

## SSM Member Organizations Consultation

November 18, 2020

(Via Zoom)

STS member participation: Doug Still and Devona Putland – (SSM Board members)  
Joyce Hoffman, Terri Mitchell, Maxine Stinka, Adeline Wuschenny (STS Executive)

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for Member Organizations to:

- Connect with members of other member organizations
- Discuss progress on Strategizing for Positive Aging
- Focus on supporting and enabling older adults to age in their own homes and communities
- Discuss home support programs that could make staying in one's home a possibility

*We were able to log in at 10:00 A.M. which allowed time to chat. Executive Director, Holly Schick, chatted with everyone as people logged in. Because many of the participants are the same each year, they seemed to appreciate the few minutes to socialize.*

- SSM President, Randy Dove, opened the meeting and welcomed the 34 participants from the 12 of the 18 organizations from across the province
- Vice President, Brian Harris, gave an update of where SSM is with the *Strategizing for Positive Aging* initiative which was introduced in 2017
  - It was the start to advocate for a plan for positive aging. Six concerns were focused at that time
  - STS members were involved by participating in the forums presented at the STS Presidents' meeting, as well as those that were held in communities in the province
  - Progress to date – Minister Kaeding was appointed as the Minister for Seniors and replaced by Minister Hindley following the recent election
  - There was a reduction in ambulance fees
  - The charges for transfers for hospital patients were dropped
  - A meeting with the new Minister is in the works
  - Home support issues will be addressed

**“Successful Care for Aging Population Around the World”** *Presenter: Tiffany Cassidy*

*Ms Cassidy is a Saskatchewan born journalist who researched academic articles on the Attitudes toward senior care throughout the world. Her presentation concentrated on Australia, Denmark and the Netherlands.*

- Key attitudes vary throughout the world
- Home support is different (assistance with things like yard work, laundry, and tasks that make life easier for those who wish to age at home)
- Denmark – the key aim is for seniors to receive care that increases their quality of life
- Netherlands – 95% live independently. They offer apartments for life rather than care homes; government funds these
- Australia – Home care is a “package Program”. Customer chooses services and service providers; Government provides the funding

Comments after the presentation – In Regina, Eden Care has ties to the Denmark model.

They are researching the intergenerational aspect. They have apartments for life.

## **Influenza Awareness - Video Presentation**

- Stressed the importance of: *the 'flu shot, social distancing, masks, hand washing*
- 'Flu is spread by droplets
- Age is important – the older the individual, the worse the flu can be
- There can be some high risks
- There is a possibility of a heart attack after a flu

**\*\*\*\*SSM will have a video on Influenza available in late November**

## **Possibilities of Home Support Programs (may enable people to stay in their own homes longer)**

A power point presentation – Access to Affordable Services –an investment not a cost

- Services provided locally by a pool of trusted workers – volunteers and caregivers
- Costs subsidized according to income
- Collaboration with municipalities is essential
- Could save taxpayers money by reducing the number of seniors needing long term care
- Seniors could stay in their home communities
- Expanded Homecare could include: help with housekeeping, transportation to appointments and shopping, help with laundry, meal prep, yard maintenance, small home repairs, snow removal

**Group Discussions** – participants were placed in 5 zoom rooms for discussion

(Participants were asked to comment on what may work in their communities)

- Develop Age Friendly Communities –(*Doug Still is Chair of the Age Friendly Committee*)
- Develop a Directory of Services in the community
- SSM to encourage communities to share ideas of what works in their community and how the community came about to address problematic situations
- Government not likely to go back to what there was with Home Care – sees this as a community responsibility
- Volunteerism is becoming a thing of the past – there is a need to show children how to become volunteers when they become adults
- Do not hesitate to seek ideas from other communities  
(*Moosomin and Regina Beach shared examples of how the community members improved situations by making simple changes.*)