



Greater Richmond Age Wave **GeroTrifecta Work Group**

September 5, 2014 @ 2:00pm – 3:30pm

AARP, 707 E. Main Street, Suite 910, Richmond, VA 23219

INTRODUCTION

Senior Connection, The Capital Area Agency on Aging and Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Gerontology are joint managing partners the Greater Richmond Regional Plan for Age Wave Readiness which is a regional coalition comprised of hundreds of stakeholders from various sectors of government, nonprofit, academic, business, and philanthropic community. The GeroTrifecta Work Group represents a new phase of implementation of the Age Wave Readiness Plan through project-based deliverables, building on national best practices and successful community partnership and regional assets.

GeroTrifecta Work Group

Facilitator: James L. Brooks, AARP Virginia Associate Director

Notes: Brynne Halsey

Objective: *The GeroTrifecta is a university and community partnership which will utilize students and alumni to perform community canvassing (via walkability audits), conduct pre-emptive interventions in care and engagement and build on existing initiatives. This Work Group will create a grassroots advocacy network comprised of students, seniors and local community leaders that canvass communities.*

UPDATES

- On Monday, September 8th, all nine statewide AgeWave planning organizations will be meeting. A report from this meeting will be shared with the work groups.
- Active Aging Week will be held from September 22nd to September 27th.
- Chesterfield and Hanover counties, New Kent and Charles City are interested in our initiative. Our leadership will be meeting with the Hanover Board of Supervisors.
- The Greater Richmond Age Wave Initiative is developing a new, public website which will host meeting information, notes and other indicators of progress.
- VCU Department of Gerontology is assisting Gerotrifecta in planning a hands-on volunteerism project on Martin Luther King day in January of 2015. This coordinates with similar community canvassing initiatives, and will be part of the fall semester VCU course on Age Wave, previously co taught this summer by Sara Link and Jay White.
 - Students enrolled in this course created a new instrument and conducted community canvassing. Their findings were presented at a public event at VCU. Sara and Jay are planning on offering this service learning, multi-level course either every year or every other year as the university permits.

GEROCOMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

- This assessment was developed by VCU Community Organizing students.
- The assessment has both quantitative and qualitative components.
 - Qualitative data allows for more information unique to each community.



- It features a simple approach to scoring, with a 1-3 scale, as well as requests for pictures and video to support detailed assessment.
- The assessment is meant to be done as a group, leading to improved interrater reliability.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GEROCOMMUNITY ASSESSMENT CHANGES

- Everything must be very clearly defined in the assessment tool.
- The work group will need to add in rationale for why the 1-3 scale is used or we must modify the scale.
- Rural vs. Urban concerns: distance during assessments.
 - Student canvassers had difficulty assessing spread-out communities.
 - The work group is considering getting access to political canvassing maps to help plan routes.
 - Canvassers must be aware of restricted covenants in communities (Ex. no solicitation, no canvassing in private communities).
- Our goal is to receive invitations from communities who are interested in the initiative.
- Want to have one or two successes to develop a positive momentum and encourage communities to request to participate.
- The assessment should be engagement focused.
 - More qualitative information would give a better picture of the community.
 - The work group is considering developing a qualitative statement as a wrap-up to accompany the assessment.
- The work group hopes to foster more contact with people in the community and have more people in each assessment group.
- The work group is considering having multiple teams canvassing the same place, then reconvening to discuss and report.
- Need input from people of different age groups, including elders.
 - Concern about age affecting senior perspectives due to the wide range of "senior" ages (ex. 55 to 100+).
 - Must be defined and incorporated into the pre-canvassing orientation session.
 - Have background information on the trifecta (canvassing group) to determine their lens of observation.
- Need a "sweet spot": an avatar and/or life scenario to use as a benchmark for team observations.
 - Create a "lens" for the community and what teams should be looking for and/clearly assessing.
 - Use a set of circumstances (versus age) for objective assessment purposes.
- The assessment is meant to be conducted through a lens of mobility, ability level, and other individual circumstances.
- The focus of the assessment needs to be on a lifespan and universal design perspective.
- Consideration for the differently abled: recognition of mobility impairments.



- Consider asking Elderly Disabled Advisory Council members to work on this with us to train our canvassers.
- Consider employing foldable wheelchairs/ Baby Strollers and/or Rollators to test potential problem areas.
- This is an opportunity to educate people about the benefits of universal design in communities

TAKEAWAY POINTS

- The assessment provides a good foundation to start with, but needs refinement.
- Need to determine and standardize exactly what lens we want people to use in their assessment.
- Need to develop pre-assessment orientation.
 - The work group needs to build a conditioned scenario or life situation.
 - Explain the scenario, teach what it's like to experience them, then incorporate that scenario into the lens through which canvassers view the community.
- Scoring the Assessment:
 - Combination of both scores and insight during post-assessment discussion.
 - Correlate data once complete.
- The work group is considering using a modified, smaller assessment tool for the planned Martin Luther King Day community volunteerism event.

SOME NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Get assessment together, make necessary changes.
 - Community voices incorporated into the qualitative piece.
 - Need to create a plan for the pre-assessment orientation.
 - Consider social isolation and how to assess it in communities.
- ✓ Keep moving ahead with Woodlake, Chesterfield county and other interested localities.
 - Chesterfield County public input forum
 - We will consider presenting the initiative formally to their leadership.
 - Have teams focusing on Woodlake, Union Hill and Willow Lawn.
 - Where and how will we formally introduce this to the community at large?
 - Consider allowing the community to review the assessment and information about the initiative.

RELATED UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ The next Gerotrifecta Work Group meeting will be held at **AARP, Thursday, October 9 at 3:30 pm**



ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization Affiliation
James Brooks	AARP
Harvey Chambers	Seniors Helping Seniors
Carolyn Comerford	Senior Connections
Sheryl Finucane	VCU School of Allied Health Professions
Brynne Halsey	Virginia Tech Student
Mary Catharine Kolbert	St. Mary's Hospital, Bon Secours Health System
Sara Link	Greater Richmond Age Wave Initiative
Amy Marschean	Office of the Attorney General
Sara Morris	Greater Richmond Age Wave Initiative
Andrew Terry	RVA Rapid Transit
Ivan Tolbert	Senior Connections
Jay White	VCU Department of Gerontology