

Age-Friendly Social Participation Workgroup Meeting Minutes January 27, 2020

PRESIDING: Terri Hansen, Age-Friendly Coordinator

Members Attending

Peter Brunner	Evelyn Jackson
Georgea Moore	Manuel Evangelista
Jim Sanders	L. Ann Benjamin
Patricia Sasse	Jeannie DeCray
Sara Spence	Ruth Coleman
Niti Srivastava	

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm

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 Work and Civic Engagement 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 Social Participation workgroup and then introduced themselves and shared with the group what they had written down.

- **Jeanie DeCray:** Consistent with what I currently do at work (Elkridge 50+ Center Director)
- **Ann Benjamin:** increased longevity is important; I set up groups at the Bain Center for older adults—this is where my interests have been for a long time
- **Sarah Spence:** Member of The Village of Howard County Board; recognize that social isolation is a big problem
- **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
- **Niti Srivastava:** Work with the Indian Community Association (ICA) 50+ monthly Social Group, Indians are the largest minority in Howard County. Some older adults describe their situation as living in a “5 star prison” for immigrants as they are “trapped” with few opportunities for socialization—in part due to language issues.
- **Pete Brunner:** Member of The Village of Howard County (TVIH) and the Commission on Aging; I am concerned about my future; I don’t believe Howard County has comprehensive information available about resources
- **Jim Sanders:** I want control in my life—through, health and fitness and social engagement; I have been looking at the Social Determinants of Health through my work with TVIH
- **Pat Sasse:** I want to connect people to resources
- **Georgea Moore:** I want to affect positive change. I am interested to know what is happening at the State level.
- **Ruth Coleman:** In my role Recreation and Parks I am able to provide opportunities for persons of all ages to participate in social activities

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
 - 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 by February 5th
 - 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

A survey has been developed through the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence and is in its final stages. The purpose is to get feedback from the community. The survey will go live on February 3rd. The survey will be available online at:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Community-Resources-and-Services/Office-on-Aging-and-Independence/Age-Friendly>

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.

Brainstorming Activities:

- Participants were asked to develop an initial list of possible speakers, topics, experts, field trips: (participants asked to submit in writing)
- Dream Big: What will Howard County look like in 2025?
 - Transportation: getting people from their homes to social events (the how is TBD)
 - Easy, affordable, manageable transportation (again, the how is TBD)
 - Field trips to other jurisdictions... e.g., learn from Montgomery County as to how they have tried to handle transportation
 - Inter-Generational “space”
 - Multi-Cultural Center... place where people of different cultures can “hang out” together

Discussion:

There was discussion about budget considerations for the Age-Friendly initiative. It was explained that the goal is for county offices, businesses, non-profits, etc. to make changes to make work processes and services more age-friendly as part of their normal course of work thus incorporating any costs into established budgets. There was a line item submitted for Age-Friendly Howard County projects and marketing in the upcoming FY2021 budget.

Next meeting: Monday, February 24, 2020 and each 4th Monday thereafter at the 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive offices, 3pm-4:30pm

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.