

**Aging Readiness Task Force
Meeting #3 – October 21, 2010
Clark County Public Service Center
Hearing Room #680
2:00 – 4:00 P.M.**

Member Attendees: Erica Dahmen, Jesse Dunn, Dexter Garey, Gail Haskett, Roger Jarvis, Erica Kelley, Colleen Kuhn, Todd Martin, Kathy McLaughlin, Lisa Rasmussen, Marti Sanders, Erik Schott, Mike Teefy, C.T. Thurston, Kiersten Ware, Jim Wilson, Karin Woll

Members Absent: Cory Bolkan, Steve Goff, Bob Holdridge, Ed Rankin, Jada Rupley, Bud Van Cleve, Robert Watkins, Jan Wyninger

Guests: Lynda David (RTC), Vanessa Gaston (Community Services), David Kelly (SWAAD), Klaus Micheel (SWAAD), Roserria Roberts (United Way)

Staff: Marc Boldt, Bill Barron, Oliver Orjiako, Colete Anderson, Jacqui Kamp, Pete Capell, Mary Beth O'Donnell

Jesse Dunn called the meeting to order. A new member, Kiersten Ware, has been appointed to the Task Force during the past week. Commissioner Boldt asked that she introduce herself to the group. Kiersten's background is a Gerontologist and she worked on a regional plan for age wave planning in Richmond, VA. She has 20 years in non-profit experience combined with research and community-based programs to help elders remain living and aging in place in community.

Jesse asked for corrections or comments on the minutes from the June 17th meeting. Hearing none, he motioned to approve, the motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Colete opened discussion with a summary report of the event held on September 16. The questions and answers were transcribed from the easel pad notes taken at the workshop. The question before this committee is twofold. One, how did you feel the workshop went, were we getting the responses we needed from the community? If so, or if not, should we make changes for the next workshop? Secondly, what does the task force think is the most important "take away" from the workshop?

Commissioner Boldt complimented the table captains. In spite of the acoustics, he was impressed with the incredible amount of information on the topic and the event format. Many people thanked him for being invited. It is a regional/county plan that the other cities can use.

Comments from the task force:

- The acoustics in the facility were poor, made it difficult to comprehend all the information. Improve those for next time. (The location will be moved to different facility for the next four workshops and it has A/V equipment.)
- Not enough time to answer all the questions. Questions too complex. (The number of questions will be reduced to three at the next workshop.)
- Have different questions at the various tables to avoid duplication of answers.

- Anticipate a great deal of work to implement ideas as this impacts zoning laws and affects builders, planners, agencies, etc.
- Housing is difficult issue to address. While great ideas were shared, we lack the perspective of the private sector. (Staff is reaching out to the Clark County Realtor Association and the Building Industry of America.)
- What's envisioned for this task force is to "set the table" for the community. We've gathered bright minds from various walks of life who know about these topics and we're adding information, intelligence and attitude to these issues. It'll be up to the community to do the implementing as modeled by the Arlington County, VA Elder Readiness Plan.
- The community is very pleased with what we're doing in terms of recognizing that we have work to do. As a senior, very proud to be living in Clark County.
- There is awareness now in the community after the first workshop and others will be drawn in to the next workshop on transportation and support the work we're doing as we move forward.
- Concern of how to extrapolate all the information into a recommendation to the commissioners because responses are so broad. We haven't hit the hot topics yet (transportation, health care). When we get to those we might be chasing our tail.
- Form subcommittees with narrower scope than task force where the real subject work will get done. Rely on expertise of subject matter from experts to help prioritize what should be presented to this group and then formulate the recommendation to the commissioners. What's the 20% that's going to drive the 80% results in terms of what impacts our community?

It is apparent that work needs to go on outside of workshops and meetings. To make meaningful recommendations we need to drill down. Those with particular interest and expertise can help best shape what the entire task force should focus on. One approach is to organize into subcommittees.

A sheet was distributed to the task force listing the subcommittees. They were asked to choose their top three according to their level of interest. Staff will compile the results and send out the committee lists sometime next week. The first subcommittee will be Housing. They'll be developing that portion of the plan which the task force will review at a later meeting. The meetings will take place here at the county building and the committee will be advised of the time and exact location. The goal is to have the subcommittee on each of the topics meet after that workshop has concluded and the task force has reviewed the summary notes. We would like to see the work of one subcommittee completed before the next subcommittee begins their meetings. We're looking at 3-4 meetings. The staff will do the text writing and research gathering, etc. Each subcommittee will elect a chair, use similar rules and formats, and develop that part of the plan. They will come back to this group and give a committee report. For Housing it would be at the April meeting. It is possible to be on more than one committee. It will be up to the subcommittee to invite people in to their meetings for expert advice. The subcommittee can meet more frequently if they choose to and set their own rules.

CT asked if the subcommittees should take cost into consideration when planning.

Bill Barron, one of the things that will be part of the process is the Comprehensive Plan.

Marti, would that apply to code changes too?

Bill, rewriting our development codes which is a 1-1/2 year long process.

Oliver, working with development services, an on-going work effort –

Moving on to the Transportation workshop. Notice the change in location to the Red Cross building. It seats 100, large round tables of 10, has A/V equipment. We can change venues again if this doesn't work. The workshop date is November 18 and you will receive a flyer. A press release will go out tomorrow and an advertisement will be in the November Senior Messenger. The focus is based on what the speakers are presenting. Mike Teefy asked if it's possible that keynote speakers would be available to talk with. Dave said the agenda calls for all tables to discuss all the questions. Pete Capell said he will be there representing Clark County Transportation.

