

# SENIOR SAFETY COORDINATORS REPORT 2017

# Historical Stats 2012-2017

- 2012 Home visits new clients 350- 185
- 2013 Home visits new clients- 450- 83
- 2014 Home visits new clients-520 -35
- 2015 Home visits new clients- 550- 28
- 2016 Home visits new clients- 525-30
- 2017 Home visit new clients- 425-31
- TOTAL OVERALL ACTIVE CLIENTS 270

# HOME VISITS

Over the past 5 years the Senior Safety Programs main goal has been and will continue to be to support seniors to remain in their own homes for as long as possible in a safe and healthy manner, to enhance the knowledge of senior and their caregivers regarding safety issues in their homes and communities so they be empowered to make informed choices and decisions, to have opportunities for seniors to become involved in their communities to enhance individual and community well being. Both

# Transportation

- Our Municipality covers a large geographical area that is mainly rural which in turn poses challenges for many of the senior population to access various services and supports due to the lack of transportation.
- Approximately transport a list of 5-regular clients to Dr. appointments, banks, pharmacies and grocery shopping in an average month.

# High Risk Clients

- In the past 5 years we have continued to increase the number of High risk clients.
- Consideration of being a high risk is a client who lives alone has no close relative or emergency help in the area . Other risk factors include isolation, physical and or mental health issues.
- These clients require regular visits and contact. We have on average 20 clients on the list per month. Some months more.

# Referrals from and to RCMP and other Agencies.

- RCMP referrals to date 111
- Referrals to RCMP 41
- Referrals to other agencies
- Adult protection 73
- Housing Referrals 58 Placements 11
- Continue Care and Home Care 171
- Nursing Home/ Boarding Home Placements from clients list 32
- Waiting list / Alternative Level of Care YRH- 33

# Community Presentations

- A comprehensive approach is foremost regarding community presentations. We target not only the seniors population but anyone working with or has interactions with seniors . The presentations are part of the preventive piece of our program which focus on topics such as senior abuse awareness /prevention. Home/personal safety, fraud scam awareness legal issues. With some of the topics we partner with various organizations and professionals that may give more detailed information if necessary such as with Wills and personal Directives Our goal is to facilitate sessions in remote communities to give as many seniors the opportunity to gather the information that may benefit themselves, families or their caregivers. We average 15 to 20 sessions per year. We take every opportunity to provide information on senior issues with community involvement to show seniors their communities are there to support.

# Assistance filling forms and information on various programs

- As part of the program we have committed to assist seniors not only to complete various forms and applications but help them comprehend possible issues that may arise. Many seniors do not have the literacy level to understand and complete forms and applications. Mainly through our home visits we identify the need for assistance. The main area of need is to fill out applications for home repair grants with Housing NS and so are able to quickly access information that may be required to complete the application process. This in turn decreases the chance of seniors to not complete the application process properly and then possibly delay the approval of the grant and repairs. The outcomes we hope to achieve is to decrease their anxiety regarding filling forms and helping them to have safer, comfortable and affordable homes to live in as long as possible.



# Other Community groups and or partners

- We are part of many committees and or groups.
- Choice Housing Committee
- Senior Expo Committee
- Restorative Justice
- South West Seniors Safety Coordinators group
- Police Advisory Committee
- Home Care Committee
- Red Cross group
- Continuing Care Education Committee
- Mental Health and Addictions group
- EMO Argyle
- Community Action Group

# Challenges and Future of program

- Meeting the living needs of our senior population can be challenging .Small but necessary examples are snow removal, lawn care and bringing in wood for heat. In looking at our target population we look at two groups, the older senior that is isolated both geographically and socially as many no long have extended family support due to many reasons. One of the reason can be due to outmigration of younger adults, immigration of new older adults with no family .
- The other target group are the younger seniors that we may identify as resources in their communities while also offering this group learning opportunities regarding various topics. This group may be newly retired adults that are looking to give back to their communities b y volunteering their time on various projects.
- In looking forward to the next three years of the program our areas of focus will be one of intervention with home visiting as a priority and a prevention piece with community education and awareness which would not only involve seniors and their caregivers but younger adults that may be in the process of becoming frontline health and home care providers. Partnerships and collaboration will continue to be a consistent and vital threads throughout the intervention and prevention pieces of our program.