

Age-Friendly Communication and Information Implementation Group

MARCH 9, 2023

Link to Meeting Recording: Available upon request, please email agefriendly@howardcountymd.gov

Attendees: Barbara McClayton, Stuart Rosenthal, Elizabeth Johnson, Joanne Locker, Lisa Brusio Coster, Malarie Burgess, Mykia Bennett, Morgan Spliedt

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome/Introductions
- 2) Leadership Positions
 - a. Kim & Malarie will split the County Liaison role based on how the Action Items align with their current work. More will be shared as implementation moves forward.
 - b. Still seeking someone to be the Community Leader.
 - i. Essential Tasks: Plan Agenda, facilitate meeting according to agenda, Compile Work Group Materials (point person to receive, file and share materials).
- 3) Action Items
 - a. C1: Centralized List of businesses, non-profits, faith-based groups, & orgs (Joanne and Lisa)
 - i. Lisa will send Joanne the list of faith-based communities and Joanne will add tabs for other groups for outreach/partners.
 - ii. Are there any missing groups?
 1. Include contact info for Greek Letter organizations – Sororities, Fraternities in Howard County
 2. Civic Organizations
 3. Service Organizations – Lisa will send this list as well.
 4. The Village in Howard, 55+ Communities
 5. Howard Community College – special discounts for 55+
 6. Insurance Companies
 - a. Consider making them aware of this as a resource for people
 - iii. Consider the “what’s in it for organizations” for why they might distribute the information.
 - b. C13: Communication Guidelines (Stuart)
 - i. Work group reviewed the revised Guidelines and had minimal corrections. Stuart will send the final version to the group.
 - ii. Next step would be to devise a plan for dissemination.
 - c. C15: Programs to provide technology devices, access to info, education & training (Malarie)
 - i. Building in tech classes to increase digital literacy (Senior Planet)
 1. Senior Planet Older Adult Technology Services through AARP. Classes range in topics from basics to setting up smart devices and more. Classes have been well-attended so far.
 2. There are 11 trainers currently in the program.
 3. Goal to create partnerships in a lot of trusted locations that can be excellent resources.

- a. Partnership with the library system to offer classes there and Malarie will be training 11 library staff to provide classes in the system.
 - b. Partnership with Recreation and Parks; will be adding Senior Planet classes to their curriculum.
 - 4. Want to continue to put the classes out in Howard County in more locations where they would be well-attended. (e.g., Long-term care living facilities, faith-based communities, etc.) If you have ideas, please email Malarie.
 - a. Columbia Neighborhood Centers may be a good avenue to inject classes directly into the community.
 - 5. If you do not know much about Senior Planet, explore it to learn more.
 - a. <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/aging/digital-inclusion>
- ii. Tech Redistribution Program, Expand access to broadband
 - 1. PCs for People in May – donation drive during Older Americans Month.
 - 2. They accept a lot of different tech including computers, smart phones, old phones, gaming devices, etc. PCs for People will refurbish them and then redistribute them out into the community for free or extremely low cost. This drive will help build up their inventory. Partnership will continue with the goal of collecting and redistributing devices specifically to Howard County residents.
- iii. Expand access to broadband
 - 1. PCs for People also does assistance with applications to sign up for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
 - 2. We are in very early stages to bring free Chromebooks to people in the county.
 - 3. Program will prioritize low-income living facilities where internet access may not be available, or families may not have devices to help people access devices and help them sign up for Affordable Connectivity Program. Application for this grant opens in April.
- d. CI7: Enhancing the county website
 - i. Look at www.howardcountymd.gov/aging-independence and create a list of ways to make the page more user-friendly and increase public's access to information. Also think about what metrics we may want to use to measure improvement.
 - ii. County Website is limited in features because it uses a set template, but there are still opportunities for improvement within the template's boundaries.
 - iii. www.howardcountymd.gov is a good example of a useful page.
- e. Ambassador Program
 - i. Barbara will take lead on this action item. She will research who is doing this already and how and bring what she learns to the next meeting. If you are interested in working on the Ambassador Program, please email Barbara.
 - ii. Consider what Ambassadors need to know.
 - 1. Big picture things

2. When legislation session starts, how to find it.
3. “Conductors on the railroad”

4) Next Steps

- a. Know which action item(s) you will work on. We will fill out a spreadsheet at the next meeting and start diving into implementation via subgroups.
- b. Look at www.howardcountymd.gov/aging-independence and create a list of ways to make the page more user-friendly and increase public’s access to information. Also think about what metrics we may want to use to measure improvement.

5) Schedule April Meeting – Monday April 3, 1:00pm