

AAA Access Committee Listening Session: 29 May 2014

A listening session was held from 5:50 PM until 6:40 PM, after the evening meal of the Shared Table at the McFarland Lutheran Church (5529 Marsh Road, McFarland, WI 53558. Approximately 85 seniors were in attendance. Questions/responses were as follows:

1. What is the best way to alert you or let you know about services and programs available to you?

- Pamphlets at City Hall
- Email
- *State Journal*
- *Thistle* (Weekly Newspaper)
- *McFarland Press* (Quarterly)
- *Shopper Stopper*
- *Village Outlook* Newsletter (Sent to residents quarterly by Village)
- Box Holders (Occupant Flyers/Brochures delivered by US Mail)

There was not one single source that most seniors used. There were several comments about attaching information to the *Village Outlook* Newsletter as most will read this when it comes from the Village each quarter. Comments further included the need to make this information colorful and interesting looking in order to get people to read it. Another suggested having people talk to and hand out information outside of the Village facility when they go to vote. Several commented on the fact that they need one centralized place to receive information and the best solution would be to have a Senior Center. One participant with many ideas provided this note taker with his name, phone and email contact for further information: Bob (608) 609-7066 or RBFryb@gmail.com.

2. What type of things do you think seniors will need or want in the near future?

- Senior Center
- Events (concerts, entertainment, A Night at the Movies w/Discussion)
- Bingo, Cards (Euchre) for socializing
- Wii Bowling (several mentioned this)
- Low Impact Exercise
- Broader Hospice Care
- Coffee Klatch in Winter

Continuing theme was that they don't like things scattered throughout town, the need to have these activities in one place.

3. What do you think is the biggest issue, problem, or challenge seniors will face in the next 5 years?

- Transportation
- Disaster Planning for those without basements or help getting to safety in an emergency
- Taxes

With respect to transportation, several commented on the need for transportation to get groceries. They were not aware transportation was available. Some would like a shuttle to Madison malls and other shopping venues occasionally. They were not aware of the RSVP Driver Escort Program for medical appointments.

4. Do you attend programs and services offered by McFarland Senior Outreach? If not, why not?

A couple of participants reported getting information and assistance from a Case Manager at McFarland Senior Outreach. Others stated they simply have not needed services of any kind in the past or at present. No one reported they had used transportation services, nor did they know they existed or how to access them.

While only one person stated they had participated in one meal in the past at the lunch nutrition site, when asked why none of the other participants had attended, the following responses were given:

- Don't like the food (person admitted they had never eaten at the site)
- Heard the food was bad and prepackaged (several had heard this)
- Heard you had to pay for it
- Food was tasteless and bland (this person was the only one who had had a meal in the past)
- It's easier to make lunch at home
- I can eat what ever time I want
- I'd like breakfast

Participants clearly enjoy the Shared Table evening meal each Thursday at the Church location. When asked, most would not want this type of evening program more frequently during the week and a few stated they would not mind it a couple of times per week.

Several final comments were made about how they would like to have "Town Hall" type meetings like this to discuss what they need with Village representatives and others.