

Age-Friendly Social Participation Implementation Group
Web-Ex
JANUARY 20, 2023

Attendees: Tessa Hurd, Margaret Pitman, Ruth Coleman, Andrew “Andy” Monjan, L. Ann Benjamin, Patricia Thomas, Seema Agarwal-Harding, Kathy Joss, Mae Beale, Terri Hansen, Morgan Spliedt

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Review Purpose of the Action Plan
- 3) Review/Discuss Roles
- 4) Review Action Items
- 5) Set Date and Location for Next Meeting
- 6) Calls to Action and Wrap Up

Meeting Notes:

- 1) Welcome & Introductions
- 2) Purpose of today’s meeting – Orient the Work Group to the same page.
 - a. Review Purpose of the Action Plan
 - i. Guide how the community works together to make our vision a reality – a livable community that is a great place to grow up and to grow older.
 - ii. Provide a blueprint to achieve a healthier, happier community that is a great place to grow up and to grow older.
 - b. Review/Discuss Roles
 - i. Leadership Roles – still seeking people for these roles. Email agefriendly@howardcountymd.gov if you’re interested.
 1. **Community Leader** is a community member who will...
 - a. Coordinate, plan, and lead the Work Group Meetings.
 - b. Track progress and effort of the domain’s Action Items.
 - c. Work collaboratively with the County Liaison to communicate with the Age-Friendly Howard County Advisors.
 2. **County Liaison** is a Howard County government employee who will...
 - a. Act as the primary liaison between the Work Group and the Age-Friendly Howard County Advisors.
 - b. Maintain meeting records and submit materials to the Age-Friendly Howard County Advisors.
 - c. Collect and update Work Group contact information.
 - d. Support the Community Leader as needed.
 - ii. General Expectations of all Work Group Members
 1. Actively participates in meeting and the implementation of Action Items.
 2. Work toward achieving Work Group goals.
 3. Follow through with tasks.
 4. Report effort and progress updates to the Community Leader.

- c. Review Action Items
 - i. The Action Plan online provides highlights on the Action Items for the Social Participation Domain. Opening the Appendix will lead you to a significant amount of information about the action items, sub-action items, the background information, and proposed next steps.
 - ii. Work Groups can use Logic Modeling to break down the Action Items into actionable steps (SMART Goals) to track and measure progress. Attendees reviewed Logic Model used by the Age-Friendly Howard County Advisors.

3) Discussion

- a. [AARP Livable Communities Portal](#) is a resource we have access to (work group members can join the portal). In the Portal, people share resources, ask questions, attend trainings, etc.
 - i. Sign up for the [AARP Livable Communities e-Newsletter here](#).
- b. Ambassadors will be a critical tool for boosting participation.
- c. We are addressing very serious things – social isolation, loneliness – so we need to keep that in our minds as we go through implementation. There is a new article on the Importance of Social Isolation in the New England Journal of Medicine titled, “Social Isolation and Loneliness as Medical Issues” – Andrew mentioned this. Andrew will send the links to Margaret, and then she will try to find the articles and send to the group
- d. Take into consideration being in greater contact with the concierge who runs programs for Assisted Livings, Senior Living facilities, and 55+ Communities – may need to increase visibility among these populations. This would also expand to neighborhoods that have greater populations of older adults. How do we get information out? (SP1)
 - i. This does cross-relate with the Communication and Information Work Group’s action items. You are encouraged to look at the Communication & Information section of the Action Plan and its Appendix.
- e. Listening sessions may be a good way to better understand the needs and interests of the community (SP2). Take what information is collected and prioritize those areas of interest at 50+ Centers.
 - i. Role of the Work Group may be to coordinate and host Listening Sessions – OR this Work Group could coordinate efforts with the Communication & Information Work Group to facilitate sessions.
 - ii. Start where the community is. Do more listening and less speaking.
- f. Look closely at the most effective ways to reach underserved communities. We know that reaching the underserved populations must be done differently and make intentional efforts to speak with underserved populations (who may be more at risk for social isolation and loneliness). Faith-based groups and non-profit organizations can help us greatly on this! (SP1a)
- g. Become familiar with the Appendix – don’t try to reinvent the wheel. The Planning Work Group has done a lot of groundwork already, so use the Appendix as a tool for Implementation. There is a need for growth, change does not happen easily, but we should acknowledge the programming that is present and ways we can nurture and grow it.

- h. Organize a workshop with various organizations that are serving older adults (e.g., The Village in Howard, Commission on Aging, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations) to get input and cooperation from them.
 - i. Pinpoint the “who” – who are the stakeholders? Maybe we need a database of gaps or places we aren’t serving or have never been served. We should make a concerted effort to reach those areas and populations.
 - i. Answering this question will help guide at least 3 or 4 Action Items (SP1, SP2, and SP4).
 - j. Find the database that was developed with a list of organizations during the planning portion of the plan.
 - k. Proposed #1 priority – distribution of information through various organizations (community-level outreach) then work our way down to the individual-level through the Ambassador Program.
 - l. This Work Group will also be charged with helping the Leadership Howard County team to finalize the Ambassador Training Packet proposal (to be completed by May).
 - i. Starting on the marketing and recruitment plan could begin earlier. This can be done simultaneously with the training package development.
 - ii. Screening and vetting process may also be a task that can be done earlier on.
 - iii. Do we need to coordinate with other domains that will utilize the Ambassador Program?
- 4) Set Date and Location for Next Meeting
- a. Next Meeting will be at 1:30 to 3:00pm on Friday, February 17 via WebEx. An email invitation will be sent at the end of January.
 - i. Third Fridays generally work.
- 5) Calls to Action and Wrap Up
- a. Re-Read the Appendix, be well versed in the recommendations and background recommendations so we can discuss at meeting on February 17. Make note of Action Items that pique your interest, any questions you may have or even steps that may be needed to accomplish these Action Items. What priority should the Action Items be? Also make note of any areas we can add.
 - b. Take a look at this list of organizations (from the planning group) and consider who is here and who is missing:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1p38LTVYWukSCWfDVfOaI3Z_wLOtm5YQ6?usp=sharing
 - c. Think about “who” should be the target audience(s) for each Action Item.
 - d. Put into priority order what YOU want to work on first and decide if you want to work on the Action Items as a big group or in smaller subgroups.
 - e. Consider a leadership position in the work group (Community Leader, County Liaison) and email agefriendly@howardcountymd.gov to indicate interest. HIGH PRIORITY ITEM
 - f. Non-attendees at today’s meeting also: Review the Action Plan Social Participation Action Items and note which action item(s) you would like to work on. Email agefriendly@howardcountymd.gov to indicate interest in the Action Items.