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Review

Volume 1
Number 3

April 1988

Independent Living for the Elderly Examined

With appropriate community support systems, some nursing home residents in Nebraska could be living independently, according to E. Raedene Combs, UNL associate professor in the department of consumer science and education.

Combs is conducting a study, "A Holistic Approach to Understanding Problems and Possibilities of Independent Living for the Elderly in Nebraska," which is being funded through CAUR's Urban Conditions Research Program. The project will identify the housing and service needs of elderly individuals who want to stay in their homes, rather than move to a nursing home.

Combs and her research team are interviewing elderly individuals who are living at home in Douglas, Knox, and Saline Counties to define differences in living conditions, available services, and services needed to allow them to remain in their homes.

The research team is compiling lists of housing and service providers, based on information obtained from families, churches, private organizations, and governmental agencies. Possible assistance for the elderly includes modifying a house to accommodate changes in health, mobility, and sensory abilities, and providing

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Alice Schumaker, CAUR, and Fred Obermeyer, Economic Development Committee Chair, talk to Auburn residents after town hall meeting.

Auburn Concludes Strategic Planning Project

Auburn residents gathered recently to learn the results of a 4-month strategic planning project. Community leaders talked about the actions they identified as necessary to improve local economic development efforts.

Fred Obermeyer and John Sanders of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Committee chaired the recent meeting of 75 persons.

"Even though we knew we had many strengths, this process showed us our weaknesses, so now we know what needs work. The project has generated much community interest," Obermeyer said.

"A good indicator of the support in the community is the excellent 40-percent response rate

to a survey of Auburn residents. The results of the survey were used as part of the strategic planning process," project coordinator Alice Schumaker said.

The core planning group (20 community leaders) evaluated trends in manufacturing, agriculture, population, tourism, and revenue by using national, state, county, and local data to determine Auburn's competitive advantages and disadvantages. They identified the following as the city's most strategic issues for economic development: Sales tax, economic development plan, industrial site development, job opportunities, and marketing local training programs.

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DATA BYTES

Personal Income Increases In Nebraska

Nebraska's personal income totaled \$22.7 billion in the third quarter (July through September) of 1987, with nonfarm personal income accounting for \$22.1 billion. Total personal income was down 1.5 percent between the second (April through June) and third quarters of 1987, but nonfarm income was up 1.8 percent and ranked eighth nationally.

Personal income is a comprehensive economic measure prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, and covers income by type and broad industrial source. Personal income data are derived similarly for all states and counties.

Personal income includes the sum of wages, salaries, and other labor income; farm and nonfarm proprietors' income; personal dividends, personal rental, and personal interest income; and transfer payments, such as Social Security.

CAUR has received personal income information for Nebraska and the United States on a quarterly basis since 1977. It is useful especially for economic projection and forecasting.

For more information about personal income data and other information services, contact Tim Humberger at 554-8311.

Three Urban Conditions Grants Awarded

Three additional Urban Conditions Research Program grants were awarded in February. The grants will support research addressing policy issues in economic and social conditions, social services delivery, minority conditions, and small town conditions, according to Chris Reed, CAUR associate director.

The grants were awarded to faculty in UNO's College of Public Affairs and Community Service and are as follows:

- Professors Jim Thorson and Chuck Powell, Gerontology Program, "Outmigration of Retirees: A Loss to Nebraska's Economy," a study of migration patterns and investment practices of older Nebraskans.
- Professor Ann Coyne, School of Social Work, "Models of Social Service Delivery for Children and Families," a study to identify alternative family-centered approaches to services for children currently in out-of-home care or at risk for placement away from their families.
- Professors B.J. Reed and David Paulsen, Department of Public Administration, "The Organizational Inventory: Institutional Readiness to Undertake Economic Development," a study to identify indicators of successful community economic development.

Guide To Municipal Budgeting Available

A Practical Guide to Municipal Budgeting in Nebraska, by John W. Swain, UNO associate professor of public administration, is now available.

This 100-page manual provides detailed information about legal requirements, practical benefits, and financial reports associated with municipal budgeting in Nebraska. It is a "how to" guide for completing budget reports for municipal officials.

The easy to use 1-inch, 3-ring binder format includes many sample forms and detailed instructions for completing them. It makes updating easy, and allows plenty of space for user's notes.

The guide costs \$19.95 and may be ordered by calling CAUR at 554-8311.

Auburn Concludes Strategic Planning Project

(continued from front page)

An action plan, which identifies methods for implementing improvements, was formulated by CAUR and presented to the planning group. Currently, local committees are leading efforts to secure industrial sites, to disseminate economic development information to the community, and to expand retail shopping hours.

Auburn is one of eleven Nebraska communities to participate in strategic planning for economic development since 1985. The process was developed by CAUR, UNO's Department of Public Administration, and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. For more information, call Alice Schumaker at 554-8311.

