



## **Older Adult Work Group: Supporting our Seniors**

**January 22, 2020**

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

**Cancer Care WNY 3085 Harlem Rd Buffalo, NY 14225**

**9:00 am Welcome & Introductions**

**9:15 am Summary/Updates November Meeting**

**9:20 am Review Goals & Initiatives (attached p. 5)**

Where do we already have momentum/work being done?

Where do we need more information to begin?

**9:40 am Prioritization – Short, Medium, Long Term Planning**

**9:50 am Next Steps**

Work group schedule through 2020 – Day of week/Time of day

Length of meetings

Subcommittee sign-up

Subcommittee work done in work group meetings?

**9:58 am Future Meetings**

**LIVE WELL ERIE TASK FORCE**

February 7, 2020 (9:00am – 10:30am)

Erie County Fire Training Academy

3359 Broadway, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

## **Meeting Notes 1/22/2020**

Cancer Care WNY gave introduction to host location and brief history of the organization to begin the meeting.

The group shared introductions around the room. (23 people in attendance)

Most of the meeting was spent in an interactive brainstorming session to determine initial questions, existing efforts/resources, and partners for the various goals of the Older Adult Work Group.

Notes from the brainstorm are summarized starting on p.3

Photos from the brainstorm included

The group decided that it would be beneficial to prioritize working on strategies that have current implications. These priorities are highlighted in the brainstorming notes.

Future meetings will have work group members select subcommittees related to the priority areas.

Future meeting length will be extended to an hour and a half so that subcommittees may meet and work during the monthly workgroup time. Reporting to the full work group will be done at the conclusion of each monthly meeting.

Some work or communication may be needed between meetings as needed.

The schedule of future meetings will be circulated to the work group. Work group members will sign-up for hosting the meetings at various locations. This evens out travel needs and gives exposure to partner organizations.

# BRAINSTORMING

## Goal 1: Older Adults will be able to maintain an active and stimulating social life as they age.

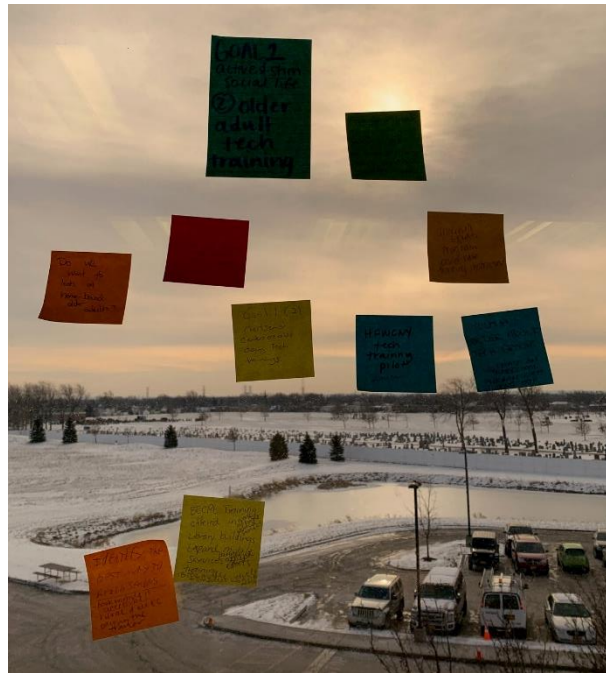
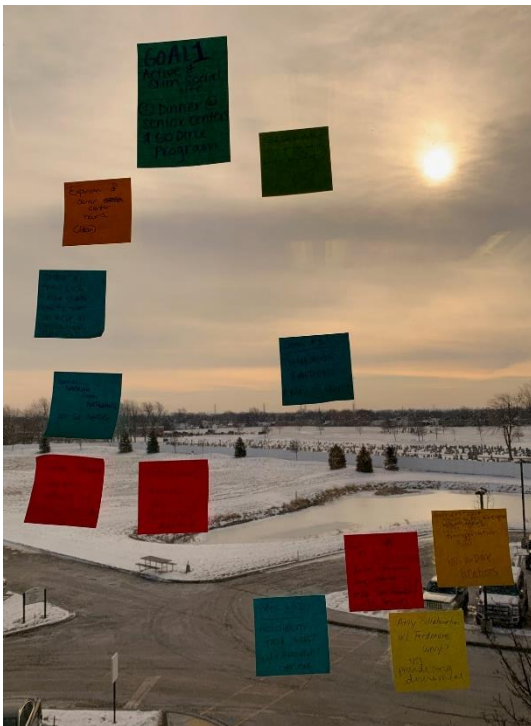
### 1. Offer dinner at Senior Centers / Go Dine program

