

Age-Friendly Hyattsville Work Group Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 23, 2023; 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Work Group Attendees: Dawn Bohls (W-2); Rosezella Canty-Letsome (W-1); Edna Little (W-4); Lori Simon-Rusinowitz, Associate Professor, Health Services Administration and Center on Aging, School of Public Health, University of Maryland; Saralyn Trainor (W-3); Lisa Walker (W-2); Winifred Weaver (W-1); Scott Wilson (W-1)

Staff Attendees: Colleen Aistis, Community Services Manager; Soyeon Kim, Community Services Graduate Intern; Marci LeFevre, Age-Friendly Program Lead; Jordyn Taylor, Community Services Graduate Intern; Quianna Taylor, Senior Services and Wellness Coordinator

Age-Friendly Programming

Recent and upcoming workshops being planned by Age-Friendly Work Group members and City staff were discussed. Updates included:

Safe Driving Resources Workshop

- On June 12 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the City of Hyattsville, Hyattsville Age-Friendly Program, and AARP MD Driver Safety Program held a well-received workshop on safe driving resources. The in-person workshop was supported by the Senior Services and Wellness Coordinator, Call-A-Bus drivers, and graduate student interns. The event, attended by twenty-six residents, covered driving safely (defensive driving), tips for making one's car fit their needs, and tips for having difficult conversations with family members about giving up one's car keys.
- A four-hour long AARP Driver Safety Course is tentatively being planned for December 2023. Participants who complete the course receive a certificate and may be eligible for a reduced auto insurance rate through their carrier. The course is \$20.00 for AARP members and \$25.00 for non-members. Given the required fee, Age-Friendly Program Lead, Marci LeFevre added that City staff are exploring whether the AARP course can be promoted and offered on site at the Municipal Building. The course fee, paid by participants by check or money order to the AARP Driver Safety Program, covers the cost of course materials.

Summer Programs and Multigenerational Activities

- Senior Services and Wellness Coordinator, Quianna Taylor, shared that two multigenerational activities have been scheduled for the summer to offer an opportunity for the City's Staycation youth and older adults to meet and engage with each other. The upcoming activities include:
 - On Thursday, July 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., twelve youth and twelve older adults will travel to the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore to participate in an interactive workshop and a docent-led tour of the museum. Lunch will be provided on site. Space is limited and registration is required. Interested community members should contact (301) 985-5000 or send an email to seniors@hyattsville.org.
 - On Thursday, August 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a Summer Cookout and Field Day will be held at Driskell Park. Interested community members can contact (301) 985-5000 or send an email to seniors@hyattsville.org.
- The June 22 Bladensburg Waterfront Park Boat Tour (older adults only) was cancelled due to inclement weather and will be rescheduled for an alternate summer date, if possible. There was great interest in the outing, which would have featured an interpretative history of the Anacostia River.

Rent Stabilization Study with Enterprise Community Partners

- Marci LeFevre shared that she is part of a cohort of City staff (CED) formed to plan a rent stabilization study to be completed by Enterprise Community Partners (ECP). The project kick-off event, held on June 8, focused on the scope of the study and potential stakeholder interviewees. More information will be shared with work group members as the project evolves.

Hyattsville Regional Transportation Guide

- The Regional Transportation Guide created by Hyattsville Aging in Place and the Age-Friendly Program was shared with the City's GIS staff for review and consideration of including a transportation node visual that depicts locations of area Metro rail stations, bus stops, etc. The guide was also given to design and translation vendors for preliminary estimates. Work with translation and design vendors will begin after the Age-Friendly Program's FY24 budget has been finalized. Design and translation fees will be covered by Enhanced Mobility grant funds.

Key Updates

Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP)

- Community members are invited to attend the July 22 Corridor Conversations virtual event, Uhuru Quilters Guild: Exploring The Legacy Of African American Quilting, which will be held from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The event will feature Uhuru Quilters Guild founding member Carol Williams and Exhibits Committee Chair Renee Anderson to learn about the Guild's work and activities, African American Quilting traditions, and their love of quilting. For more information or to register, contact (301) 887-3101 or HAPCares@gmail.com.

Hyattsville Senior Services and Wellness Activities

- Participation in the City's Ageless Grace and ZUMBA classes has continued to grow and reach community members new to City offerings for older adults. As the instructor for Ageless Grace has been on medical leave for the month, the seated exercise class is being led by Quianna Taylor. Weekly ZUMBA classes held at Hyatt Park during the month of June will move back to the City Building for the months of July and August due to anticipated warmer weather.
- Quianna Taylor shared that the Hyattsville is Home art class finale was held at Art Works Now on June 13 and featured students' art projects and a potluck. The popular eight-week art class typically has a waitlist for upcoming sessions. The next series is planned for the Fall of this year.
- Movie (free) Mondays at the Old Greenbelt Theater and Seniors on the Go trips to area destinations such as the Laurel Amish Market continue to draw community participants who have expressed much appreciation for the social and recreational outings. Additional trips are being planned for this Summer and Fall.

City of Hyattsville Senior Services Database

- City of Hyattsville Community Services Manager, Colleen Aistis, introduced Soyeon Kim, a graduate student with Cultural Vistas, a U.S. Department of State-designated sponsor of the Korea WEST program. Ms. Kim discussed her role with the Community Services Department and a database development project that she has undertaken to capture resident service utilization in the City's aging and wellness programs. The data will help City staff glean information about program participation levels and engagement trends, and program representation by geography and wards. The database will also allow City staff to promote offerings more easily to community members via email pushes, texts, and mailings.

City of Hyattsville Sanctuary City Resource Guide

- Colleen Aistis introduced Jordyn Taylor, a Maryland Municipal League-sponsored graduate student who is working with the City of Hyattsville over the summer. Ms. Taylor discussed the City's designation as a Sanctuary City and her role with the Community Services Department to develop a resource guide for newly arrived immigrants and refugees. Work group members were encouraged to share resource suggestions with Ms. Taylor. A draft of the guide will be shared with community stakeholders when ready.

Food Security Partnership – LovePaws

- Jazmin Shorts, Community Support Coordinator with the Community Services Department, discussed her role with the City, and provided an overview of the City's new Animal Control Program. Community members who wish to report lost and found pets or animal concerns should contact the City's main number at 301-985-5000. For emergencies, residents should call the City of Hyattsville's Police Department at 301-985-5050. Ms. Shorts also mentioned a partnership being explored with Love Paws (area nonprofit) to provide pet food to residents experiencing food insecurity. LovePaws helps keep pets in their homes and out of shelters by offering food from their pet food pantry, training resources, subsidized medical care and related resources so that owners who wish to keep their pets are not forced to give them to the shelter.

Hyattsville Embracing Pride Panel, June 9

- The City of Hyattsville hosted an Embracing Pride Panel on Friday, June 9, at the Municipal Building. The well-attended event, hosted by the City's Race and Equity Task Force and Age-Friendly Work Group, featured guest panelists who shared their experiences as LGBTQ community members, advocates and/or allies.

Other Business

Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE)

- Quianna Taylor discussed her participation in the City's GARE cohort, which includes City staff Shakira Louimarre, Reginald Bagley, Laura Reams, and Priyanka Joshi. The cohort is developing a project to address some of the chronic issues related to the Hamilton Street/Ager Road/Queens Chapel Road Corridor. Data to support a root cause analysis will help develop a comprehensive plan to assist community members affected by homelessness.

Partnership Opportunities with Hyattsville Youth Program

- Scott Wilson inquired about Age-Friendly Work Group members assisting the City's Youth Program with tutoring and mentorship opportunities. Marci LeFevre noted that the Youth Program utilizes vetted tutors and mentors and suggested inviting Youth Program staff to a future work group meeting. Interested volunteers can also contact the Youth Programs Manager, Josabeth Segura, by calling the City's main number at 301-985-5000.

Upcoming Age-Friendly Work Group Meetings

- July 28, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.
- August 25, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.