

AGE-FRIENDLY SOCIAL PARTICIPATION WORKGROUP MINUTES



Date: 02/24/2020

Time: 03:05pm

Facilitator: Terri Hansen

In Attendance:

Peter Brunner

Carolyn Rimes

Mary McGraw

Ruth Coleman

Colleen Konstanzer

Ann Benjamin

Jeannie DeCray

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve: Jeannie DeCray

Seconded: Peter Brunner

Minutes from January were approved as written

Announcements:

- **Co-chairs are Ruth Coleman (county employee) and Colleen Konstanzer (community member)**
- **It will be the responsibility of the Co-chairs to assign work to any subgroups set up.**
- **Co-chairs will plan to meet before workgroup meeting to plan agenda for the next meeting.**

Discussions

- **A member brought up that it would be a good idea to have someone from the Howard County Board be on the steering committee.**
- **It was noted that the work group is small; we need to contact other members who signed up and have not attended the previous meetings.**

- Survey went out 2/4/2020, currently we have around 2300 surveys and more are continually coming in.
 - Surveys analysis will be done by the middle of March
- Focus groups and listening sessions to begin late March and April.
- Suggestions made by a member of workgroup:
 - Focus groups and listening groups should be county wide.
 - Focus groups should be no more than 15 people, the listening groups will be larger
 - A member suggested that questions that were not included on the survey, should be included in focus groups/listening groups
- Neighbor Ride said we could utilize their facility as a place for holding focus groups, (evening and weekends).
- Open discussion regarding the timeline for the entire project occurred.
 - Timeline:
 1. The goal to develop an action plan is December 2020
 2. Draft is due October and final draft in November
- There is information in the county from other studies over the years, this data will be looked at, consolidated and provided to workgroup members.
- A member staff stated it would be helpful to learn what the other workgroups are doing
- In some form all the domains will overlap each other
- As a group, we need to figure out the structure of the workgroup and what part of social participation do we want our focus to be?
- So, let's consider the following, what does Social participation mean:
 1. Maintaining connection
 2. Giving a sense of purpose
 3. Combat social isolation
 - What resources are currently available and what is still needed?
 - Available
 - Library resources
 - Internet
 - Other reports that were previously done
 - There are other organizations currently out there such as Encore.org
 - What are the gaps?
 - What are the effects of social isolation on seniors, children, teens and adults?
 - Do we address social participation as living with someone (possibly house sharing), or is it to be getting together at a function? Both are right.
 - How do we make it possible for people with disabilities to be included in social functions?
 - Ethnic groups can be socially isolated as well, especially due to language barriers
 - What effect does social participation have on people?
 - Health
 - Sense of belonging
 - Sense of being valued
 - Engagement – what kinds of things bring communities together?
 - Food from different cultures

- We want to have some short-term successes to get the community excited about new and different concepts
- A reminder: The Age-Friendly initiative is to benefit the entire County—people of all ages.

Logistics:

- Possibly using a google doc or one-drive as a source to put information in so that it can be shared by the whole group.
- Have a speaker from another jurisdiction (that already has action plan in place) do a webinar so other workgroups can participate.

Homework

- Spend some time on the AARP website, Livability Communities
- Look at what other jurisdictions have done and is it being done well in Action Plans
- Look at the Encore.org mission regarding social participation
- Come with a definition of what you feel social participation is; what are the community needs; identify what research is currently out there; and share it so we can begin to know where our gaps are.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40-pm.

Next Meeting

03/23/2020 – 3:00 – 4:30pm, 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046