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**Age-Friendly DC Task Force**

**Thursday, July 16, 2015, 10:00 am**

**Room G-9**

**John A. Wilson Building**

**1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW**

**Washington, DC 20004**

**Meeting Notes**

The meeting began at approximately 10:15 am and was led by Deputy Mayor Brenda Donald. A quorum was present.

**Meeting Attendees – Task Force Members and Stand-Ins**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Role/Domain** | **Member** | **Present** | **Stand In** | **Present** |
| Co-Chair | Brenda Donald | Yes | Rachel Joseph | No |
| Co-Chair | Steven Knapp | No | Renee McPhatter | Yes |
| Outdoor Spaces | Eric Shaw | No | Chris Shaheen | Yes |
| Outdoor Spaces | Kathy Sykes | Yes | None |  |
| Housing | Polly Donaldson | No | Jose Nunez | Yes |
| Housing | Sarah Rosen Wartell | No | Sharon Carney | Yes |
| Transportation | Leif Dormsjo | No | Greer Gillis | Yes |
| Transportation | Christian Kent | Yes | Christiaan Blake | Yes |
| Social Participation | Charon Hines | No | Kristal Knight | Yes |
| Social Participation | Ron Swanda | Yes | Ivan Lanier | Yes |
| Respect/Inclusion | Alexis Taylor | Yes | Jessica Hunt | No |
| Respect/Inclusion | Mario Acosta-Velez | Yes | None |  |
| Employment | Deborah Carroll | Yes | Christine Shelton | No |
| Employment | Romaine Thomas | Yes |  |  |
| Communication | Tegene Baharu | No | Eliana Hassen | No |
| Communication | Stuart Rosenthal | Yes | None |  |
| Health Services | Interim Brenda Donald | Yes | Camille Williams | Yes |
| Health Services | Saul Levin | No | Sejal Patel | Yes |
| Emergency Prep | Kevin Donahue | No | Stephanie Maltz | Yes |
| Emergency Prep | Linda Mathes | No | Paul Carden | No |
| Elder Abuse | Laura Green Zeilinger | No | Dr. Sheila Jones | Yes |
| Elder Abuse | Vacant | No | None |  |
| Education | Jennifer Niles | No | Aaron Parrott | Yes |
| Economic Development | Brian Kenner | Yes | Lavar Yousman | No |
| Community Devel. | Courtney Snowden | No |  |  |

**Councilmembers and Staff Present:**

Anita Bonds

Irene Kong

Ryan Hicks, Legislative Analyst

Cheryl Neumann, COS, Brandon Todd

**Meeting Attendees – Others**

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| --- | --- |
| Gail Kohn (DMHHS) | Nick Kushner (DMHHS) |
| Brian Footer (DCOA)  Heather Foote (Cleveland and Woodley Park Village)  Peggy Keller (DOH) | Janet Heisse (CoA)  Sally White (Iona/ SAC)  Deborah Crain-Kemp (OP) |

**Actions:**

* Welcome and introductions
* Meeting notes approved with amendments[[1]](#endnote-1).

**Updates:**

* Update on AF-DC activities

--World Health Organization selected DC to be among 15 jurisdictions to test its new Core Indicators Guide. WHO brought together leaders from 13 of the 15 jurisdictions to compare notes for WHO to compile final updates to the Core Indicators Guide[[2]](#endnote-2).

* Business Initiative

Chair Mario Acosta-Velez reviewed the history of the Business Initiative including the establishment of the process for identifying Age-Friendly DC Businesses and the 2014 pilot during which 11 businesses. The Age-Friendly Business process is administered by the DC Economic Partnership. An effort to identify 100 Age-Friendly Businesses in 2015 is underway; several applications have been received and will be reviewed by initiative committee. DSLBD has joined the initiative; recently urged its 3,000 affiliated businesses to seek the Age-Friendly designation. The DC Age-Friendly Business Initiative will next meet on July 28th 9-10am at the DC Economic Partnership.

* Task Force Committee assignment due September 1 was reviewed. [[3]](#endnote-3)
* Task Force role was reviewed.[[4]](#endnote-4)

**Discussion:**

1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings –Overall aim of this domain: *Outdoor Spaces and Buildings: Accessibility to clean air and availability of safe recreational facilities.*

Presentation: Working with agencies on individual strategies to define proper lead agency.

