

Vermont Action Plan for Aging Well Advisory Committee

Member Roles and Responsibilities

Advisory Committee Purpose: Vermont passed the Older Vermonters Act ([Act 156](#)) in early October 2020. Section 3 of the Act, called on Vermont to develop an Action Plan for Aging Well and states that the purpose of the plan is to “*provide strategies and cultivate partnerships for implementation across sectors to promote aging with health, choice, and dignity in order to establish and maintain an age-friendly State for all Vermonters.*”

Committee Membership: Act 156 directs that the membership in the Vermont Action Plan for Aging Well (VAPAW) Advisory Committee represent a wide range of stakeholders from across the state and may appear similar to those identified for participating in the Older Vermonters Act Working Group (Act 172). In addition, Vermonters with lived experience, including older Vermonters, older veterans, Vermonters with disabilities, and family caregivers should be members of the Advisory Committee. The committee should also include, at minimum, a representative from the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of Color) community and/or a person from the New American community.

Your role as a member is to:

- Participate in discussions and contribute to the development of the recommendations for inclusion in the Action Plan for Aging Well.
- Attend meetings and arrive on time.
- Ask questions if you need more information or don't understand something that is being discussed.
- Serve on subcommittees, if created, based on interest and expertise.
- Act as the voice for the area or entity you represent on the advisory committee beyond your personal opinions or thoughts.
- Contribute respectfully and thoughtfully, recognizing differences of opinion, communication style and perspective.

If you have recommendations for meetings to successfully accommodate learning and communication styles, please contact Angela Smith-Dieng (angela.smith-dieng@vermont.gov) or Rhonda Williams (rhonda.williams@vermont.gov).

If you are unable to attend a meeting, please call or e-mail Colleen Bedard at 802-241-0294 or colleen.bedard@vermont.gov.