

Meeting of the Senior Sub-Cabinet on Civic Engagement
January 30, 2014

Attending: Emily Rosenberg, HHS; Carol Croll, JCA, Pazit Aviv, HHS, Sue Dollins, The Senior Connection; Bruce Adams, OCP, Reemberto Rodriguez, Silver Spring Regional Services; Charles Kauffman, Commission on Aging, Kathleen Meaney Stobie, OCP Volunteer Center, Anna Stokes, OASIS, Austin Heyman, OCP

We reviewed the recent discussions in County and with the OMB on developing indicators for the County's work in civic engagement of seniors (see attached list distributed at the meeting). We would like to augment this list with additional indicators from other programs, including possibly data from MCPS. The Workgroup also recommended collecting process data to determine whether the program achieved its objectives for the participants (e.g., for intergenerational programs that they benefit both the younger and older participants or for an organization like Senior Connection's transportation program that both the volunteer who drives and the senior served benefit from the program.)

In addition to providing growth in numerical numbers, it was proposed that we site national studies and evaluations which affirm the benefit of the engagement (e.g., Johns Hopkins has shown the benefits of intergenerational programs with its evaluation of the Experience Corps in Baltimore). Members of the workgroup were asked to identify other national, state or local studies which might be relevant to our specific populations and civic engagement programs and work to draw conclusions for our own purposes.

A draft list of accomplishments to date was distributed and members were invited to add to this list. At a recent meeting of the Sub-Cabinet, it was stated that the work of the sub-groups should be related to the Senior Agenda. In examining the Senior Agenda there is limited specific reference to civic engagement both as a resource for the community and as a benefit to the residents who become engaged.

Members in attendance provided some updates on their work. The new County Village Coordinator indicated some of the parameters of her work during this first year in assisting newly forming villages.

Patricia Reid from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging Network Collaborative described the initiative referred to as "Power Up" and how through their workshops and webinars they plan to assist in recruiting and utilizing senior volunteers.

County Stat has indicated it plans to meet with each of the workgroups to determine next steps forward.