Questions/comments: Reconsider retaining Park Prescription program beyond children to residents age 50+ in this domain instead of moving it to 8. Community Support and Health Services

1. Transportation – Overall aim of this domain: *Safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation.*

Presentation: DDOT is creating a position, Equity and Inclusion Officer, which will address needs and concerns of 50+ year old residents.[[5]](#endnote-5) WMATA is focused on broader accessibility to bus stops. WMATA also would like to align with DC residents’ desire to be as independent as possible providing METRO use training and by drawing attention to its reduced fare program instead of resorting to or referring DC residents who do not require door-to-door service to DC Access.

Questions/comment: Caution to WMATA, keep in mind opportunities for seating for resting throughout DC can include seating at WMATA bus stops. Reminder to DDOT: prioritize fixing sidewalks over backend data management and tracking of requests.

1. Housing: Overall aim of this domain: *Wide range of housing options for older residents aging in place, and other home modification programs.*

Presentation: Co-chairs and stand-ins met and determined metrics should align with production/affordability, aging in place and awareness of Age-Friendly opportunities.[[6]](#endnote-6)

Questions/comments: AARP and community partners would like to be at meetings; this would strengthen the Housing Task Force committee’s recommendations.

1. Social Participation: Overall aim of this domain: *Access to leisure, cultural activities, and volunteer opportunities for older residents to participate in social engagement with their peers and younger people.*

Presentation: Chairs and co-chairs of domains 4, 5, and 6 met and reorganized strategies, moving any strategy that addressed volunteerism to this domain. A focus of Social Participation is interactions with another person.

Questions/comments: Concern raised that a focus on intergenerational activities was not prominent in the proposed new alignment of strategies.

1. Respect and Social Inclusion: Overall aim of this domain: *Programs to support and promote ethnic and cultural diversity, along with programs to encourage multigenerational interaction and dialogue.*

Presentation: Focus is on creating a campaign with the Office of Human Rights to address ageism and its disproportionate impact on underserved diverse constituencies.

Questions/comments: None.

1. Civic Participation and Employment: Overall aim of this domain: *Promotion of paid work and volunteer activities for older residents and opportunities to engage in formulation of policies relevant to their lives.*

Presentation: This Task Force Committee wants to form sub-groups employment programs and services for DC residents both provided by government and community partners. The strategy for DCHR to develop an internship for 50+ year olds was used as an example. While volunteerism is expected to be moved to domain 4, this domain will continue to focus on civic participation.

Questions/comments: None.

1. Communication and Information: Overall aim of this domain: *Promotion of and access to the use of technology to keep older residents connected to their community and friends and family, both near and far.*

Presentation: Added a new goal – “Provide access to information important to DC residents in a timely manner and via preferred media or medium.”

Questions/Comments: None

1. Community Support and Health Services: Overall aim of this domain: *Access to home care services, clinics, and programs to promote wellness and active aging.*

Presentation: Suggestion to remove parentheticals from the plan as they call out specific programs even though the strategies are much broader. Several strategies have been recommended to be moved to this domain but they have not all been reviewed by the committee. Fully implementing the Nursing Assistive Personnel legislation was highlighted as a strategy that fit better in this domain. There is also a need to develop a new strategy around language access for nursing assistants and home health aides throughout training and testing for certification.

Questions/comments: Invite DOH Director to future Task Force meetings.

1. Emergency Preparedness and Resilience:Overall aim of this domain*: Information, education and training to ensure the safety, wellness and readiness of residents 50+ in emergency situations.*

Presentation: There is a focus on communication and identifying vulnerable residents. Resilience is spread throughout this plan. There are many opportunities to spread awareness through Age-Friendly outreach and community collaboration.

Comments: DC has received global accolades for adding Emergency Preparedness and Resilience as a domain. A DHS representative who attended prior Task Force meetings is bringing a focus on older adult emergency management to the federal level. There is a national call on this topic August 11.

1. Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Fraud:Overall aim of this domain: *Prevention and prosecution of financial exploitation, neglect, and physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of seniors.*

Presentation: This domain has brought together numerous government and community partners, including partners at the federal level. A focus was placed on spreading awareness and education among non-mandated reporters and on legislative fixes needed to expand the scope of the long-term care ombudsman.

Questions/comments: Suggestion that Inspector General’s office should be invited to participate.

Additional comments:

* AARP and other community partners would like to attend task force committee meetings. Publish meeting dates and times.
* Montgomery County is watching what DC is doing and has been very impressed. They are starting their own Age-Friendly meetings and will host a summit this year.
* It was emphasized that agency performance objectives and key performance indicators should align with Age-Friendly DC Strategic Plan strategies and metrics. A meeting observer notes that when Age-Friendly DC volunteers are out in the community, they can point to Age-Friendly related initiatives in agencies’ performance plans to illustrate what is being implemented, underscoring the importance of incorporating strategies into performance plans and tying measures of success to key performance indicators.
* Accolades to CM Bonds for her introduction of The Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults Amendment Act of 2015.

Councilmember Comments:

CM Bonds observed that the city is shifting so changes within and among the strategies are welcome. Legislative needs were highlighted in the meeting and she will continue to participate.

**Next Steps:**

Each domain committee must complete the following by September 1:

* examine, adjust or delete Age-Friendly DC plan goals and strategies,
* confirm or adjust agencies responsible for implementation,
* select metrics to measure domain progress,
* look at WHO core indicators for alignment with domain goals,
* identify barriers/ways to drive implementation forward
* highlight successes
* give thought to dashboard reporting.

Next full Task Force meeting will be Thursday, September 10th, 10-noon, GWU.

**Final Action:** Meeting adjourned at roughly 11:30 am

1. 1) May 7 Task Force notes will show that Mark Stuart Rosenthal, Sharon Carney, Sarah Rosen Wartell, and Laura Zeilinger were present. 2) Note that there was a presentation about livability survey in the May edition of The Beacon Newspaper. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Observations from participating:

   Met in Geneva June 10 & 11

   Importance of trying to tie our metrics to WHO indicators

   Disaggregated data

   Emergency preparedness & resilience came up as key need

   Additional observations from participating:

   Age-Friendly DC is internationally respected for engaging DC residents (particularly homebound), its 2 additional domains and integrating other DC plans and DC government agencies in its implementation strategies

   DC is more government driven than other plans [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Task force domain task force committee leaders have moved ahead with completing the assignment due 9/1/15 to:

   examine, adjust or delete Age-Friendly DC plan goals and strategies,

   confirm or adjust agencies responsible for implementation,

   select metrics to measure domain progress,

   look at WHO core indicators for alignment with domain goals,

   give thought to dashboard reporting. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Age-Friendly Task Force role

   Annually update the strategic plan – advise on adjusting goals and strategies and identify data available or needed to measure output and outcomes.

   Participate and/or lead domain-specific Task Force Committees

   Meet quarterly as a Task Force to share updates from Task Force Committees and deliberate on overall progress towards DC’s age-friendly transformation.

   2017 - Assist with final submission of evidence-based evaluation report to AARP/WHO to receive official Age-Friendly City designation. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Mayor are committed to equity and inclusion by placing the Transportation Equity and Inclusion Officer in the Office of the Director.

   DDOT continues to evaluate a number of pavement solutions, and apply the most appropriate solution to the specific sidewalk repair or improvement. DDOT is looking to see what can be done proactively on sidewalks.

   DDOT continues to respond quickly to reports of missing or out-of-service street lights and traffic signs. DDOT is currently improving response times by focusing on improved customer service.

   The Department of Human Resources will be asked to take the lead on goal 2.2.2, to develop a system of up-to-date information on accessible transportation options.

   Goal 2.1.5: Increase seating options at public transit stops was changed to focus on improving the accessibility of public transit stops. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) will lead on this goal.

   WMATA will lead on the initial development of training curriculum to be incorporated in Goal 2.2.4.

   WMATA will support efforts to streamline fixed route access to seniors. However, with MetroAccess, being the region’s paratransit “safety-net”, eligibility for its service cannot be combine with other efforts. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)