

Age-Friendly Hyattsville Work Group Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2024; 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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

Staff Attendees: Marci LeFevre, Age-Friendly Program Lead, Aging and Wellness Services Manager, Community Services

FY24 Healthy Aging Grant Project Community Survey

Marci LeFevre provided an update on the MD Department of Aging's FY24 Healthy Aging Grant awarded to the City's Aging and Wellness Services Program. The MD Department of Aging and the City finalized the project contract in late November. Hyattsville is one of eight funded programs in the state.

Three City projects will be funded for a total of \$30,000. Funds will be used to expand the Hyattsville Is Home art class series for older adults (in-person and virtual), develop a family caregiver support group, and mitigate the digital divide by expanding digital literacy and technology instruction for older adults. Funds will also be used to purchase digital devices (tablets or laptops). Project funds are to be used January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024.

The City's Aging and Wellness Services Program staff designed a community assessment to solicit feedback from community members on the three offerings. The questionnaire was placed on the City's website and circulated to residents. Community input will inform the development and delivery of the Hyattsville Is Home art class series for older adults (in-person and virtual), a family caregiver support group, and a digital literacy and technology instruction class series for older adults.

In addition, the Aging and Wellness Services Program is working with the University of MD (UMD) Extension Office to create an evaluation framework for the funded initiative. UMD Extension Office faculty will assist City staff with survey design for the three projects, data analysis, and reporting. The three projects are anticipated to launch in April and run through June of this year.

FY24 Age-Friendly Programming

Demystifying Medicare Lunch and Learn Workshop

- A Demystifying Medicare Lunch and Learn Workshop will be held on Monday, February 26. Registration is full. Mark Gottlieb and Karen Morgan of AARP MD will present. The workshop will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the City of Hyattsville Municipal Building.

Demystifying Long-Term Care Lunch and Learn Workshop

- A Demystifying Long-Term Care Lunch and Learn Workshop will be held on Monday, March 18. Mark Gottlieb will present. The workshop will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the City of Hyattsville Municipal Building. For more information or to register, call 301-985-5000 or email seniors@hyattsville.org.

Social Security – What You Should Know Workshop

- A spring Lunch and Learn workshop, Social Security – What You Should Know, will be held on Monday, April 29. Karen Morgan of the AARP MD State Office is the guest presenter. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. For more information or to register, call 301-985-5000 or email seniors@hyattsville.org.

AARP Age-Friendly Action Plan Report

In 2019 the City of Hyattsville joined the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. In doing so, Hyattsville became the first city in Maryland to join The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. As a member of this national network, Hyattsville was tasked with creating an action plan or roadmap for making the city a great place to live for people of *all* ages.

The Hyattsville Age-Friendly Initiative Work Group, made up of residents (many of whom serve on the current Age-Friendly Work Group), volunteered their time to research, analyze and prioritize actions that would make Hyattsville more livable for people of all ages. The work group's recommendations, informed by community surveys and public forums, became the foundation for Hyattsville's Age-Friendly Action Plan, approved by the City Council in 2019.

The adopted Action Plan details steps the City is taking to become more age-friendly, working with community members, partners, and stakeholders. The Action Plan includes four priority areas:

- ❖ Housing (e.g., affordable, and accessible housing)
- ❖ Home and Community-Based Services (e.g., in-home personal care services, home and yard maintenance assistance, transportation services)
- ❖ Health and Safety (e.g., emergency preparedness, health screenings, mental health resilience, elder abuse awareness and prevention, falls prevention, food security, social inclusion)
- ❖ Communication and Outreach (e.g., increase awareness about available resources and activities, outreach to diverse communities)

Since the plan's implementation in 2019, many recommendations have been implemented and/or completed. The plan is currently being updated to reflect the City's progress to date. A copy of the updated plan will be shared and discussed with Age-Friendly Work Group members at its April 26 meeting. A five-year progress report will be prepared in the spring and shared with the Age-Friendly Work Group, City leadership, and other stakeholders before being submitted to AARP.

2023 Enhanced Mobility Options Grant Program

The City received notice on December 23, 2024 that its 2023 EM application proposal, submitted last fall, was recommended by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for funding. A formal notification letter was sent to award recipients this month. Marci LeFevre shared that the FTA has recommended an award amount of \$200,000 (\$100,000 federal match) for Hyattsville's Enhanced Mobility Options Initiative (initially funded in 2019).

Staff are working with the City's Treasurer and Finance Director to complete the required award notification documents to be submitted to the Council of Governments (COG). Operational funds will be used to support Call A Bus service driver salaries, driver training, volunteer-provided rides, and other expenses related to the transportation program.

Reframing Aging Workshop

Aging and Wellness Services staff approached Changing the Narrative about conducting a workshop in 2024 for the Age-Friendly Work Group, City staff and leadership, interested City Council members, and age-friendly allies on the topic of ageism and avoiding ageist language. The workshop will explore ageism, its negative impact, and action steps for changing ageist attitudes.

Age-Friendly Work Group members shared personal stories related to experiencing ageism during the meeting. Saralyn Trainor suggested the book, *This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism*, as a resource on the topic. The book, written by Ashton Applewhite, calls for an end to discrimination and prejudice based on age.

Edna Little and Winifred Weaver offered to assist Aging and Wellness Services staff and Changing the Narrative representatives with envisioning a community workshop. More details will be shared at upcoming Age-Friendly Work Group meetings.

Key Updates

Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP)

Edna Little shared that HAP is continuing to co-host a series of Corridor Conversations with area villages. On Saturday, February 24, the Corridor Conversation topic is The Long Civil Rights Movement in Prince George's County. The event will be held from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact HAP at HAPCares@gmail.com.

Hyattsville Senior Services and Wellness Activities

Quianna Taylor finalized the March 2024 Office of Aging and Wellness Services Activities Calendar. The calendar will be mailed to 325-plus residents who have opted in to receive monthly updates on City programs and services for aging community members. Persons interested in receiving the calendar of events and notices about special events can call 301-985-5000 or email seniors@hyattsville.org.

Other Business and Announcements

Upcoming Age-Friendly Work Group Meetings

- Friday, March 22, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, April 26, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, May 24, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.