Confusion about question number 3, two parts but about the same thing. Pete, transportation differs greatly for rural areas and urban.

Lisa asked what to do if people start talking about the bridge and light rail - huge impact for seniors and people going to Oregon to work. Pete says his sense is that both he and Jeff have enough expertise to speak to that.

Colleen, clarify back to Jesse's reference to question #3, how are they different? (sorry, no notes here on an answer)

Mike Teefy, physical barrier and service barrier – Pete, both are obstacles as they get in people's way of being able to move from place to place. Seniors like countdown crosswalks.

David, second question in #3, what are the creative alternatives that can be used, alternatives to cars, other motor vehicles?

CT, also consider not alleviating transportation, make it less necessary i.e. groceries delivered to home, medical services via computer, house calls and virtual doctors. Transportation needs would be diminished, eliminate some requirements for transportation.

Question #1 trying to get at, look at community, how close is the medical facility to surrounding neighborhood, barriers may not be physical barriers. Live where you can walk to grocery store or small medical campus.

Erica, wondering if presenters will be showing us options.

Colleen can provide information from the DOT conference regarding livable community in Seattle.

Erika D, in her profession she has data on where the next hospital is needed, forecast population expansion. Oliver said send it our way, we can use that.

Kiersten added, frame this for the livable community. It would be helpful to have survey designed for livable communities for what our needs are here in the area before we go into the workshop. Distribute survey to this group and forum on aging

in the county. Reply: we did one on housing which you all took, we can do another one for this, send ideas, e-mail a link.

Roger spent some time recently in and around Battle Ground and rural area– it's difficult to come up with a solution to address that. Does question #3 drive some feedback on that?

How to address public safety? Can get into trouble abiding by the law (i.e. minding the speed limit, sometimes you're passed by speeders). Pete said many of the standards of today won't apply to the future.

David said the meetings we're having could be like quasi surveys – comments from workshops could be considered surveys themselves. Concepts here have been well thought out. Subcommittees may be able to capture more information as they glean it down.

Oliver said we wrestled with this – question #1, can modify that to get the quality of life, what is it in the realm of mobility that will enable your quality of life, narrow it down to focus on what it is you need for transportation that will improve your quality of life.

Mike, make provisions for handicap parking as our aging population grows. Do we envision retailers having to have 80 spots instead of 30 that is required now? Port Angeles used as example of an aging town.

David, a lot of sharing, hope to share with this group about anything that comes up along these lines.

Erika, study in county showing emergency response times, great data out there just don't have it with me.

Karin there are tons of problems out there and we can go on forever. Each one of us regardless of age or economic status has to be responsible for ourselves. Seniors taking responsibility for themselves, compromises that need to be made

Lisa has copy of C Tran 20-30 year plan, how many people are accessing rides now and last year – a 20% increase in need for transportation

At what point in time do they say we need to build another hospital in this area? What do the numbers have to hit for that to happen? Build another hospital in Battle Ground in 20 years. Bill, each state governs when hospitals will be built. Lisa, is that the same for mental health? Don't think so. Good questions for our health care workshop.

Are we comfortable that we have a good format for our workshop?

Erik like to add question he gets all the time, are my mom and dad safe behind the wheel? Include a question on here about how to address that, who are the experts involved that can answer that. Pete agreed it needs to be incorporated in the question.

Discussion about who the keynote speaker will be – asked Alan at PSU for recommendation. Jesse mentions Bob Watkins who was chief transportation manager

in California with a background in livable communities. Roger asked if WSU has anyone to offer. Pete will talk to a few people he knows to see if he can find someone.

Marti asked if there's a way to reach out to people who can't make it to the workshop that are struggling with this issue of transportation.

Roger, appreciate support staff, really doing a good job. At conclusion of last workshop he read the paper and didn't see any mention of it. Is there a way to invite journalists to the next one to get some coverage on it? Think its valuable tool and we're missing the boat if we don't use that. Reply: we don't dictate what local media writes about, need to frame it as a story to get coverage, agree it's worthy of coverage and community needs to be aware, need to work with contacts. Roger made contact with the Reflector, they will write something. The Columbian has cut staff, we have a reporter for county news, Bill will contact them. The Senior Messenger, Colleen will work through them.

Karin, occurs to me people in assisted living who can no longer drive could provide valuable information, can the Senior Messenger do a survey, maybe ask assisted living places to do survey of people about what the obstacles were when they were still driving and living in their homes, get to that population could be valuable information. Assisted living staff has meetings monthly, activity director someone they'd really like to speak to, not time to get feedback for this month, but maybe in the next month.

Erika said there are people in her facility that helped shape the county. Kiersten wondered if area agency on aging already does this as part of their planning efforts. David said every four years there's a regional effort for planning on specific issues, not data driven, mostly preferences. Richmond area synchronized with regional plan to save duplication of efforts.

Public comment: Rosseria Roberts, wants to hear about what's going on in the county. She is program officer with Columbia Willamette United Way, she has a couple of names for us, will get back to us. Colleen met with United Way, they are looking to have more of a presence in the county.

Colete, you have your homework. The Health community stakeholder meeting will be in November so we can review the questions at our December taskforce meeting. The workshop is scheduled for January.

Thanks to everyone, meeting adjourned 3:48pm.