Date: 02/24/2020
Time: 03:05pm
Facilitator: Terri Hansen

In Attendance:
Peter Brunner
Carolyn Rimes
Mary McGraw
Ruth Coleman
Colleen Konstanzer
Ann Benjamin
Jeannie DeCray

Approval of Minutes:
Motion to approve:  Jeannie DeCray
Seconded: Peter Brunner

Minutes from January were approved as written

Announcements:

- Co-chairs are Ruth Coleman (county employee) and Colleen Konstanzer (community member)
- It will be the responsibility of the Co-chairs to assign work to any subgroups set up.
- Co-chairs will plan to meet before workgroup meeting to plan agenda for the next meeting.

Discussions

- A member brought up that it would be a good idea to have someone from the Howard County Board be on the steering committee.
- It was noted that the work group is small; we need to contact other members who signed up and have not attended the previous meetings.
• Survey went out 2/4/2020, currently we have around 2300 surveys and more are continually coming in.
  o Surveys analysis will be done by the middle of March
• Focus groups and listening sessions to begin late March and April.
• Suggestions made by a member of workgroup:
  o Focus groups and listening groups should be county wide.
  o Focus groups should be no more than 15 people, the listening groups will be larger
  o A member suggested that questions that were not included on the survey, should be included in focus groups/listening groups
• Neighbor Ride said we could utilize their facility as a place for holding focus groups, (evening and weekends).
• Open discussion regarding the timeline for the entire project occurred.
  o Timeline:
    1. The goal to develop an action plan is December 2020
    2. Draft is due October and final draft in November
• There is information in the county from other studies over the years, this data will be looked at, consolidated and provided to workgroup members.
• A member staff stated it would be helpful to learn what the other workgroups are doing
• In some form all the domains will overlap each other
• As a group, we need to figure out the structure of the workgroup and what part of social participation do we want our focus to be?
• So, let’s consider the following, what does Social participation mean:
  1. Maintaining connection
  2. Giving a sense of purpose
  3. Combat social isolation
➢ What resources are currently available and what is still needed?
  Available
  ▪ Library resources
  ▪ Internet
  ▪ Other reports that were previously done
  ▪ There are other organizations currently out there such as Encore.org
➢ What are the gaps?
  ▪ What are the effects of social isolation on seniors, children, teens and adults?
➢ Do we address social participation as living with someone (possibly house sharing), or is it to be getting together at a function? Both are right.
➢ How do we make it possible for people with disabilities to be included in social functions?
➢ Ethnic groups can be socially isolated as well, especially due to language barriers
➢ What effect does social isolated as well, especially due to language barriers
➢ What effect does social participation have on people?
  ▪ Health
  ▪ Sense of belonging
  ▪ Sense of being valued
➢ Engagement – what kinds of things bring communities together?
  ▪ Food from different cultures
➢ We want to have some short-term successes to get the community excited about new and different concepts
➢ A reminder: The Age-Friendly initiative is to benefit the entire County—people of all ages.

Logistics:
  ▪ Possibly using a google doc or one-drive as a source to put information in so that it can be shared by the whole group.
  ▪ Have a speaker from another jurisdiction (that already has action plan in place) do a webinar so other workgroups can participate.

Homework
  • Spend some time on the AARP website, Livability Communities
  • Look at what other jurisdictions have done and is it being done well in Action Plans
  • Look at the Encore.org mission regarding social participation
  • Come with a definition of what you feel social participation is; what are the community needs; identify what research is currently out there; and share it so we can begin to know where our gaps are.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40-pm.

Next Meeting

03/23/2020 – 3:00 – 4:30pm, 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046