

## **Age Friendly Coalition for Seattle and King County Housing Workgroup**

**Date:** December 20, 2018

**Time:** 10:00-11:30AM

**Facilitator:** Joanne Donohue

**Location:** Sound Generations, 2208 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Seattle, WA (First floor conference room)

**Present:** Denise Malm, Jon Morrison-Winters, Ty Nolan, Alyssa Schnitzius, Sokha Danh, Loren Tierney, Brent Butler, Sarah Demas

### **Meeting Minutes**

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#### **Welcome and Housekeeping**

Thank you and congrats to new group co-leads, Joanne Donohue and Denise Malm!

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#### **Introductions and Getting to know each other**

- Participants shared name, organizational affiliation, and how your work relates.  
Icebreaker question: What song should be playing when you walk into a room? Bonus points for songs that reference “home”.
  - Themes from check-in:
    - Seattle is changing fast, getting unaffordable for more and more people. People have to wait too long for affordable housing.
    - Housing is a major issue for social work clients, especially older women.
    - Interest in advocacy, locally and state-wide.
    - Important to build relationships, engage community in our work.
    - Connected to personal story of growing up in Section 8 housing.
    - Interested in convening groups working on similar issues, brokering relationships, and advocacy.
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#### **Project Selection and Plan**

“Short list” of projects recommended in Towards Age Friendly Housing study and part of Age Friendly Action plan:

- Local Advocacy (ex. Land Use, Transit-Oriented Development)
  - State Advocacy (ex. Raise income limit for property tax exemption)
  - Homesharing programs – promote, research, convene?
  - Rural housing issues
  - Research (several topics recommended in study findings that need more research)
  - Advocacy Clearinghouse/Information gathering – collect info on what other groups are working on, help people plug in and lend their stories.
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**Issue raised:** There is no one place to get info on affordable housing, where vacancies are, etc.

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There are gaps in the service network. United Way funded a 1-year project to create a resource guide for social workers at senior centers, working with Pike Market Senior Center and others. People mentioned other resource guides and phone and internet services (including the guide published by Real Change, with re-prints funded by Seattle Human Services Dept.). This led to suggestion of a new project for our group:

- Research the guides and resources that already exist, what audience they are intended for, where are the gaps.

**Discussion:**

Need to consider the needs of POC communities, community-specific issues and needs. Need to have communities represented in decision-making, early on in the process. Need to also consider accessibility issues – whiteboards are not visible to all, having an electronic version of documents is helpful.

Property tax income limit work is well-covered by other advocates – AARP, Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council, looking hopeful that it may move forward in the next legislative session.

We should consider ways to involve the existing networks of villages in our work, and consider visitability as an important issue for aging in place. Consider the “missing middle” housing of small-scale development.

**Decision: The group will focus on two projects in early 2019.**

- **Project #1:** System/Resource Navigation
  - Research guides and resources that exist, audience, distribution process, etc. Identify gaps, opportunities for wider distribution.
- **Project #2:** Advocacy Info Sharing
  - Create a clearinghouse of housing advocacy opportunities/ info and story-sharing around housing issues.

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**Other decisions and Next Steps:**

- This group will meet monthly, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, 1:00-2:30PM.
- **Next meeting is Thursday, January 24 at Sound Generations, 2208 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.** Subsequent meetings should be at older adult housing locations or senior centers, to make them more accessible to community members.
- **Suggestion** – begin researching existing housing info guides and advocacy efforts, bring info to next meeting on 1/24.
- All group members should invite folks they think should be at our meetings, starting ASAP, especially members of underrepresented communities. Please email suggested locations for future meetings to [sarah.demas@seattle.gov](mailto:sarah.demas@seattle.gov).