Alice Schumaker has been coordinating strategic planning for economic development projects, among other things, for CAUR during the past year. She has completed projects in Papillion-La Vista and Auburn, and is currently working with Burwell.

Schumaker, a native of McCook, Nebraska, is particularly interested in the economic survival of Nebraska's small towns. Her research interests include assessing the quality of jobs and infrastructure in economically depressed and declining areas.

Schumaker earned a master of public administration degree from UNO in 1987. She received a McElvie Scholarship in 1986 for studies in public administration, and served student internships at the Nebraska Department of Social Services, the Nebraska Department of Health, and CAUR.

SURVEYING THE SCENE

Survey Defines Problems of Area Youth

Alcohol abuse, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, and lack of recreation centers are the most serious problems for Omaha area youth, according to respondents in a recent CAUR telephone survey conducted for the Boys Clubs of Omaha. This survey was one segment of a three-part study to provide strategic planning information for the Boys Clubs. A survey of Boys Clubs staff members and focus group interviews with staff and active members completed the study.

Almost half of the respondents thought these problems were being addressed adequately by community programs. However, almost all of the survey respondents thought that community programs were not providing enough "different kinds of things for youth to do."

Ninety-five percent of the survey respondents had heard of the Boys Clubs. Most respondents thought it was an organization that was available to all boys in the community, but over one-fourth of the respondents thought it served only minorities and disadvantaged youth.

Families with boys aged 8 to 18 in La Vista; Carter Lake, Iowa; West Omaha; South Omaha; Ralston; North Omaha; and Bellevue were included in the survey. It was conducted to determine if clients' needs were being addressed, if programs were meeting clients' needs, and if delivery of services should be expanded.

Tom Davis, Assistant Executive Director of the Omaha Boys Clubs said personnel "are constantly referring to the survey results for guidance as we move into our strategic planning process."

So far, the Omaha Boys Clubs

have made the following changes based on survey results:

- Hired an employee development officer to train entry-level staff;
- Hired additional staff at the Carter Lake Boys Club; and
- Provide transportation for boys in northwest Omaha.

Boys Clubs of America's Regional Director Joseph DeCerbo, located in Chicago, Illinois, said, "The Omaha survey is one of the most thorough and extensive I have seen. I recommend other clubs use it as a model."

CAUR Provides Survey Research Services

CAUR provides survey research services to local and state governmental units, public agencies, and non-profit organizations that need information for strategic planning and program decisionmaking.

For more information, call Carole Davis at 554-8311.

SPOTLIGHT ON--



B.J. Reed

B.J. Reed is very happy with what he is doing.

"This is my fourth career, but this is the longest I've been any place. I enjoy Omaha and I like UNO," Reed said.

Besides being an associate professor and chair for the Public Administration Department at UNO, Reed is involved in several CAUR research projects and serves as technical advisor for the center's Strategic Planning for Economic Development Program.

Reed, the co-author of "Nebraska's Small Towns and Their Capacity for Economic Development," in *Nebraska Policy Choices: 1987*, was recently named a grant recipient for CAUR's Urban Conditions Research Program. He and UNO

professor of public administration David Paulsen are researching "The Organizational Inventory: Institutional Readiness to Undertake Economic Development."

A participant in the 1987 Nebraska Legislative Issues Symposium sponsored by CAUR last December, Reed developed the briefing reports *Focusing on Readiness and Capacity in Targeting State Assistance to Rural Communities* and *State Targeting of Rural Community Development Assistance* for the conference.

Born and raised in Hays, Kansas, Reed received a bachelor's degree in 1971 and a master's degree in 1972 from Fort Hays State University, and taught for a year at Southwest Oklahoma State.

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Training Needed for Female and Minority Construction Workers

Construction projects and business facility investments in the Omaha MSA announced during 1987 may increase construction industry employment by as much as 1,587 jobs each year during 1988-90, according to a recent CAUR report. Employment is expected to increase by 1,283 jobs a year during 1991-93, and by 233 jobs a year during 1993-2002.

The study, completed for the Construction Industry Liaison Committee which includes representatives of the public and private sectors, shows that a unified effort will be necessary to keep minority and female representation in the construction industry labor force at the current level of about 11 percent.

Although construction indus-

try employment in the Omaha area increased about 22 percent from 1980 to 1987, the total number of job seekers in the industry declined during that period, while the number of women and minority job seekers increased.

Expected changes in construction industry employment will probably exceed the current available labor force of about 1,700 workers. This labor force could accommodate a 13-percent increase in construction jobs.

Normal industry turnover is heaviest in the helper and laborer occupations. If past trends continue, employment growth will occur in the construction trades, which require specialized training and job experience.

These patterns suggest a need to recruit and train more minority and female construction workers for skilled positions.

