

Subcommittee: Ruby Baker, Lynne Cardozo, Jane Catton, Kim Fitzgerald, Marie Zura

1. The language that reflects the actual populations that are most likely to benefit and/or receive the services and interventions listed is vague and occasionally misleading. While the programs might serve any older adult in Vermont, the reality is that the vast majority of program recipients will be low-income or with significant social and emotional needs, including disability, dementia, and/or caregivers. The limitation of the work, based on the OAA funding priorities should be more explicit, outlining the goals of serving those with the highest social and economic needs who are living in their communities.
2. The program activities and partners should be limited to only the work that is accomplished with OAA funding. It is confusing to include some, but not all, of the activities and partnerships of the AAAs that fall outside of OAA funding. Since this plan is specific to the OAA funds received by the state, it should be limited to those programs and interventions that are relevant to the funding stream in question. Additional work undertaken by the AAAs and DAIL that impacts older adults should be reflected in the Master Plan on Aging.
3. In general, the subcommittee feels that engagement of a substantive nature at this point in the process is limited. We would recommend to the State Unit on Aging that the DAIL Advisory Board participate in this process earlier and more consistently. Participation in the Needs Assessment and Priority Areas, as well as reviewing the final draft, would allow for more useful engagement. The DAIL Advisory Board is made up of experts and individuals with one of the broadest understandings of the needs of older adults. As such, the subcommittee feels that the State Unit on Aging and this plan would benefit greatly from engaging this group in robust conversation and engagement early on to gain as much benefit as possible from this collective of knowledge and experience.
4. The subcommittee feels strongly that this plan should be integrated into the Vermont Action Plan for Aging Well (VAPAW-Master Plan on Aging that is currently in development) to better represent and recognize that this work is a segment of a broader body of work around aging services in Vermont. Integration would allow a consumer to see a comprehensive picture of aging services while also separating out specific programs, funding streams, and target populations. This work should be engaged in collaboratively with the VAPAW to reduce duplication, strengthen partnerships, and break down silos

that limit our ability to serve the aging population of Vermont effectively and efficiently.