- Erie County Senior Services would like to continue to add Go-n-Dine locations – initial discussions have begun\*\*
  - There are barriers – cost; hours that the sites are open; volunteers; transportation, etc.
  - More dinner, lunch, and breakfast options
  - Older adults should be able to choose WHEN and WHERE they want to go and at what time of day
  - Expansion in East Aurora and Amherst in the works
- Some senior centers already offer dinner events and/or breakfast
  - Could senior centers expand hours/meal options?
  - Could there be special catering from restaurants at senior centers?
- What are the current collaborations with Feed More WNY?
  - Yes, providing congregate dining meals
  - Are there other opportunities?
- There are free community gardens throughout Erie County (and Niagara) (GGWNY)
  - GGWNY has an accessibility task force interested in making gardening more inclusive for older adults and people with disabilities
  - There could be a traveling garden group (see also 1.2 tech training for group connections)

### 2. Offer older adult technology training through Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

- Some senior centers offer technology training classes or assistance with phones, computers, tablets and get help from high school students – INTERGENERATIONAL!
  - Are they all intergenerational? Who are the instructors?
- University Express (Erie County) program could have training instructors
- We need to identify the best way to reach seniors for this
- BECPL (Library) training offered in library buildings
  - Library wants to expand mobile services for training (potentially partner with other efforts like senior centers, senior housing, meals on wheels, etc.)

- Expansion of the book mobile model
- Increase tech training options for home bound seniors
- Consider colleges like ECC to see if they offer tech training courses
  - Also potential to partner with colleges for student opportunities to volunteer or get service or class credits
- A group from Cohort 8 Health Fellows is conducting an intergenerational tech training program for older adults in partnership with People Inc
  - Completed one senior housing location (Amherst), currently at another senior housing location (Lackawanna), future senior center partnership in Akron
- Youth and older adult tech groups through after school programs
- How do we reach rural communities and all of Erie County
- How do we create sustainable and funded programs that occur on an ongoing basis?
- Could we incorporate strategy 3.3 and have web-based Medicare/Medicaid training?
- Each town/village could have senior tech training program
- Partnership with Boces?



## Goal 2: Erie County will be accessible to people of all ages.

### 1. Work with the ECIDA to create a policy requiring senior housing and other public spaces to meet universal design standards

- 2020 is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA
  - July 26, 2020 is the ADA Anniversary Celebration at Canalside
  - How can we have presence/utilize this as opportunity?
- UB IDEA Center has a set of universal design guidelines for public buildings called isUD, or innovative solutions for Universal Design
  - This includes a certification program
- Each municipality is required to have an ADA coordinator – how might we work with this person?
- Currently drafting recommendations to ECIDA policy related to universal design
  - What about other needs of senior housing, like transportation?
  - We should attend ECIDA meetings to learn more about their process and identify an advocate and liaison

