

# Older Vermonters Act Working Group Minutes

**Date:** November 2, 2018  
**Time:** 10:00am – 12:30pm  
**Location:** Cherry B Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex

**DAIL Staff:**  Hutt, Monica  George, Camille  Smith-Dieng, Angela  Tierney-Ward, Megan  Bedard, Colleen  Stuart Schurr  
 Bard Hill

**Members:**

Arel, Julie  Clar, Janna  Coutts, Jim  Dugan, Molly  Elmer, Pat  Gundel, Walter  
 Hope, Lindsay  Howe, Toby  Hunt, Janet  LaMantia, Michael  Londergan, Sean  Milkey, Gini  Olson, Jill  Redpath, Sally   
 Renfrew, Virginia  Renner, Jamie  Zura, Marie

**In Consultation With:**  Baker, Ruby  Benvenuto, Michael  Bishop, Betsy  Burns, Dillon  Donovan, Barbara  Haytko, Elaine (phone)   
 MacDonald, Ross  Marchildon, Greg  Stoddard Poor, Kelly (phone)

**Invited Guests:**  Noyes, Dan  Wood, Theresa  Michael Moser

**Members of the Public:**  Bradshaw, Timothy  Schilling, Falko  Cohen, Emily  Branagan, Mary

Topic	Discussion	Actions
Welcome and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Getting to know you/what brings you here</li> <li>Reminders around purpose/goals of group</li> </ul>	The group spent a few minutes introducing themselves and sharing about their interest in serving on this working group. Camille George reviewed the overall purpose of the working group: to develop recommendations for an Older Vermonters Act that aligns with the federal Older Americans Act, the VT State Plan on Aging and the Choices for Care Program. The working group’s recommendations are due to the legislature by 12/1/19.	
Action items from last meeting	Angela described the FY 18 OAA Funding for Vermont handout. It was recommended that a survey of non-profit funding that communities receive through fundraising efforts to support older	

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Vermonters be conducted. Camille recommends this topic for a subcommittee to discuss, and if not doable as part of this group, possibly consider this as a final recommendation.

It was noted that transportation comes up in every discussion and was suggested that the working group look at it closely. Many agreed.

Data Landscape for older Vermonters – presentation and discussion

- Review of data primer, demographic one-pager, data catalogue
- Q&A/Discussion

Angela Smith-Dieng and Michael Moser from the Vermont State Data Center at the UVM Center for Rural Studies described the VT population data handout and data primer. Michael offered his services at the VT State Data Center as a resource to the subcommittees.

The working group expressed a lot of interest in data sets, including: Race/ethnicity, disability, housing, % of eligible people in the state, geographical heat map of age distribution across state, economic security of older Vermonters and being able to see data trends and in 5-year increments.

Recommend subcommittees identify the data needed to make recommendations, refrain from asking for data for personal interest. Recommend one person on each subcommittee have access to the created data catalogue then communicate to committee what is needed. Recommend first identifying what we want to achieve and then what we want to know, then what data we want.

Formation of Small Groups to focus on Act 172 Topic Areas. Members volunteer to join a small group:

1. Roles & responsibilities of State Unit on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging
2. Description of comprehensive system of services and support
3. Choices for Care
4. Employment and Community Engagement

Camille presented a proposal for the working group about how to go about the business of developing recommendations for a future Older Vermonters Act. The proposal involved breaking into 4 smaller working groups that line up with the recommendations that must be made. The smaller groups would focus on: Roles & Responsibilities of State Unit on Aging (SUA) & Area Agencies on Aging (AAA); Choices for Care (CFC); Comprehensive System of Support; and, Employment and Community Engagement. Then, at future meetings, each small group would take a turn presenting their recommendations to the full working group for review/modification/approval.

Representative Wood clarified that the working group should be focusing on, “what is our desired state we want for older Vermonters, and what will it take to get there?” She explained that the legislature is less interested in what the landscape looks like today, but rather

After much discussion, it was agreed that the working group will create 3 subgroups that will meet between now and January. Taking into consideration Hope’s perspective shared in the meeting (in these notes), the overarching OAA principles, and the DAIL principles (both posted on website), the groups will each develop overarching questions to use as a standard framework for creating topic-specific recommendations for an Older Vermonters Act.

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Understanding of the charge of small groups and commitment involved

where do we want to be and what language will be relevant 10 to 20 years in the future.

Develop timeline of meetings to focus on each of the above small group topic areas

It was then suggested that the working group instead break into 3 groups now and save the 'roles and responsibilities of the SUA and AAA' for the last topic. Groups could respond to key questions: What's working? What's not? It was suggested the 3 groups meet between now and the next meeting in January. Another suggestion was to rename the 'Choices for Care' group to 'Health and Wellness.' However, while we can and should look more broadly, the legislation does require recommendations for an Older Vermonters Act that will align with Choices for Care; it could perhaps be renamed 'Long-term Services and Supports,' which encompasses Choices for Care.

Hope Lindsay shared her thoughts from her perspective as an older Vermonter and participant of services about what is important to her:

- 1) Basic Needs: food, housing and health;
- 2) Financial security (Social Security, Medicare, savings and retirement);
- 3) Quality of Life: Access to areas of interest; being able to volunteer; transportation to these opportunities; access to meeting others and socializing with those who share similar interests.

Those present at the meeting signed up for one of the 3 sub groups and the following people volunteered to serve as leads:

1. Choices for Care: Janet Hunt
2. Employment and Community Engagement: Pat Elmer
3. Comprehensive System of Services & Supports: Janna Clar

Subgroup leads will schedule meetings and post-meeting will then send the recommended framework questions the groups developed to Camille George and Angela Smith-Dieng by Friday December 14<sup>th</sup>. The DAIL team will then recommend a consolidated framework for working group review at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Next Steps

Next Meeting: January 4, 2019

Small groups will meet and send framework questions to Camille and Angela by 12/14.

## Meeting Schedule:

January 4, 2019

March 1, 2019

May 3, 2019

July 12, 2019

September 6, 2019