

Vermont Action Plan for Aging Well Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 25, 2022
Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM
Location: Virtually on MS Teams

Members Present (alphabetical): Janis Appel, Ruby Baker, Anna Benvenuto, Mark Boutwell, Lynne Cardozo, Kim Fitzgerald, Eric Fritz, Keith Grier, Mary Hayden, Elaine Haytko, Jake Hemmerick, Deanna Jones, Michele Karel, Ross MacDonald, Dan Noyes, Janet Nunziata, Meg Polyte, Jamie Renner, Symphorien Sikyala, Gregory Smith, Kelly Stoddard Poor.

Planning Team Present: Colleen Bedard, Conor O’Dea, Angela Smith-Dieng, Megan Tierney-Ward, Rhonda Williams.

Presenters Present: Kevin Stapleton, Craig Bolio, Ashlynn Doyon, Michael Pieciak.

MINUTES:

Topic	Notes	Action
Welcome, Introductions and Announcements	Angela announced that Brave Little State’s latest podcast is about older Vermonters, financial security and aging in place: How can older Vermonters ‘age in place’? Vermont Public Radio (vpr.org)	<i>None</i>
<p>Panel Presentation & Discussion: Are Vermonters Aging Well? Looking at the OVA principle of ‘Financial Security’</p> <p>Q&A/Discussion (15-20 min)</p>	<p>Panelists each presented on the topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Stapleton, Vermont Department of Labor, shared information, statistics and charts related to Vermont’s changing demographics and labor force. • Craig Bolio, Vermont Department of Taxes, shared the tax burden, incentives and credits for older Vermonters and some current and proposed initiatives to reduce the tax burden on social security. • Ashlynn Doyon, Vermont Treasurer’s Office, shared information about the numbers of Vermonters whose pension is managed by the Treasurer’s Office as well as efforts to improve retirement security. • Commissioner Michael Pieciak, Department of Financial Regulation, shared regulatory efforts to protect older Vermonters from financial fraud and exploitation, including making broker dealers mandatory reporters, creating ‘trusted contacts’ on financial accounts, enhancing penalties for elder financial exploitation, creation of the victim restitution fund, and improving financial literacy to protect older Vermonters. <p>Q&A/Discussion: Does Vermont tax Veterans disability benefits? No.</p> <p>The topic of healthcare insurance and long-term care insurance came up as two major impacts on older Vermonters’ ability to be financially secure.</p>	<p><i>See presentation slides attached.</i></p> <p><i>Send any follow up questions to Angela.</i></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Medicare does not cover all expenses. Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare Supplemental plans are complicated and confusing. More education is needed to support people in making these choices. • Long-term care insurance is expensive and recently rates increased for many of the 15,000 policy holders in Vermont now. But it does help shield assets and provides choice. A conversation continued about how to help people save for long-term care needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.30 is a bill to create a long-term care trust fund. ○ Could some savings be exempted from taxes to allow for it to be used to pay for long-term care? ○ How can we make long-term care less expensive while also putting more resources into it? ○ Commissioner Pieciak recommended their webpage as a resource: Long-Term Care Insurance Department of Financial Regulation (vermont.gov) 	
<p>EnVision Vermont Survey Next Steps</p>	<p>Kelly Stoddard Poor shared that the survey questions are based on the World Health Organization's 'Age-Friendly' environments and the 8 Domains of Livability. 2,200 people have taken the survey thus far. Please help continue to spread the word about the survey to reach as many Vermonters age 45+ as possible. If you have any questions or receive feedback to pass along, please email Angela at angela.smith-dieng@vermont.gov.</p> <p>NOTE FOLLOWING MEETING: The deadline to take the survey has been extended to May 30th to allow for more outreach to the New American community with surveys translated into the 6 main languages spoken in the Greater Burlington area.</p> <p>Survey results will be analyzed in June/July and shared at the August Advisory Committee meeting if not before.</p>	<p><i>To all committee members: Continue to spread the word through your networks about the survey. Put it in your newsletter, social media, Front Porch Forum, etc. Thank you!</i></p>
<p>Meeting Schedule</p>	<p>Angela shared a proposal from the VAPAW Steering Committee to move to a bi-monthly meeting schedule to allow for more time to cover all topics under the Older Vermonters Act Principles (proposed schedule was attached to agenda/invite). There were no objections to this proposal; the group agreed this made sense to help us accomplish our goals.</p> <p>Next Meeting: Monday, June 27, 2022, 10:00AM – 12:00PM likely hybrid in Waterbury and on Microsoft Teams.</p>	<p><i>Colleen will send calendar invites for meetings through the rest of the year.</i></p>

Questions/edits re: these minutes, please contact angela.smith-dieng@vermont.gov.