### 2. Create a Senior Transportation Council

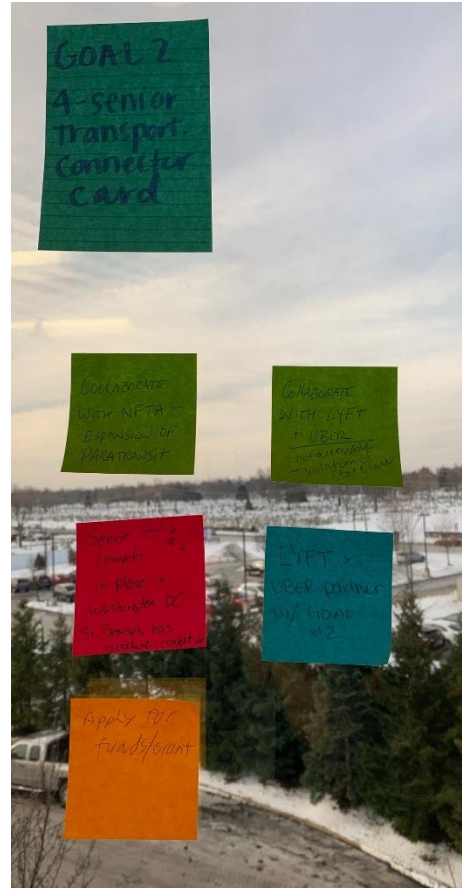
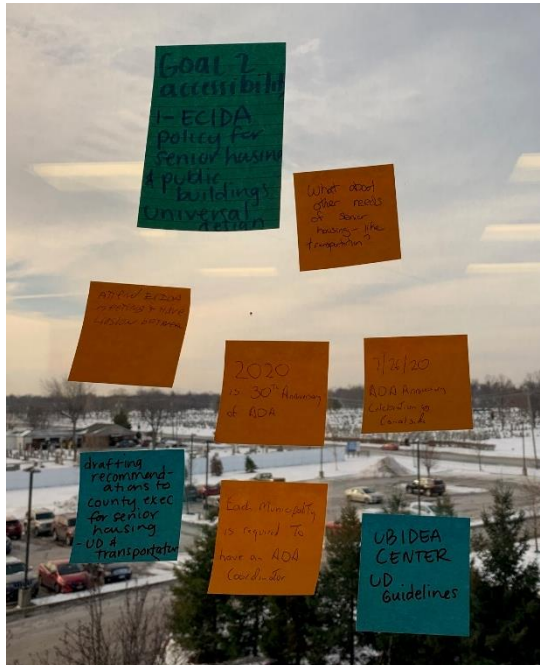
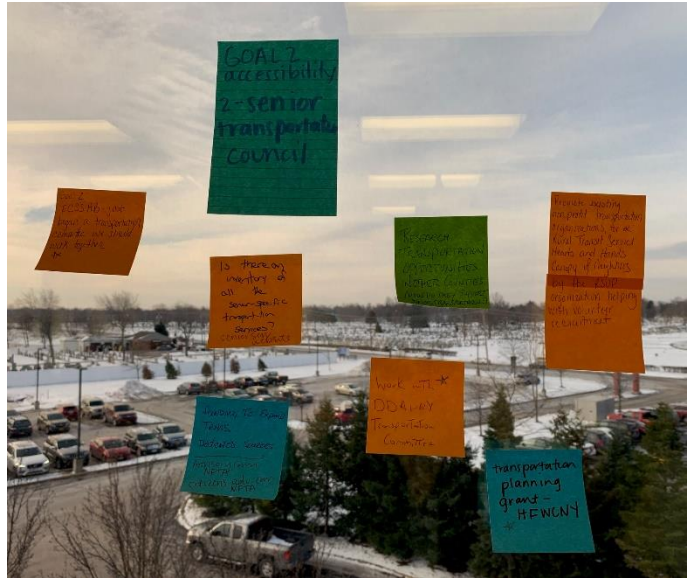
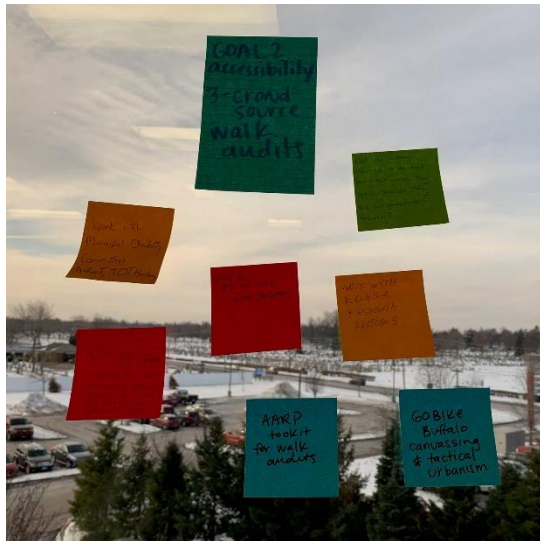
- EC Senior Services Advisory Board – just began a transportation committee – we should work with them!
- Is there an inventory of all of the senior-specific transportation services?
  - Senior services website
  - GBNRTC website – Go Buffalo Niagara
  - 211? NY Connects?
- Funding to expand transportation dedicated resources
- Engage with the NFTA Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Research transportation opportunities in other counties – how do they support senior transportation
  - Utica – Parkway Center as an example
- Engage the DDAWNY Transportation Committee
- The Health Foundation is funding a transportation planning grant right now!
- Promote existing non-profit transportation organizations, for example:
  - Rural Transit Services
  - Hearts and Hands
  - Canopy of Neighbors
  - RSVP organization could help with volunteer recruitment

