

Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI)

– Community Engagement Partnership Development Pilot Award

(Active Award Period – 5/01/2023 to 1/31/2024)

Core Planning Team:

- Sara Delgado, Logan County Coalition on Aging
- Christine Fruhauf, CSU Department of Human Development and Family Studies
- Sue Schneider, CSU Extension
- Tim Stahley, Northeast Regional Engagement Center
- Peggy Stoltenberg, Northeast Regional Engagement Center



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION**

Expanded Rural Engagement

In June 2021, the CSU System Board of Governors voted to invest \$8.58 million over three years to expand support for rural Colorado students and communities.

Increasing *college readiness, local access, enrollment in higher education*, and **scholarships for students** living in *rural Colorado*.

Expanding capacity of *Regional Economic Development Institute*, expanding the *agriculture value chain* and *sustainability of agricultural practices*, increasing *vitality of rural businesses*, increasing *broadband access*.



Focusing on
***Behavioral Health,
Healthy Aging and
Preventative Health.***

Expanding *community leadership*, creating *connections to local histories* and *cultures* through *visual and performing arts*, and supporting *community problem solving* through *civil dialogue*.

Project Accomplishments

- May 2023-July 2023 – planning meetings with core CCTSI planning team
- August 2023 – invitations sent to community partners to join the NREC Advisory Committee
- September 2023 – NREC Advisory Committee officially forms
 - Penny Bailey, Melissa Memorial Hospital, Phillips County
 - Rosemary Coody, Banner Health, Logan County
 - Rosa Flores, Eastern Colorado Services, Logan and Morgan Counties
 - Aiden Hetler, CEO Sedgwick County Health Center, Sedgwick County
 - Hodan Karshe, NCHD, Morgan County
 - Elisa Santos, Starbucks/Community member, Logan County
 - Lacey Taylor, CSU, Cheyenne County
 - Jim Kuemmerle, CSU Extension (Mental Health)
 - Ginger Williams, CSU Extension (Healthy Aging)
- September 2023-November 2023 – meetings with NREC Advisory Committee members
- November 2023 – conducted a healthy aging survey with community partners/members in the 10 counties NREC serves
- December 2023-January 2024 – finalize NREC strategic plan focusing on healthy aging



Lessons learned

1. Working within our systems can be challenging
2. Scheduling meetings with 100% attendance is difficult
3. Several ways which we could have formed/organized ourselves
4. Community survey resulted in great insights, and would have been great to have it in Spanish
5. Several priority areas for the NREC strategic plan



Next steps

- Final meeting – January 24, 2024
- Follow-up on strategic plan objectives:
 - Additional AARP Age-Friendly Communities in Northeast Colorado
 - A healthy and nutritional resource guide
 - Increase opportunity for access to healthy fruits and vegetables
 - Improve health education through engagement and extension
 - Increase opportunity for Healthy Aging Educational Opportunities
 - Develop a region wide older adult volunteer network
- Grant applications:
 - CCTSI - Joint Pilot Project
 - Other Foundations