

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION WORKGROUP MINUTES



Date: 05/21/2020

Time: 1:00PM

Facilitator: Terri Hansen and Kim Henry

In Attendance

Terri Hansen

Jill Kamenetz

Kim Henry

Jim Sanders

Mae Beal

Debbie Burgio

Lucky Sohi

Kelly Kesler

Diane Leonard

Stuart Rosenthal

Minutes Approve

There was a suggestion to have the minutes just summarized.

First: Lucky Sohi

Second: Mae Beal

Announcements:

Debbie Burgio is a Deacon in the United Methodist Church with Winter Grace Senior Ministries for older adults and communities about services that are local. Chose Communications and Information since that is part of our mission at Winter Grace. Shared the website: Wintergrace.org

Mae asked if Winter Grace has difficulty getting information out to seniors with no internet or computer, and asked if there are transportation issues.

Debbie responded that by reaching out to the churches they can connect with people without internet and also try to connect with adult children to make them aware of services for their aging parents.

New Business:

Talked about the vision statement and mission statement

- Stuart asked does “timely resources and accessible” refer to communication or resources?
- Kelly was under the impression that it was communication and will need to tweak the wording.
- Stewart suggested to have “via multimedia” added after communication and resources.
- Diane is concerned that the statement is talking about everyone and should specifically call out seniors. Everyone will benefit from all the services and resources.
- Kelly challenged that the word “all” needs to be there, the intent being that age-friendly communities need to be inclusive of healthy aging across the lifespan.

- A suggestion was made to use “Age-Friendly” in the vision statement.
- Terri: other jurisdictions focused many of their action steps on older adults; she believes we will have a number of action steps inclusive for older adults. Vision statements are aspirational and broader in scope than the tasks (some tasks will be age specific).
- It was asked if the Age-Friendly initiative was just for older adults.
- Kim stated that from the beginning of the Age-Friendly initiative County Administration has said an Age-Friendly community is good for all ages.
- Kim asked if MAP is now including information for all?
- Jill answered that at the beginning MAP was specifically for those age 18+ with disabilities and older adults, but receives/redirects calls for other Department of Community Resources and Services' offices.
- Terri added that in retrospect you are serving the whole age spectrum.
- Jill added that they have been working with Medicaid issues and that covers all ages.
- Kim asked if other groups were using older adults in their statement.
- Terri's response was everyone has been global about serving all.
- Kim mentioned that Terri used the word focus a lot and thought we should change the word foster to focus in the mission statement.
- Terri asked the group if they were happy with the vision and mission statement as it is currently written. Looking at just the vision statement, this is your guiding force as it relates to where you are going as a workgroup. So as a workgroup you will create tasks and recommendations to be completed over the next 3 to 5 years that will ensure that Howard County residents will be connected to resources and services.
- Terri talked about her conversation with Carl DeLorenzo in County Administration who gets briefed regularly on how the Age-Friendly process is going, especially having to continue to work through this pandemic using WebEx. Recognizing the importance of the listening sessions and focus groups we have received a 6-month extension from the time the state of emergency is lifted. Looking at early summer 2021.
- Terri: did everyone receive the email of the compilation of reports? Everyone should do their own research in the communication and information sections and be able to share at next meeting.
- Diane was interested in the ambassador program which is currently being used in the Alexandria, VA Age-Friendly.
- Kelly suggested foster accountability and help redundancy; continue thinking about cultural and linguistic materials.
- Terri would like to pull the co-chairs from each domain together to share information and help avoid duplication. Still need another co-chair for this group.
- Mae said volunteers within her church are calling seniors within the congregation and checking on their needs. Seniors have been very appreciative for the call and help.
- Terri talked about the quality of what communication means. Also stated should come up with 5 to 6 action plans that are applicable to Howard County.
- Stewart mentioned he went on the Howard County website and found it was not easy to navigate.
- Kim stated looking for people within the group to divide and conquer in areas that are familiar to them, research, and report back to group. This will be ongoing.
 - Effective Communication vehicles
 - What are some specific vehicles used and are they free or membership?
 - Translated information

Homework Assignments:

- Information different group members will be working on and report back to the whole group.

- Kim, Jill and Lucky – Howard County
- Mae & Debbie – Churches
- Kelly – LHIC
- Stewart – Printing (for materials)
- Diane – COGS, ACS
- Lucky will set up a new google drive for information to be added.

Next Meeting:

June 18, 2020 – 1:00pm (will be a WebEx invitation will be sent before the meeting). UPDATE: Meeting date has been moved to Thursday, June 25 at 1:00 p.m.