### **3. Perform a crowdsourced walk audit of all Erie County roadways in commercial or densely populated residential areas**

- AARP has a Toolkit for Walk Audits
- AARP Community challenge grant due in April – potential to fund such an effort
- There have been other local efforts to do this, where are the results? How were the results used?
- GObike Buffalo could be a resource with canvassing and tactical urbanism strategies
- Work with ECHSA and establish liaisons
- Can we survey older adults to find out what areas they avoid because they are not pedestrian friendly?
  - (see HF transportation planning grant data on pedestrian crashes with older adults)
- Work with municipal disability committees
  - Amherst, Town of Tonawanda, Hamburg
- Phil Haberstro from the Wellness Institute is working on an initiative for creating walkability programs and pathways in the city and on the Niagara trail way
- City of Buffalo 311 app training
  - Does the county have an equivalent reporting system?

### **4. Develop and distribute a Senior Transportation Connector Card that lets older adults use numerous modes of transportation**

- May need to apply for grant funds
- Washington DC has a Senior Connector Card in place – Senior Services has a brochure with contact info – we should learn more!
- Collaborate with the NFTA
  - Expansion of paratransit – potentially through strategic P/P partnership? (IDEA Center has research study on this topic, also TCRP has report on several pilot program models)
- Collaborate with ridesharing companies like Uber/Lyft
  - MAJOR CONCERN – these services are not accessible and may violate state accessibility laws



## Goal 3: Older Adults will be able to maintain financial security throughout their lives.

### 1. Create a Senior Homeshare matching program where older adults can share a home to split expenses and provide companionship

- There is a national organization that provides guidance on this- we need to do major research
- This will need a website and a leader to coordinate efforts
  - Where would this be “housed” ☺ would the County own and run?
- Consider financial support for caregivers
- Precedents with older adult and college student living situations
  - Room & board in return for homemaking and transportation services, etc.
  - Again research needed

### 2. Expand the Representative Payee program to provide benefit payment management for beneficiaries who are incapable of managing their Social Security payments

- WNY Coalition pooled trust can help manage funds without being rep-payee – must be disabled
- NYSOFA and the court system are looking at supported decision making as an alternative to guardianship – the rep-payee program could be part of that
- Catholic Charities does this in Monroe County – look into what they are doing – replicate or expand?

### 3. Provide Medicare and Medicaid 101 training programs

- Need to establish a lead and coordinate a search for the many existing efforts
- UB Social Work Professor Louanne Bakk used to run a program like this
- Department of Health has several programs
  - Ombudsman
  - Facility enrollment
  - WNYIL coordinates some of these?
- ECSS HICAP?
- Center for Elder Law and Justice does Medicare and Medicaid trainings!
- BCBS and several brokers offer periodic Medicare 101 programs
- Free “Cancer Management of WNY” program
  - Andrew Hibbard and his wife
  - Counsel and financial services
- Statewide Senior Action has trainings
- Will local health insurance hubs offer training?
  - i.e. Independent health MIC Centers or “Health Hub”
- Will financial planners/banks offer free quarterly or monthly sessions?
- What is AARP doing?



- Mass Mutual NYS has program at The Establishment in the Tony Walker plaza that offer financial education
  - This is usually aimed at millennials
  - Could it also offer for older adults?
- Intergenerational learning opportunities
- Should employers offer this for their retiring and pre-retirement workforce?