The report costs \$2.50 and may be ordered by calling CAUR at 554-8311.

conducting a study on the developmental needs of small cities, he met his future wife, Christine, who was a consultant on the project. They married in April 1982, and moved to Omaha in August 1982.

As the father of two small children, Charlie, 2 1/2 years old, and Brenda, 6 months, Reed said, "There is no time to relax. I do like to swim, when I have the time. The rest of my time is spent raising our kids."

Reed said if he did have a hobby, it would be sports. While at Fort Hays, he was an athletic trainer in the sports program, and spent two summers on the athletic staff with the Kansas City Chiefs, which helped pay college tuition.

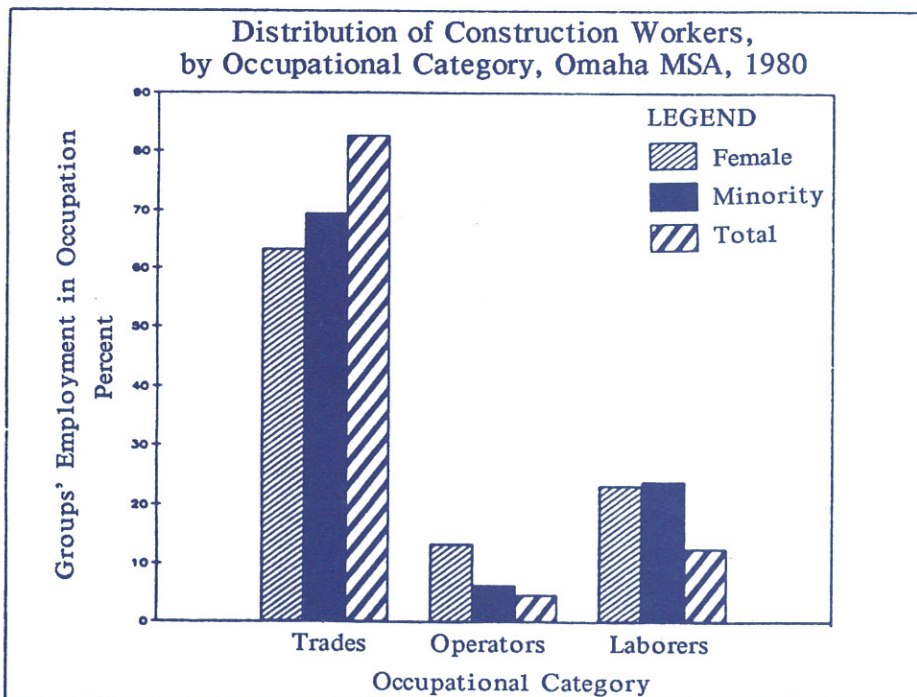
"I go to games when I can and I try to follow Fort Hays and UNO sports. I would like to get involved in the athletic program at UNO, but I don't have the time."

Indeed. His recently completed book, *Managing Economic Development*, which he co-authored with Jeff Luke, Curtis Ventriss, and Christine Reed, will be published in July by Jossey-Bass, and a book on public finance administration he is co-authoring with UNO public administration professor John Swain will be published in June 1989. His article on the impact of stress on city managers appears in the current *Municipal Yearbook*, and an article on strategic planning co-authored with Christine Reed appeared recently in the *American Planning Association Journal*.

Reed recently presented a paper he co-authored with CAUR director Russell Smith on the use of strategic planning to stimulate community economic development at the annual conference of the American Society for Public Administrators.

To learn more about CAUR, call 554-3333 and ask for tape 63.

Columbia, where he received a Ph.D. in political science in 1977. In 1978, he became the senior staff associate for community and economic development for the National League of Cities in Washington, DC. While



B.J. Reed
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Reed worked as city development director in Mexico, Missouri, while attending the University of Missouri-

Omaha Revenue Study Updated

Omaha's proportion of own-source revenue from property and sales tax is greater than that for all U.S. cities combined, according to the recently published CAUR report, *Municipal Revenue Sources: Analyses of Omaha's Options--1987 Update*. The report was completed for Omaha's City Council president and the mayor and updates a study conducted by the center for the city council in 1983.

The report examined the following potential revenue

sources: Property tax, income/earnings tax, expanded sales tax, refuse collection fee, Ak-Sar-Ben admission fee, nonresident wheel tax, and occupational privilege tax.

Three criteria--yield, ease of administration, and equity--were adapted from the 1983 study and used to evaluate the potential revenue sources. For example, the property tax was considered to be the least equitable revenue source. However, the tax base (total assessed valuation of a community) is relatively stable compared to the sales tax base, which can fluctuate with changing economic conditions.

Estimated revenues included \$215,000 from the Ak-Sar-Ben admission fee and \$9.3 million from a state sales tax on services with a city sales tax rate of 1.5 percent.

