. that gets people in college groups here.
- More participation at county and local government. Data based decision making!
- Stronger list of resources communities can go to for advice and assistance
- It will be interesting to see if some changes do occur as a result of these meetings
- More intelligent planning on the local level
- I would like to see an improvement of the social environment
- Less Government intervention
- Feel free to phone or email me- Arlene Kanno 253-7266, akanno8@gmail.com
- Actual plans of action, individual and as a group