

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 07-033**

Establishing a Task Force on Vital Aging

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. According to the U.S. Census, the United States population aged 65 and over is expected to double in size within the next 25 years. By 2030 almost one in every five Americans will be 65 years or older. The age group 85 and older is the now the fastest growing segment of the population.
- b. Today, Multnomah County enjoys an elder population approaching 100,000 with 12% of this population over 85 years of age.
- c. Older adults are a vital resource including considerable wisdom, expertise, and available time. Research from many sources concludes the more actively engaged older adults are, the more likely they will remain independent and contribute back to the community. The more older adults are able to live independently, the better their quality of life and potentially less demand for private and public resources.
- d. Senior volunteerism through Multnomah County's Aging and Disability Services and community partners has been successful. During Fiscal Year 2005/2006, over 278,000 volunteer hours were logged; offering Multnomah County approximately \$5,000,000 of in-kind support.
- e. It is in the best interest of Multnomah County to expand and enhance these efforts.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

1. A taskforce on vital aging be convened to assess and identify new opportunities, best practices, barriers and recommendations for enhancing the independence, engagement, and contributions of older adults in Multnomah County and our region.
2. Chair Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey will determine the shape and logistics of the taskforce and will appoint all members to the taskforce.

3. The taskforce will report to the Board by March, 2008 with key findings and a recommendation for best practices to engage older adults in the following two areas:
- a. Civic Engagement: Identify and recommend best practices for optimizing and engaging older adults in the nonprofit and governmental sectors.
  - b. Employment: Identify and recommend best practices for older adults for flexible work arrangements in such areas as job sharing, part time or episodic work and retraining.

ADOPTED this 15th day of February, 2007.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
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Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By   
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Agnes Sowle, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:  
Chair Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey