

Age-Friendly Hyattsville Work Group Meeting

Friday, June 25, 2021; 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Work Group Attendees: Rosezella Canty-Letsome (W-1); Enda Little (W-4); Sherri McGee (W-2); Sally Middlebrooks (W-2); Suzanne van Nuys, Program Director for Lifelong Learning, Prince George's Community College; Lisa Walker (W-2); Winifred Weaver (W-1)

Staff Attendees: Colleen Aistis, Community Services Manager; Reggie Bagley, Emergency Operations Manager; Beryl Jonson, Senior and Disabilities Services Coordinator; Marci LeFevre, Age-Friendly Program Lead

Guests: Bette Dickerson, Hyattsville Race and Equity Task Force; Michele Higgs, Community Outreach Coordinator, Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP)

University of Maryland School of Public Health Partnership Exploration

Sherri McGee reported that she and Marci LeFevre met with Dr. Luisa Franzini, Chair, Department of Health and Aging at UMD's Center on Aging, and Dr. Wesley Queen, Coordinator of UMD's Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy (LLIPP) and Co-Director of the Community Engagement and Outreach Core of the Center for Health Equity. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about and explore partnership opportunities with the University of Maryland's (UMD) School of Public Health, Center on Aging, and Graduate Studies Program.

Sherri noted that the Center on Aging's work dovetails with many of the City's Age-Friendly Action Plan priorities, and that there is great interest in and enthusiasm for undertaking collaborative projects in 2021. Highlights from the meeting and subsequent conversations include:

- A list of potential collaborative projects was assembled by City staff and shared with Dr. Franzini and Dr. Queen, who then facilitated City staff's introduction to Lori Simon-Rusinowitz, Research Director with the Center on Aging, and Dr. Melvin Seale, Director of Graduate Studies with the School of Public Health.
- City staff met with Dr. Simon-Rusinowitz (whose research focuses on age-friendly communities and health equity) and Dr. Seale (whose work focuses on health information technology and management) to discuss collaborative research ideas and graduate student internship projects.
- Several projects of mutual interest were identified that support the City's age-friendly and vulnerable populations initiatives. Discussed partnership areas include:
 - research on home and community-based support services (including personal care)
 - accessible and affordable housing
 - identifying and engaging hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations
 - developing a public-facing, age-friendly program dashboard that tracks progress towards achieving action plan goals
- City staff are working with Dr. Rusinowitz and Dr. Seale to discuss next steps for initiating research and internship projects for this summer and the remainder of the year.
 - Both parties expressed a desire to sustain the partnership beyond 2021, which would be beneficial to all.

In addition, Colleen Aistis facilitated the introduction of a UMD undergraduate student (pre-med) interested in internship opportunities with the City to Marci and Reggie Bagley. Colleen, Reggie, and Marci recently met with the student and discussed age-friendly and vulnerable populations initiative projects that align with the student's background and experience. The student will begin his internship in August and work with Marci and Reggie.

Elder Abuse Awareness

In recognition of Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15) and Month (June), the National Center on Elder Abuse developed several community outreach materials that were circulated to Age-Friendly Work Group members, City staff, and community partners (e.g., Hyattsville Aging in Place, faith groups). Marci reported that she attended a webinar hosted by the National Center on Elder Abuse on the topic of elder abuse among individuals living with dementia. Highlights from the webinar and materials discussed about elder abuse included:

Prevalence:

- About **1 in 10** older Americans age 60 or older have experienced abuse.
- About **1 in 2** older adults living with dementia have experienced abuse.
- Elder abuse is underreported.

Description:

- Elder abuse refers to intentional or negligent acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that causes harm to an older person. Elder abuse takes many forms, including:
 - Neglect or isolation
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Financial abuse and exploitation
 - Emotional or psychological abuse (including verbal abuse and threats)
 - Elder abuse affects older people across all socioeconomic groups, cultures, and races and can occur anywhere when they're disconnected from social supports (e.g., in a person's own home, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, other institutional settings).

Risk Factors:

- Female and/or being 80 years of age or older
- Dementia
- Mental health or substance abuse issues
- Social isolation
- Poor physical health

How Can We Prevent and Address Elder Abuse?

- Report suspected mistreatment to your local adult protective services, long-term care ombudsman, or law enforcement agency who can investigate the situation.
 - Prince George's County Adult Protective Services (APS): 301-909-2450
 - Prince George's County Ombudsman Program: 301-265-8483
- For additional guidance, contact Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 or www.eldercare.gov.
- If an older person is in a life-threatening situation, contact 911.
 - Hyattsville Police Department: 301-985-5050
- See resources on the National Center on Elder Abuse website at www.ncea.acl.gov.

Beryl Johnson shared that elder abuse awareness has been addressed at the City's (pre-COVID-19) Lunch and Learn events as well as outreach activities at Friendship Arms, sometimes in partnership with Bank of America. Beryl noted that with the lifting of many COVID-19 restrictions, she is planning and beginning to schedule City activities to be resumed for older adults and persons with disabilities.

Increasing awareness about elder abuse, especially since COVID-19 has put more older adults and persons with disabilities at risk of experiencing it, is of interest to the Work Group.

- Marci asked members to send ideas for elder abuse awareness activities (e.g., workshop at Municipal Building, health and wellness event at a community park, articles in Hyattsville Life & Times) to Beryl or her before the July Age-Friendly Work Group meeting.

Key Updates

Call-A-Bus Service

Colleen shared that the City's free Call-A-Bus curbside pickup service has returned and is operating on a modified schedule that includes Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

- Appointments for medical visits can be made from 9 a.m. to noon and for grocery store visits and other appointments from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- No more than four passengers can ride the bus at the same time.
- Passengers must wear face coverings when entering, riding, and exiting the bus.
- Reservations can be made by calling City staff at (301) 985-5000.
- Regular weekly service may resume in July; schedule changes will be announced on the City's website and through other City communications channels.

Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) Home Sharing Program

Cheri Everhart and Marci met with City colleagues, Jim Chandler and Kate Powers, to discuss the home sharing presentation given by Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) at the May Age-Friendly Work Group. City leadership and staff are interested in HIP's program model and partnership opportunities. Before regrouping with HIP, City staff will review standards for owner-occupied rentals, common needed home modifications, and funding resources available to homeowners for making modifications.

Michele Higgs, HIP's Community Outreach Coordinator, noted that the Silvernest platform (www.silvernest.com) used for the HIP home sharing program may incorporate additional COVID-19 screening questions (e.g., vaccination status). Tool refinements are made on a quarterly or every other quarter basis, rather than a rolling basis. Changes will be shared with City staff as they become available.

Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP)

Lisa Walker, HAP Board Chair, provided an update on upcoming summer programs for HAP members and community residents. Events scheduled for June, July and August feature area artists, professors, poets and musicians. Information is available at the HAP website at www.hayttsvilleaginginplace.org.

Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit II, October 2021

Age-Friendly D.C. and The George Washington University School of Nursing will convene a second regional summit on October 27. Marci will continue to serve on the summit's planning committee and will work with City colleagues and Age-Friendly Work Group members to identify topics of interest.

Upcoming Age-Friendly Work Group Meeting Dates

- July 23, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
- August 27, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.