Omaha's revenue structure was compared with all U.S. cities; other cities with populations of 300,000 to 500,000; and cities of comparable size and central city share of total metropolitan area population.

The report costs \$2.50 and may be ordered by calling CAUR at 554-8311.

Independent Living for the Elderly Examined

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special services, such as help with house cleaning, laundry, dressing, preparing meals, and taking medications.

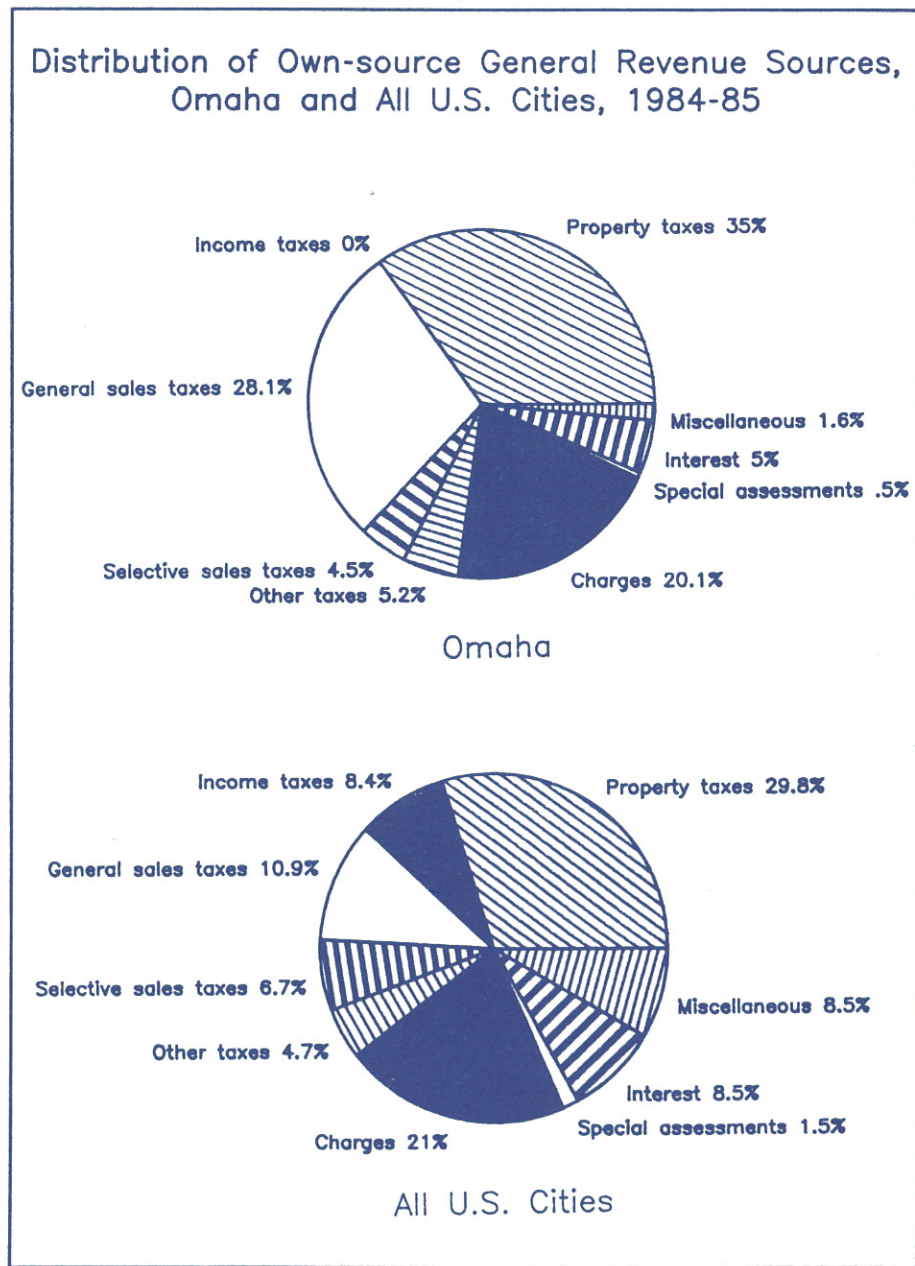
Combs uses a holistic approach to understand service needs from the perspective of the elderly, and delivery of services from the perspective of provider organizations.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The following reports are available from CAUR:

Omaha Metropolitan Statistical Area Input-Output Tables and Multipliers: A User's Manual--assesses the effects of business changes on the Omaha economy and identifies the effects of increases and decreases in employment within and among industries; \$29.95.

Nebraska Policy Choices: 1987--identifies and analyzes important policy issues facing the state, such as targeting state development assistance, financing public schools, increasing Nebraska's competitiveness in world agricultural markets; \$9.95. If you missed the 1986 volume, the set can be purchased for \$15.95.



REVIEW

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