

## **City of Morgan Hill World Health Organization Age-friendly City Projects**

### **Short-Immediate-Project #1: Improve Communication and Information**

**Communication and Information:** Communication and access to information in today's society can be challenging. People of different ages have varying levels of comfort, ability to use, and access to the various types of media that are used. Although communicating exclusively through digital formats is increasingly common, print media or community information areas (e.g., pin boards, pamphlets, displays) are preferred or required by many older adults. In order for Morgan Hill to be an age-friendly city with respect to communication and information, it is important to provide information in a range of ways that are easy to find, improve online resources and formatting (e.g., websites age friendly), utilize existing organizations to disseminate information and opportunities for engagement and activities, and provide educational opportunities for learning new technologies and media.

- **Launch a Newspaper Column, and have an Age-Friendly Educational Campaign:**  
Utilize the newspaper column to communicate important issues concerning our seniors. Educate the community about what "age-friendly" means and why it matters? How can we become more age friendly, and how can individuals contribute to the effort? These questions surround the push to make cities around the world age friendly, and Morgan Hill is primed to take the initiative to the next level. We should highlight the fact that our city is aging in an unprecedented fashion; create an understanding that aging is an issue that affects everyone; provide examples of what "age friendly" is (e.g., respecting and valuing older adults, intergenerational mentoring); and highlight opportunities for community support and action.
- **Improve the dissemination of information** through existing organizations and communication channels. This should include faith-based organizations, senior housing facilities and mobile home parks, neighborhood associations, HOA's and other places where information exchanges can and should be concentrated.

### **Short-Immediate-Project #2-Improve Access to Community Support and Health Services**

**Community Support and Health Services:** Community and Health Services are particularly important for older adults due both to normal aging processes and to disease-related challenges that often occur later in life. It is crucial to determine how to shift from a model of acute care that depends on large-scale medical institutions to a preventive and proactive model that values home and community-based care, as well as a range of supportive health policies and approaches.

**Partnerships and collaborations**-continue to establish partnerships and collaborations to deliver programs and services to meet the needs of our community. There is still a very high need for Case Management as well as other support services.

- **Internship Site**-Work directly with the local Universities, utilizing departments such as Nursing, Health Professionals, Health Science and Recreation, Social Work, Gerontology to deliver innovative programs and services at low cost to the community.
- **Case Management**-Continue to work with the County, Sourcewise, Institute on Aging and other providers to try and secure Case Management at the Senior Center.

**Long Range- Project #3:** Foster the use and availability of alternative transportation options.

**Transportation:** Transportation is vital to older adults' mobility, quality of life, and independence. It takes many forms, including private automobiles, public transit and paratransit services, community transportation options, bicycling, walking, and other emerging modes (e.g., small electric vehicles). Historical development patterns affect our transportation choices, and areas within Morgan Hill hold differing challenges and opportunities. Transportation planning is critically important to creating an age-friendly community, including the need to locate transportation infrastructure in close proximity to housing that meets the need of a range of citizens, as well as to services that are necessary for accomplishing daily activities.

Transportation is a complex issue, and South County has unique challenges that will need to be addressed. This will require working regionally and collaboratively with VTA, other key stakeholders, and community partners.

- **Shuttle Service**-Work to establish a bus/van shuttle to and from the Senior Center to various locations throughout Morgan Hill. This shuttle could pick up/drop off at Westmont, The Lodge, Mobile Home Parks, Downtown and other key locations in the community. The shuttle could be used for day trips, getting a group of seniors to special events/meetings, and community volunteer opportunities. In addition, the shuttle could be utilized for youth programming, as well as the Youth Advisory Committee. In order to bring this goal to fruition it will require working to identify potential community partners and funding sources.
- **Explore other** transportation options that are community oriented, such as car-share, volunteer drive programs, and local cooperatives.