

## **Age-Friendly Hyattsville Work Group Meeting Minutes**

Friday, July 22, 2022; 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Work Group Attendees:** Dawn Bohls (W-2); Sherri McGee (W-2); Suzanne van Nuys, Program Director for Lifelong Learning, Prince George's Community College; Lisa Walker (W-2); Lori Simon-Rusinowitz, Associate Professor, Health Services Administration and Center on Aging, Health and Aging Policy Fellowship Alumnae, School of Public Health, University of Maryland

**Staff Attendees:** Colleen Aistis, Community Services Manager; Reggie Bagley, Emergency Operations Manager; Marci LeFevre, Age-Friendly Program Lead

### **Key Updates**

#### Hyattsville Emergency Operations Manager

- Reggie Bagley shared an update on the COVID BA.5 subvariant, which he noted is one of the more easily transmissible variants to date and driving COVID reinfections across the area and nation. The subvariant can evade previous immunity and vaccination.
  - The BA.5 subvariant is highly contagious. Reggie noted that while BA.5 reportedly doesn't have as many serious health implications as earlier subvariants, unvaccinated and vaccinated persons and especially those with compromised immune systems should follow COVID safety precautions. Hospitalizations still occur with this subvariant.
  - Individuals with COVID symptoms (e.g., headache, fever or chills, fatigue, sore throat, muscle aches) and their contacts are encouraged to get tested. The City's COVID testing and vaccination site at First United Methodist Church is an option, as is using an in-home rapid antigen test (RAT), going to urgent care, etc.
  - Reggie noted that persons who test positive for COVID should follow current guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): isolate for 5 days or until a negative test result is received using an at-home test or via a PCR test, and then wear a mask for 5 days when around others or in public spaces.
- Information on Monkeypox will be shared with community members after more guidance has been received from the City's health partners and the State Department of Health.

#### Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP)

- Lisa Walker, HAP Board Treasurer, reported that the Route One Corridor Conversations are taking a summer hiatus; no activity is planned for August. A series of Fall and Winter programs will be announced later this Summer or early Fall; information will be shared with work group members.
- Lisa shared that HAP has partnered with the City's Environmental Committee to assist community members who have invasive ivy growing on their trees. Once a referral is received, HAP volunteers visit the yard of the resident (must be sixty years of age or older) to do an inspection and, if needed, remove the invasive vines.

#### Hyattsville Department of Community Services

- Colleen Aistis shared that Beryl Johnson, the City's Coordinator of Services for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities retired in June. Colleen is currently coordinating programs (e.g., County frozen meals) that had been managed by Beryl.
- Seniors on the Go outings have been well-attended and will continue throughout the Summer.
- Marci LeFevre reported that the City's intergenerational activities scheduled for July and August have generated interest among community members who have not previously attended City-

sponsored events. Activities held earlier in the month featured a conversation on the role of pollinators and the practice of beekeeping with a local beekeeper (July 13) and a nature-based scavenger hunt and art activity (July 20).

- Upcoming events include *Summer Safety Tips* to be presented by the Hyattsville Police Department's Community Action Team (July 27) and *The Mussel Restoration Project: A Conversation with the Anacostia Watershed Society* (August 3). The events will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Driskell Community Park (Large Pavilion).
- Marci reported that the City's vehicle order for two wheelchair accessible buses, enabled through the Enhanced Mobility Options grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), continues to be in limbo due to global supply issues. As a result, the FTA notified all affected sub-recipients in late June that vehicle orders will be cancelled.
  - Grant recipients will be able to review other options for proceeding with their grant-funded project. The Community Services team will meet next week to discuss options. An update will be provided at the next Age-Friendly Work Group meeting.

#### FY23 Age-Friendly Programs Planning

Work group members reviewed and discussed a robust list of age-friendly topics and themes identified as items of great interest among respondents to the City's Senior Community Needs Survey (fielded last year). Most topics and themes are also referenced in the City's Age-Friendly Action Plan.

Work group members identified topics that they would like to address this fiscal year through outreach, in-person or virtual events, and other means. Topics associated with a national recognized month, week, or day (e.g., May being Older Americans Month) were also identified to facilitate planning efforts.

#### **Topics of Interest (from Senior Community Need Survey responses, community feedback)**

[Notes: topics associated with a national recognized month or day are designated with an \*; topics in bold are ones affiliated with an event being planned or offered as of July 2022]

Affordable Housing (April\*)

Caregiver Resources and Self-Care (November \*)

Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention (June\*)

Emergency Preparedness (September\*)

#### **Falls Prevention and Safety (September\*)**

Financial Planning and Resilience

Financial Fraud and Scam Prevention

Health and Fitness [in addition to Ageless Grace, held Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., City Building]; also Food and Nutrition

#### **Home Foreclosure Prevention (early Fall)**

#### **Home Modifications and Repairs; Home Accessibility**

#### **Intergenerational Activities (June 1\*) [City activities scheduled July 13, 20, 27 and August 3]**

Job Search Skills and Resources

Memory Issue and Memory Strengthening

Mental Health Awareness and Resources (May\* and September \*)

Recreation (Indoor and Outdoor)

Retirement Planning

Safe Driving and Transportation Options (December\*)

#### **Technology Training [pilot conducted Spring of 2022; workshops to resume October 2022]**

## **Themes**

- Contributing to Community
- Diversity and Inclusion (e.g., LGBTQ and Pride)
- Health and Wellness, including Mental Well-Being
- Learning
- Social Engagement and Isolation Prevention

## **National Recognized Days and Months Associated with Older Adults and Related Groups**

- April – April 1, National Walking Day
- May – Older Americans Month; Mental Health Awareness Month
- June – Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness Month; World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15; National Home Safety and Falls Prevention Month; PRIDE Month; Intergenerational Day, June 1
- September – National Preparedness Month; National Suicide Prevention Month; Falls Awareness Prevention Day, September 22
- October – Long-Term Care Planning Month
- November – National Family Caregivers Month; Veterans Day

Of the listed items, work group members identified the following ones as priorities for consideration:

- Affordable Housing (e.g., update on City's vision/work; promote information to community)
- Caregiver Resources and Self-Care (e.g., partner with Dementia Friendly Prince George's Co.)
- Emergency Preparedness (e.g., extreme weather preparedness; how to assist residents; CERT)
- Financial Fraud and Scam Prevention (e.g., partner with Sheriff's Office, CFPB, area churches)
- Health and Fitness (e.g., community walks and fitness activities)
- Food and Nutrition (e.g., partner with University of MD; engage graduate externs in outreach)
- LGBTQ Community Member Outreach and Engagement
- Long-Term Care Planning (e.g., target adult children and younger generations)

Marci will share a summarized list of identified priorities with work group members unable to attend the July Age-Friendly Work Group meeting so that their input can be included. Once the list of priorities is assembled, it will be shared with the full Age-Friendly Work Group and Community Services Department staff for final review before timelines and project and activity leads are identified. An activity work plan will be shared and discussed at the August Age-Friendly Work Group meeting.

## **Other Business**

### **Second Annual Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit (Virtual Event)**

- Marci shared that the City of Hyattsville has joined other area age-friendly programs to plan and convene the second annual Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit.
  - The event will be held November 9, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and feature the work of age-friendly organizations in the DMV region. The Summit will be structured around the four domains of transportation, housing, long-term care and health systems, and emergency preparedness and resilience. More details will be shared at a later date.

### **Next Age-Friendly Work Group Meeting**

- August 26, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

## **Adjournment**

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