

**Executive Summary  
2006 EngAGING NH Summit**



**A Citizen Voice for the  
Aging Experience**

In the Fall of 2006, a coalition of private older citizens, institutions of higher education, and advocacy organizations held a statewide summit of older adult leaders to create an Aging Action Network, EngAGING NH. Their work created and implemented a process for issue and resource identification in the field of community-based aging, and pinpointed specific areas for current and future advocacy and research.

More than 100 older adults and agency advocates attended. Participants included:

- Experienced and novice advocates;
- Great diversity in ages:

Age Bracket	Percentage
<39	4%
40s	8%
50s	18%
60s	33%
70s	24%
80s	11%
90s	3%;

- Socio-economic diversity. Our audience represented older adults who were retired and those who needed to continue to work to support their later years; former bankers, physicians and attorneys; presidents of manufactured home associations; folks who winter in warmer climes ; professional and personal caregivers; former, current and future legislators; and everyday citizens; and
- Geographic diversity. Every County of the State was represented. We did learn that the Summit’s location in Plymouth was a barrier for recruiting individuals from the Seacoast, as well as Cheshire and Sullivan Counties.

**Rank Order of Identified Priority Issues:**

Over a dozen areas of concern were identified by Summit participants. In decreasing order of priority, the are:

- #1 Health Reform
  - Insurance coverage, including Dental, for all
  - Services that support independence
  - Affordability
  - Gerontologists
    - Promote geriatricians
  - Primary Care Physicians that know the whole person
  - Mental Health
  - Drug coverage

- Statewide Universal Health Care Reform
- Access

## #2 More Home and Community Options

To support Individual & Families

- Enough funding
- Pay rates sufficient for decent wage
- Support for Family Caregiver, including respite
- Paying Family Caregivers
- Adequate staffing
- Flexible support to the person for Paid Workers
  - Cash & Counseling
  - Consumer Directed Services

## #3 Transportation

- Mobility
- Isolation
- Access
- Community & County
- Funding
- Volunteers
- Integrated with all
- Public Transportation
  - Longer hours
- Regional

## #4 Elder Infrastructure

- Bureau of Elder Services (Elders only)
- Elder Advocacy
- Need a voice – Elder Voice via a paid staff
- Inform Issues with adequate research
- Need for full spectrum of Advocacy
  - Student interns
  - Integrating social services and lawyers
  - Education for Elders and legislators

## #5 Affordable Housing

- Independent
- Assisted Living
- Fear of Cost
- With Supports
- Safe

## #6 Isolation & Inclusion/Communication System

- Social & Legislative Isolation
- Connect People to Communities
- Integrating Elders into general community culture
- Wellness
- Utilizing Elder talents
- Integrating service systems

- Access & Inclusion
  - For Elder Information
  - Community connections
- #7 Livable Communities
- #8 Tax Structure System
- Property tax
  - Tax Abatement
  - Property taxes driving us out of our homes
- #9 Statewide Network Development
- Grass Roots
  - From Community
- #10 Tax Structure
- That supports people in their homes including long-term care
  - That does not impact ability to buy medication, food, etc
  - Sufficient funding
  - Adequate tax structure
- #11 Education on Aging
- Educate all ages on aging
  - Educate on how to maintain independence
  - CASA-like structure to provide individual
  - Seniors with information/guidance
- #12 Addictive Disorders
- Alcohol/Drug
  - Diet
  - Exercise
  - Training
  - Start at about Age 50
- #13 Financial & Personal Security