This forum was a partnership between the University of Minnesota-School of Public Health and the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging’s, Minnesota Diverse Elders Coalition

PURPOSE

The objectives of this forum were to:

- **Build collaboration** across different community groups and members around the topic of aging and long-term services and supports (LTSS).
- **Share findings** from University of Minnesota researchers on the needs of racially/ethnically diverse consumers in long-term services.
- **Create a dialogue** between the University of Minnesota-School of Public Health and community members around supporting the needs of racially/ethnically diverse consumers using LTSS.

TABLE DISCUSSION FINDINGS

Q1: What are your experiences with finding long-term care for you or a loved one?
- Language and communication barriers
- Burden of finding appropriate care due to complex needs
- Barriers to accessing care - Rural vs. Urban

Q2: What are your recommendations for provision of culturally sensitive services in long-term care?
- Care staff should be trained in cultural best practices that are person centered
- Work with communities to start intergenerational initiatives
  Better staff/service recipient ratios and wage incentives for direct care workers to improve care quality.

Q3: What is the role of providers in ensuring health equity in long-term care? State? Community?
- Care providers should promote intentional diversity at leadership and management levels.
- The state should meet regularly with family and care resident councils for a more holistic understanding of people’s experiences.
- Community members should become better advocates for older adults within the community.

LESSONS LEARNED & NEXT STEPS

- Community members and service recipients value the ability to engage with various stakeholders who can affect policy change.
- Potential value of annual forums for continued engagement, relationship building and policy impact long term.
- In the future, meaningfully include non-English speaking communities from various groups.
- Disseminate forum discussion and recommendations to diverse stakeholders.

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