

Age-Friendly Hyattsville Work Group Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 22, 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); Saralyn Trainor (W-3); Lisa Walker (W-2); Winifred Weaver (W-1); Marialis Zmuda (W-2)

Staff Attendees: Reggie Bagley, Emergency Operations Manager; Marci LeFevre, Age-Friendly Program Lead

Age-Friendly Work Group Questionnaire Findings

Findings from the questionnaire completed by Age-Friendly Work Group members were compiled and shared with the group prior to the meeting. Highlights discussed at the meeting are summarized below.

Age-Friendly Action Plan 2020 Accomplishments and Milestones

2020 accomplishments and milestones selected by Work Group members included the following:

Goal 1: Expand Range of Options for Affordable and Accessible Housing

- City's advocacy and work on affordable housing

Goal 4: Enhance the Safety of Older Residents in Their Homes and in the Community

- Identifying ways to enhance senior residents' safety and emergency preparedness
- Developing City's Emergency Assistance Voluntary Registry (to be rolled out in 2021)
- Community mapping of senior and underserved populations in the City
- Implementing Senior Community Needs Survey

Goal 5: Expand and Promote Opportunities to Enhance Health and Well-Being

- Addressing food insecurity; identifying and providing food security resources
- Use of partnerships to distribute meals during COVID

Goal 6: Expand and Promote Transportation and Mobility Options

- Increasing senior transportation options through Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant; "The grant should go a long way to meet the needs of residents, especially those who use wheelchairs and have mobility issues."
- Use of partnerships to fulfill transportation needs (e.g., transportation made available via Hyattsville Aging in Place's collaboration with GoGoGrandparent)

Goal 7: Expand Options for Affordable, In-Home Care Services

- Meeting with Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) to discuss Greenbelt's model for providing in-home support services

Other:

- City's collaboration with new and existing partners to respond to COVID-19

Meeting Productivity and Work Group Engagement

Suggestions from members for enhancing meeting productivity and the group's engagement included some of the following:

- Offer learning opportunities for work group members (and other interested parties) to be better informed about what is happening in the larger community.
- Remind members of the work group's purpose and ask members to "own" a project (or several); ask members to report on project status at "update meetings."
- Offer opportunities to group members to share responsibility for specific aspects of work to be done.

- Balance meeting content between reports given by city staff and work to be discussed by work group members.
- Recruit individuals to the group who can bring specific knowledge or experience.

Age-Friendly Action Plan Priorities – 2021 (FY21/FY22)

Action Plan priorities selected by the Work Group are summarized below. Members agreed to narrow the list to three to five top priorities. The “Tier 1” priorities will be sent to Marci LeFevre by Friday, February 4, 2021 and discussed at the February 26th Age-Friendly Work Group meeting. While non-Tier 1 priorities will still be addressed, emphasis will be placed foremost on responding to Tier 1 priorities.

Goal 1: Expand Range of Options for Affordable and Accessible Housing

- 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.3: Determine interest in home-sharing; research what other communities have done to facilitate this; pending interest create an action plan.
- Increase action on affordable and accessible housing, including cohousing alternatives, accessory dwelling units, and reporting on findings from City’s consultants.

Goal 2: Help Seniors Make Their Homes More Age-Friendly and Safe

- 2.1.1: Publicize loan and grant programs for home modifications; offer home modification workshop.
- Identify home modification services/programs to help seniors remain at home.

Goal 3: Expand Assistance for Home and Yard Repair

- 3.1.3: Seek grants to supplement support for home maintenance programs and free or discounted services.
- Explore AARP Foundation Home Maintenance Resource Tool.

Goal 4: Enhance the Safety of Older Residents in Their Homes and the Community

- Communicate emergency preparedness and safety tips for seniors in Hyattsville Reporter and other communications.
- Roll out Emergency Assistance Voluntary Registry program.

Goal 5: Expand and Promote Opportunities to Enhance Well-Being and Health

- 5.1.2: Encourage growth of City’s farmer’s market.
- 5.2.2: Co-sponsor monthly Memory Cafes.
- 5.2.5: Partner with local wellness/fitness business to implement regular activities — outdoors and eventually indoors.
- Offer opportunities to enhance mental health.

Goal 6: Expand and Promote Transportation and Mobility Options

- 6.3: Enhance accessibility in the home, in the City, and in local businesses.

Goal 7: Expand Options for Affordable, In-Home Care Services

- Research and increase access to in-home personal care and in-home services.

Goal 8: Expand Options to Maintain Health through In-Home and Community-Based Services

- Research and increase access to in-home health or medical care.

Goal 9: Reduce Social Isolation and Build Community Across Ages

- Address social isolation.

Goal 12: Expand Outreach and Communication to Diverse Communities

- 12.1: Explore availability and accessibility of services to diverse populations; include LGBTQ population as part of outreach.

Potential Work Group Committees

From the list of prioritized Action Plan items, members identified the issues on which they would be willing to take a more active role, either as a work group committee leader or contributor. After Tier 1 priorities have been identified, members will discuss and select committees to be formed. Committee leads and contributors will be identified at that time.

Key Updates

COVID-19

- Reggie Bagley, the City's Emergency Operations Manager (OEM), provided an update on COVID-19 case positivity rates and hospitalizations for the County and City's five zip codes. It was noted that regional case positivity and hospitalization rates had not increased for the last reporting cycle, an anomaly given the consistent trend in rising rates. Reggie advised caution, noting that this anomaly could be a temporary one.
- The County's COVID-19 vaccination process and timeline for providing the vaccine to 1a – 1c target populations was discussed, and a visual highlighting the staging of vaccinations for target populations was reviewed.
- Concerns about the County's online registration process for scheduling vaccinations were raised by Work Group members, some of whom were unable to complete the registration process for themselves and/or family members. Primary concerns included:
 - Seniors without access to or having limited familiarity with technology are not able to register for vaccinations. The establishment and promotion of a County registration call-in line would help seniors and others more easily access vaccinations. Reggie noted that the County plans to initiate a call-in line; details will be shared when they're available.
 - Transportation to vaccination locations presents a barrier to seniors who are unable to drive or access other transportation services. The Work Group will explore available transportation services in the area; regional Age-Friendly cities/counties and Villages may also have transportation partnership models in place.
 - To assist seniors experiencing difficulty with registering for COVID-19 vaccinations, Reggie proposed a time-sensitive workaround solution. He is assembling a vaccination registration list for OEM that includes target populations 1b and 1c; the list can accommodate a few more people. Reggie encouraged Work Group members to provide him with a list of seniors 75 (group 1b) and 65 (group 1c) years of age and older who have had difficulty registering by Monday, January 25. The list should include individuals' date of birth and contact information. Reggie will provide the list to the County's Center for Emergency Operations Management (EOM) for follow-up.

Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP)

- HAP is collaborating with Route 1 Corridor Village organizations on a series of programs to be offered for seniors throughout 2021. Details will be made available when event topics and dates are confirmed.

Age-Friendly Work Group Promotion and Member Recruitment

- To help create awareness about and generate volunteer interest in the Age-Friendly Work Group, the City will promote the Work Group in its communications channels as it has done in the past for other City committees and task forces. Marci noted that a goal for this year is to foster greater representation among residents and City Wards in the Work Group.

Upcoming EventsAge-Friendly Work Group Meeting Dates

- February 26, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
- March 26, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.