

Maine Council on Aging
Housing Committee

Notes

Meeting that was convened August 31, 2016
10:00 -11:30 a.m.

Genesis Fund
Brunswick

I. Welcome and Introductions – Deb Keller

Present:

Denise Lord, Communication and Planning Manager, Maine State Housing
Deb Keller, Executive Director, Bath Housing
Andrew Deci, Director, Planning and Development, City of Bath
June Koegel, President/CEO, Volunteers of America Northern New England
Jess Maurer, Co-Chair, Maine Council on Aging
Patricia Oh, Coordinator of Older Adult Services, Bowdoinham, Maine

II. Background on the Maine Aging Initiative and Year 2 Housing Committee Assigned Work –
Jess Maurer

Jess Maurer shared that the Aging Friendly Communities Workgroup met from May of 2014 to June 2015. The workgroup investigated and promoted numerous best practices related to initiatives that support aging in place, including formal Age Friendly Communities, Village-to-Village models, and home sharing and home repair programs. This group inspired the creation of the Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging (TSLCA) which aims to increase the collective impact of aging initiatives through shared learning opportunities offered to people in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. During the first year, the group took a broad sweep. Their recommendation for the second year is a deep-dive into one issue—housing. Hence, formation of the Housing Committee that is being convened now.

III. Review and Discuss Housing Typology – Deb Keller
Reviewed and Discussed Housing Typology (attached).

Agreed that several rows of data should be added:

- policy/program supports for each model. For example, State Income tax credits for home modifications support the aging at home model.
- Enhanced services packages—whether they apply to the model and, if so, described
- Potential demand/is the model viable

Agreed that a few models had been left out of the chart/should be modified:

- Bed and Breakfast model (re-named: housing with enhanced services).
 - Discussion of importance of terminology—trying to move away from housing language that has a negative connotation.
 - Example of the Bed and Breakfast model is Bangor, Country Villa which charges 2800/month for three meals, transportation, housekeeping, and laundry. No medical services. For example, residents must manage their own medications.
- Living with children in a shared living space.
- NORC (membership-based Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities)
- PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly)

Agreed that, generally:

- There is a need for information about universal design and visitability standards.
 - Suggestion made to make guidelines available to people who are building homes so that they will know what to ask an architect to include when designing their homes for accessibility. Possibly through builders. Realtors...
 - Suggestion made to suggest that towns require that new development meet standards.
- Accessory dwelling units (includes Tiny Houses/Granny Pods) have a high potential to make it easier for people to age in community safely and as independently as possible.
- Potential demand/is the model viable

IV. Brainstorm Ideas for the Charrettes – Denise Lord

- Accessory Apartments (includes Tiny House/Granny Pods)
 - Charrette should include: Codes, Planning, Zoning, Realtors, Builders, and Finance.
 - Questions: Current challenges/barriers; Process; Benefits; Discussion of Codes/Zoning
 - Will bring conclusion from charrette to a few communities that have made a commitment to age-friendly development to solicit feedback.
- Universal Design/Visitability
- Bed and Breakfast/Boarding—Housing with Enhanced Services

V. Timeline for Completing the Committee's Work –

Next meeting tentatively set for October 05, at the Genesis Fund, 22 Lincoln Street, Brunswick. Will focus on three charrettes

- How to frame
- Who to Invite
- Questions to ask

VI. Membership – agree that the Housing Group has a healthy membership list.

VII. Meeting Schedule

Next Meeting proposed for October 5th