

Vermont Action Plan for Aging Well Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 24, 2022
Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM
Location: Virtually on MS Teams

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

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

MINUTES:

Topic	Notes	Action
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Welcome new member: Deanna Jones, Director of the Thompson Senior Center and chair of the Vermont Association of Senior Centers and Meal Providers.</p> <p>Angela shared that the planning team has invited AARP, COVE and V4A to join us as a steering committee so we have additional and outside input when developing agendas and planning next steps. Thank you to Kelly Stoddard Poor, Ruby Baker and Mary Hayden!</p> <p>Conor provided a reminder of the purpose of the committee and member roles.</p>	
Presentation & Discussion: Are Vermonters Aging Well? Looking at health data from the Vermont Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)	<p>Kate Emmons, BRFSS Coordinator at the Department of Health, gave a presentation of data related to older Vermonters and overall health, with a focus on health equity and cognitive health.</p> <p>Q&A/Discussion followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that it would be helpful to break down the 65+ age category into 10-year cohorts, because aging and health can look quite different from 65 to 100. Or VDH could explore doing an older adult version of the survey in the way it is done for youth. • Clarity: People who live in congregate care/long-term care facilities are not included in BRFSS; people who live in congregate senior housing where they have independent apartments and their own phone numbers are included. • Other sources of data VDH can look at: vital statistics, hospital data, EMS data, health insurance survey, etc. 	<p><i>See presentation slides attached.</i></p>

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<p>Discussion of Next Steps Towards the Needs Assessment:</p>	<p>Looking at data for each OVA Principle: The group agreed to review data and information related to ‘financial security’ at the next meeting. Ruby asked if financial exploitation might fit at the same time and offered COVE as a resource.</p> <p>Conducting the AARP Age-Friendly State Survey: The planning team proposed the use of the AARP age-friendly survey as a first step in the assessment of needs/strengths of our communities. Kelly gave more information about the survey. There was discussion of what age cohort to target; most states have targeted people age 45+. The goal is to conduct the survey in the spring and have data by summer. We will need the Advisory Committee to help with outreach in order to reach a wide audience.</p> <p>Planning for Listening Sessions/Focus Groups: Following the broad survey, the planning team proposed a deeper dive into needs/strengths through listening sessions and focus groups that could hopefully take place in person across Vermont. We are still working on seeking resources (staffing/contractor) to facilitate this work.</p> <p>Master Plan on Aging State Collaborative: States have been invited to participate in a multi-state learning collaborative with other states also working on a Master Plan on Aging. This could be a good opportunity to strengthen our work by gaining insight from those at different stages of plan development and implementation. The group agreed that Vermont would submit a Letter of Intent; the planning team will keep the group informed as this application process moves forward.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek speakers for 4/25 meeting to focus on financial security. 2. Steering committee to meet and identify next steps to conduct the AARP survey then follow up with the Advisory Committee for outreach. 3. DAIL and VDH to work on building resources (staffing/contractor) for the needs assessment. 4. DAIL to submit the LOI for the MPA collaborative.
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Next Meeting: April 25, 2022, 10:00AM – 12:00PM likely virtual.</p> <p>Reminder, you can find minutes/materials from meetings here: Vermont Action Plan for Aging Well Advisory Committee Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living</p>	<p>Colleen will send a calendar invite for the next meeting in April.</p>