

Age-Friendly Social Participation Implementation Group
Web-Ex
FEBRUARY 17, 2023

Meeting Recording:

<https://howardcountymd.webex.com/webappng/sites/howardcountymd/recording/5a5d2d7d911e103bbf9f00505681e7e0/playback>

Attendees: Ruth Coleman, Andy Monjan, Patricia Thomas, Seema Agarwal-Harding, Terri Hansen, Morgan Spliedt

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome & Introductions
- 2) Work Group Roles/Appointment of Roles
- 3) Work Plan, Structure
- 4) Discussion
- 5) Action Items
- 6) Next Meeting

Meeting Notes:

- 1) Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Andy shares and recommends reading this article featuring a Harvard Study that illustrates how embracing community helps us live longer and be happier (includes a TedTalk too): <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/04/over-nearly-80-years-harvard-study-has-been-showing-how-to-live-a-healthy-and-happy-life/>
- 2) Work Group Roles/Appointment of Roles
 - a. Reviewed the two leader roles. Roles still need to be appointed.
 - i. **Community Leader** is a community member who will...
 1. Coordinate, plan, and lead the Work Group Meetings.
 2. Track progress and effort of the domain's Action Items.
 3. Work collaboratively with the County Liaison to communicate with the Age-Friendly Howard County Advisors.
 - ii. **County Liaison** is a Howard County government employee who will...
 1. Act as the primary liaison between the Work Group and the Age-Friendly Howard County Advisors.
 2. Maintain meeting records and submit materials to the Age-Friendly Howard County Advisors.
 3. Collect and update Work Group contact information.
 4. Support the Community Leader as needed.
- 3) Work Plan, Structure
 - a. Consider building work group materials such as a Charter, Org Structure and Work Plan
 - i. Charter – our focus, priorities, communication strategy, and code of conduct and expectations
 - ii. Organizational Structure – where we will keep materials, how we will share information

1. Social Participation Work Group Google Drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1p38LTVYWukSCWfDVfOaI3Z_wLOtm5YQ6?usp=sharing

iii. Work Plan – guide for developing, implementing, and tracking things we need to do, people we need to speak with, etc.

1. This will help us define the “who” for each Action Item too.

4) Discussion

- a. The Action Items are heavily involved in the 50+ Centers
 - i. Other Action Items on Work & Civic Engagement Domain has some overlap with the 50+ Centers.
 - ii. Other Work Groups clearly involve social interaction.
- b. How do we get people who are healthy, but are staying home, do not interact with anyone or anything, have a fear of doing something by themselves, have physical barriers (transportation, etc.)? – How do we engage these people?
 - i. Interacts with Transportation domain – wonder if there are any direct transportation options for 50+ Centers specifically.
 - ii. Provide concierge-level information sharing.
 - iii. We should go to and engage communities and villages that host older adults – consider engaging the concierge person for each of those communities.
- c. Need representation from the 50+ Centers in order to effectively implement improvements involving the 50+ Centers.
- d. When we were developing the Action Plan, we were not just talking about physical 50+ Centers but also functions that are individually led, online gatherings or informal ways to get together. How do we make those things more formal? May need to redefine what we mean by 50+ Centers – they are not just the physical facility. They are places who host activities and programs and where people can initiate activities and programs or groups. The 50+ Center can help people facilitate their own activities/programs/groups in the community and could also host these things if needed.
 - i. Platform on which online accessibility can be increased for those unwilling or unable to go to the physical centers. Take inspiration from a Continuing Education program’s online platform as a tool to get people engaged.
 - ii. Considerations to make platforms accessible to mobile devices (e.g., smartphones)
- e. Ambassador would be knowledgeable about the people and programs and could make connections in the community.
- f. Age-Friendly Budget? Is there any money to turn our recommendations into actions?
 - i. No specific age-friendly budget in FY23. We are hoping for funds in FY24.
- g. Centers without Walls – Howard County currently hosts several programs in buildings outside of the 50+ Centers, but they are primarily health-centered programs. There are opportunities to expand what kinds of programs are provided outside the walls of the 50+ Center.
 - i. OAI is one entity that provides services, programs, and resources to older adults, but there are other entities that do the same thing (Recreation and Parks, museums, libraries, etc.) that could engage.

- h. Resources
 - i. Spreading information about the resources and activities – which are available – is very challenging. Getting people to know about and then participate in the activities relies on the spread of information. It also relies upon taking the activities closer to where participants are.
 - ii. We have few resources/activities; we have many people resources. How do we optimize our people-resources to spread information about the activities/resources available.
- i. Ambassador Program
 - i. Group through Leadership Howard County who is developing the training components for the Ambassador Program – due in May.
 - 1. This group wants to meet with members of the Work Groups within the domains to receive input for what the Work Groups want to see out of the training.
 - ii. This Work Group needs to determine the parameters for an Ambassador for the Social Participation Group (including expectations, accountability, etc.).
 - 1. Experiment with 1-2 Ambassadors and assess what challenges they face and then build the program from experience and understanding. This will help us understand what training they may need.
 - iii. How can Ambassadors be our first faces to contact the community ambassadors (55+ Communities) to help them know what’s going on in Howard County?
 - iv. Recruitment – what kind of remunerations will we offer Ambassadors?
 - 1. Free classes, free use of some mode of transportation, a trip, or something else. There are many ways to show appreciation.
- j. Work Group Priorities
 - i. SP 4 – Ambassador program pilot
 - 1. Develop trial program and use the data from that trial program to apply for grants.
 - ii. SP 3 – Centers without Walls
 - iii. There is a common theme connecting all 4 Action Items and it’s all about disseminating information, engaging people in programming, and getting regular feedback to make sure the opportunities are valuable.
- k. Joint Zoom meeting with Communication & Information, WCE, and Transportation and look at the overlaps and how we might work together
- l. Come up with a plan for doing something – Ambassador program pilot and Center Without Walls.
- m. Who else should be involved?
 - i. Village of Howard, others?

Action Items:

- 1) Re-Read SP 4 in the Appendix. Begin devising a plan for recruitment, evaluation, and implementation of outreach (structure). Prepare to discuss this at the next meeting.

- 2) Think about who should be part of the meeting to help us be successful? Invite them to the meetings, show them the Action Plan and Appendix, and then give their email to agefriendly@howardcountymd.gov

Next Meeting: – Friday, March 17 at 1:30pm-3:00pm