

Senior Services | Aging in Place Task Force
Community and Health Support Services Working Group
May 25, 2022, 6:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Danielle Lupcke, Matthew Day, Sue Schuldies, Katie Wendel, Bob Larkins, Kim Moon, Teresa Bitti, Rebecca Cheezum

Minutes were accepted with one change: where they refer to “Detroit Area on Aging” this should be “Area Agency on Aging 1B.”

We reviewed our envision statements.

There were no public comments.

The group discussed and finalized the **goals and recommendations**. The following are our group’s recommendations:

1. Develop a large comprehensive community center with significant programming for seniors (e.g., pools, accessible exercise classes, meal programs) with access to physical activity (OPC and Troy Community Centers can be models) and outdoor spaces. This center can also serve other age groups for multi-generational interaction, but a commitment must be made to offer services to seniors and to ensure it is accessible. **5 years**
2. Create and maintain a centralized bank of resources available to seniors. This should be available as a hard copy and in an online, electronic format. Have a person designated to help connect older adults to resources. Partnerships with local universities may help (e.g., student interns to help create/maintain the database) This person can have a rotating location, including the library, senior center, Salter Center, Royal Oak Manor, Barton Towers, etc. This person would also be responsible to monitor resident success and satisfaction with these services to identify barriers and gaps over time. **1 year**
3. Develop partnerships with Royal Oak Schools, local universities, youth programs, churches to develop a workforce of young people to help provide volunteer (or paid labor) for ROSES to provide minor home maintenance, lawn care, snow shoveling. This can also provide an opportunity for cross-generation interactions in the city. **Start immediately**
4. Ensure accessibility downtown by building more on-street handicap parking spaces, ensuring accessible downtown infrastructure, and accessibility in the parking garages, such as more designated handicap spots, making sure the buttons to open doors in the parking garages work. **2 years** Make sure there is adequate signage in parking garages to direct people to HFHS and other landmarks. **1 year**
5. Hold an ongoing series of lunch-and-learns in partnership with relevant organizations. These can be held at the senior center, HFHS, and/or the library. They can be in collaboration with other organizations that provide services to seniors, including PACE, Dementia Friends, SAFE, HFHS, Beaumont. **Start within 6 months**

6. Bring resources available regionally closer to Royal Oak residents, as examples :
 - a. Create system for Royal Oak Farmers Market (and stores, if possible) to accept Double-Bucks (public assistance dollars have double value for fruits and vegetables) or Project Fresh vouchers. **Initiate application within 1 year**
 - b. Dementia Friends provide training to first responders and others who interact with the public in Royal Oak **Within months**
 - c. Reinstate meal program at senior center (partnership with local community colleges, trade schools, universities may help with this) **1 year**
7. Initiate cross-sector collaborations to enhance access to physical activity and other resources, such as partnering with the YMCA to give seniors access to pools, exercise class, Silver Sneakers program. **Initiate collaborations within 1 year.**
8. Propose a senior services millage to fund more comprehensive senior services to fund: **3 years**
 1. Comprehensive senior center
 2. Staffing for maintaining resource database (Senior Support Coordinator)
 3. In-home services
 4. More transportation for seniors
 5. Meals

Wrap up: Becca thanked the members for participating in this working group and giving their time. It is appreciated and can make a difference in the city.

Meeting adjourned