The South Portland ad hoc Senior Advisory Committee was established last year with the goal of ensuring seniors have access to services and infrastructure enabling them to live safely and with dignity as they age. The work began with an assessment of needs. A survey was mailed to seniors (60+) this past November. The committee has received over 1100 survey back and a summary of responses is being completed at this time. As part of the assessment process, the committee is inviting participation from professions, caretakers and those with knowledge working with our senior population to participate in a focus group. The purpose of the Focus Groups is to obtain information or opinion from providers of services to our elders on their perceptions of problems. Personal information about individuals will not be identified.

Discussion Questions

A. What do you say to yourself when you encounter a challenge for a senior and you say "if I were in charge I would do or change or put in place…. [fill in the blank] ….to help this person”?

B. In your present role, what unmet needs of seniors in our community do you and your co-workers observe?

C. In your experience, what are some difficulties seniors face staying in their home communities as they increase in age?

D. If you could do three things to increase the health and community support of senior citizens what would you suggest?

E. If you could do three things to increase the health and community support of senior citizens what would you suggest?