

1.5 Aging

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Assessment Process	
A.	The Missouri Division of Aging Social Service workers are regularly assessing the comprehensive needs of the seniors in Barton County along with what resources are available to meet those needs. The Barton County Senior Center periodically assesses the nutritional and social needs of area seniors. BCAWS (Barton County Achieving Wellness and Security) has surveyed the needs and concerns of the public to produce and distribute a community health resource guide. Meetings of BCAWS, the Chamber of Commerce, and other civic groups, together with individual initiative, provide other avenues for community input.
B.	Goal setting is based upon the assessment of needs and available resources. Both long and short term goals are based upon the work of the local and regional Missouri Division of Aging Specialists, results of the local BCAWS survey, resources available through social service agencies (such as the Senior Center, Health Department, Good Samaritan charity, Economic Security Corporation, and the Barton County Memorial Hospital) together with community input through civic clubs, public meetings, and individual initiative.
C.	Plans are prepared and updated annually to meet the goals desired for seniors in this community. The plans are prepared by local organizations active in helping seniors, in conjunction with Missouri Division of Aging specialists, as well as municipal and civic officials.
D.	Specific action to carry out the plans and desired goals for seniors in this community will be prepared by local organizations active in helping seniors, in cooperation with Missouri Division of Aging specialist(s), as well as municipal and civic officials.

Program Standards	
A.	Organization: The Barton County Senior Citizens Center serves as a clearinghouse for several services and programs to the community. Through the Missouri State Division of Aging, the center advocates for older adults and assures that opportunities, services, and community resources are available and accessible to them. The Missouri Division of Aging assists Lamar and Barton County through its offices in Lamar, Joplin, and Springfield.
B.	Mission Statement: To promote, maintain, improve, and protect the quality of life and quality of care for older adults and persons with disabilities so they live with dignity and respect. This mission is accomplished by a staff committed to excellence in the following four areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Home and Community Based Services Program provides protective and supportive services to persons aged 60 and over and persons with disabilities, aged 18-59, and living in the community.2. The Institutional Services Program safeguards residents in long-term care facilities.3. The Area Agency on Aging deals primarily with transportation, nutrition centers, home-delivered meals, senior volunteer programs, and senior employment through a Title V federally-funded program.4. The Ombudsman program works to protect the rights of long term care facility residents and revolve issues or complaints of the residents of these facilities.
C.	Communication/Coordination with State Division of Aging: An appendix of individuals represented through all aspects of state and regional resources is maintained by the Barton County Senior Center for communication of needs and coordination of services to the elderly population.

D.	Networking/Coordination: The local and regional Missouri Division of Aging Specialist networks and coordinates with human service organizations, through the health coalition named Barton County Achieving Wellness and Security (BCAWS), and the coalition’s Community Health Resource Guide, to utilize those services beyond the scope of the Missouri Division of Aging. Such services include, but are not limited to: physicians, hospitals, libraries, mental health services, education, cultural enrichment, sanitation agencies, etc.
E.	<p>Needs and Resources: Seniors in the Lamar/Barton County area have needs in the following areas listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family dynamics of elder care and abuse • Education concerning age-related concerns, long-term care, health care, and legal issues • Social activities, involvement, and opportunities for productivity • Supportive living environments, housing, and transportation • Counseling and mental health services for retirement planning, widow-hood, relationships, death and dying, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. • Physical health services that are available, affordable, and accessible. <p>Needs may be met and fulfilled by the cooperation of the local Missouri Division of Aging representatives, Lamar Community Betterment Council, Inc., and other entities outlined in sub-point D. The Missouri Division of Aging provides a comprehensive guide for community services, the “Missouri Guide for Seniors.” As referenced above, BCAWS, under the guidance of the Barton County Health Department, provides a Barton County Health Resource Guide, which is available to the citizens of the community.</p>
F.	Office/Service Coordinator: The Barton County Senior Center provides an office and resource referral point to coordinate information and provide directory assistance of service providers. The Division of Aging representative for Barton County is a primary point of access.

Program Goals and Planning	
Goal:	Expand offerings of presentations and activities
Strategy	The increasing population of baby boomers reaching retirement age is providing a large increase in persons to be served through local aging programs, along with different needs and resources different than traditional offerings.
Funding	Funding for these programs will come from the general state and federal allocations of resources, along with local fundraisers conducted by the Senior Center.
Timeline	Ongoing
Goal Evaluation	Evaluations through surveys and focus group interviews of the target population

Program Evaluation
Municipal and civic officials will monitor the Aging program's goals, plans, and implementations for the community through the ongoing evaluation of the local and Division of Aging specialists as well as the feedback from citizens and professionals in the community (such as doctors, clinics, hospitals, civic clubs, and public meetings.)