

**Age-Friendly Respect and Social Inclusion Workgroup  
Meeting Minutes January 29, 2020**

**PRESIDING:** Terri Hansen, Age-Friendly Coordinator

**Members Attending**

Karen Basinger	Emily Leclercq
Nicolle Becerra	Georgea Moore
Susan Elbana	Suellen Seigel
Manuel Evangelista	Kathy Wehr
Lakisha Williams	Tracy Adkins
MJ Engle	Erica Mollet
Seema Agawal Harding	Barbara Corris Digianni

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am

This was an initial meeting and was considered an “exploration” meeting. The meeting’s intention was 1) to have members get to know each other, 2) learn about the role of the Respect and Social Inclusion workgroup, and 3) to look ahead to what’s possible in the future.

**Introductions**

Each workgroup member was asked to write down why they wanted to be a part of the Respect and Social Inclusion workgroup and then introduced themselves and shared with the group what they had written down.

- **Erica Mollet:** Having respect is important for this big an effort
- **Manuel Evangelita:** I have developed a Virtual Assistant Program which will, in part, assist people who cannot get out to appointments get services they need
- **Karen Bassinger:** Worked in dialysis, information was in English only, had to have information translated; we need to touch other groups
- **Nicolle Becerra:**
- **Susan Elbana:** There should be respect regardless of age; we need to care about each other. I reached out to neighbor in Wisconsin who was a foreign speaker to help her practice speaking English to be able to be more involved
- **Lakisha Williams:** DPW – there is a value in generational knowledge; Challenge – children can be isolated. Involvement is important
- **MJ Engle:** Aging population is diverse (ex: my own mother was lonely)
- **Emily Leclercq:** Intergenerational component is important to me

- **Georgea Moore:** Intergenerational engagement is exciting to me. We need to evaluate one's essence (what we leave behind)
- **Suellen Seigel:** Community activist. I believe society needs to talk without screaming, listening is important. When people are isolated in my complex I make it my mission to seek them out and make them feel included.
- **Tracy Adkins:** I have been part of the Mayor's inclusion boards. I believe inclusion creates happiness. We need to ignite change and build bridges

## Roles

- Coordinator
  - Terri Hansen is the Coordinator of the entire Age-Friendly Howard initiative.
  - She will attend as many workgroup meetings as she can
  - She will work collaboratively with the Steering Committee.
- Steering Committee
  - The Steering committee will be made of members from the government, non-profits, faith-based communities, chamber of commerce, library, Howard Community College, Howard County General Hospital
  - The Steering committee will receive all the action plans from each workgroup and will determine which actions will be included in the final action plan
- Workgroups
  - Members need to be committed and be an active member of the group
  - Each member of the workgroup (except for government staff) will need to register as a volunteer on the Howard County volunteer website, [www.hocovolunteer.org](http://www.hocovolunteer.org)
    - Each member will be responsible for logging in all their volunteer hours
- Co-Chairs
  - Each workgroup will have Co-Chairs
    - One must be county staff
    - One from the community
  - If interested in becoming a Co-Chair, submit answers to following questions to [agefriendly@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:agefriendly@howardcountymd.gov) by February 5<sup>th</sup>
    - Why do you want to serve as co-chair of the workgroup?
    - What previous community experience in a leadership role or experience on the topic make you a good candidate for co-chair?
  - Responsibility of the Co-Chairs
    - Keeping the workgroup on task
    - Developing agendas
    - Delivering the work of the workgroup at designated timeframes
    - Meeting quarterly with the Steering Committee

## Age-Friendly Overview

Age-Friendly is a community effort and is not considered to be just the work of Howard County Government. It is a joint effort between the government, non-profits, businesses, and the community at large. There are 8 domains of Age-Friendly. Many domains overlap. The Age-Friendly initiative will allow workgroups to explore 1) where we are today, and 2) how we will look 5 years from now. The 8 domains are:

- **Social Participation** – Access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities to socialize, engage and combat isolation
- **Community Support & Health Services** – Assistance and affordable care options for all ages
- **Work and Civic Engagement** – Opportunities for active community engagement, paid employment and meaningful volunteer options
- **Respect & Social Inclusion** – Programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as multigenerational interaction and dialogue
- **Transportation** – Sidewalks and safe, crossable streets for pedestrians; dedicated bicycle lanes; public and other transportation options
- **Outdoor Spaces & Buildings** – Availability of safe and accessible recreational facilities and accessible buildings
- **Communication & Information** – Information sharing through a variety of delivery methods, with respect for cultural and age-related differences
- **Housing** – Housing options to meet the needs of those with differing incomes, ages and life stages

### Age-Friendly Process

Developing an Age-Friendly community is a 5-year plan

- **Years 1 & 2:** 1) Conduct a survey and listening sessions, and 2) develop a comprehensive action plan
  - The action plan will identify benchmarks and will be able to measure success.
  - The action plan is to be submitted to the Steering Committee by the end of October 2020 and is to be completed by December 2020 in time for the 1-year anniversary of Age-Friendly Howard County on December 3, 2020.
- **Years 3-5:** Implementation
- **Year 5:** Progress/status update

### Survey

The survey is in its final stages of development. The purpose is to get feedback from the community. The survey will go live on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The survey will be available online at: [www.howardcountymd.gov/agefriendly](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/agefriendly).

A paper copy of the survey will also be available at 50+Centers, libraries, county buildings, and other places throughout Howard County. The survey will be in four languages 1) Korean, 2) Hindi, 3) Mandarin Chinese, and 4) Spanish. The survey is geared toward the 50+ population, however all adults of any age are encouraged to complete it. The survey will be available until the end of February 2020. The survey will be analyzed, and the data will be available by the end of March 2020.

### In a discussion about the work of the workgroup the following items were noted by members of the group:

- Groups should combine topics that are similar to each other
- We need to make sure that activities are also inclusive to all people of different cultures
- Need emphasis on education about different cultures, understanding other cultures comes with experience

- Too early to collapse workgroups, but we should collaborate with other focus groups
- Workgroup can help understand how to communicate with everyone
  - Using taglines and changes
- Through the Action Plan this effort can help people (businesses/organizations) with Marketing tactics to people who are older or have different abilities
- Field trips would be optimal
- We are marketing to older adults as 50 and over. 50-72 is a huge difference
- People came to Howard County to raise children. We need to look at keeping them in the county
  - Must get a sense of what makes people want to stay—it was noted that there are questions in the survey that address this
- Make sure survey is anonymous to protect those who may get deported (Terri confirmed the survey is anonymous)
- Information can be difficult for some people to access
- What is the response rate projected? (Terri did not have that information)
- There was concern expressed about the short timeframe for the project
- Consider having tabling days at 50+ centers to inform people about the initiative
  
- Does the initiative include Howard County General Hospital? (Yes, a representative will be included on the Steering Committee from the hospital)
- How are younger generations being involved? (This will be determined in recommendations made in the Action Plan)
- Are involving WCC and parents of school children? (There is planned outreach to HCPSS and the Health Dept)
- IT was suggested to have workshops for more people to explain about Age-Friendly
- Put up flyers to get the word out
  
- **Next meeting:** Next meeting should be Wednesday February 26 at 9:00am and each 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday thereafter at the 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive offices, 09:00am – 10:30am

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.