**Municipal Data Across Sectors for Health (M-DASH)**



**City of Hallowell**

**Task Force Meeting**

**August 5, 2021 – 12:00p.m.-2:00p.m.**

**Meeting Recording**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11jo1kKllZBIKyVGS6mweQssqC6RaS2Mh/view?usp=sharing>

**Attending**: Mike Frett (Hallowell City Councilor); Nancy Hale (Aging in Place and Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, Augusta Housing), Suneva Ware (KVCAP Home Repair), Bobbi Crooker (USDA Rural Development Housing Program Coordinator), Jess Maurer (Executive Director, MCOA), Sara Grant (Director, Senior Companion Program; Augusta Age-Friendly; HCCA Board), Torey Steward (MSW student intern, MCOA; Hallowell resident), Effie Rorke (MCOA Consultant), Katie Carlson (Director of Community Services, Spectrum Generations), Maija Dyke (Spectrum Generations), Bob McIntire (Hallowell All Age-Friendly), Annette Beyea (MaineGeneral; Hallowell Board of Health), Anne Schroth (MCOA Consultant)

**Meeting Notes**

1. **Welcome and Review**
   1. At May meeting, we drafted Action Planning Tool that set out objectives for this group.
   2. Several ideas/questions came up so we wanted to spend this meeting getting some information about those topics:
      1. Home repair options
      2. Transportation
      3. Community planning and what other planning is already happening in Hallowell
2. **Resource Update – Home Repair and Modification**
   1. Nancy Hale, Augusta Housing
      1. **PowerPoint distributed with these notes.**
   2. Suneva Ware, KVCAP Home Repair
      1. <https://www.kvcap.org/for-the-home/energy-housing-services-overview/home-repair-program/>
      2. Kennebec, Somerset, Sagadahoc, Lincoln
      3. Home Repair, accessibility, emergencies, supplemental weatherization
         1. Home Repair, e.g.:
            1. Health and safety
            2. Roofs
            3. Foundation – tougher b/c costly and hard to find contractors
         2. Accessibility, e.g.:
            1. Ramps, hand rails, gran bars throughout house; lowering sinks and electrical switches, cupboards, widening doors; repair existing porches (not build new one);
         3. Emergencies, e.g.:
            1. No heat
            2. Dangerous electrical system
            3. Inoperable toilets
            4. Severely leaking roofs
            5. Lack of potable water
      4. Funded through Maine Housing and Dept. of Economic & Community Development
   3. Bobbi Crooker, USDA Rural Development Loan/Grant Program
      1. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-programs/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants/me>
      2. Low interest loans and grants to repair homes
      3. Eligibility: Family income below 50% area median income
      4. Low payments on loans
      5. Can be done throughout the state….4 area offices.
      6. $40,000 max loan; max grant up to $10,000. Doesn’t all have to be used at once (grant).
      7. Applications can carry over if money runs out in a given year.
      8. Challenges with finding contractors; like to see money spent within 9 months but can delay, if need to. Like to see 3 quotes for work.
      9. We get referrals from other agencies; congressional staff; CAPS, homeowners; town managers, etc.
      10. Applications are usually funded right off; usually have plenty of funding. Can be leveraged with other partners.
      11. Application help: a lot of CAP partners help people; we can help by phone
   4. Questions
      1. Could Hallowell All Age-Friendly create a program to identify Hallowell residents in need of home repair?
         1. Could work for Augusta Housing, if we had verbal agreement from person that we could reach out.
         2. For KVCAP, already have more referrals than we can serve. We could go through and figure out who we might be able to service and whether they qualify.
         3. MaineHousing funds both programs: Augusta Housing program is intended to be the small version and CAP version is bigger projects. So, initial work could go through Nancy and, if not appropriate for Augusta Housing, then refer to someone else.
         4. Nancy: KVCAP could refer to us. Happy to catch up afterwards with Suneva.
      2. Assess for additional needs when do housing assessment (Augusta Housing)
         1. Not formally, but transportation comes up often.
         2. Falls risk assessment: they ask about falls on initial and follow-up. Walk through and look at risks, but don’t do specific mitigation.
      3. Marketing to Hallowell?
         1. Bobbi: Can drop materials anywhere – will follow up.
      4. How to bring info or awareness to aging population?
         1. These all are preventive programs….try to promote as something forward thinking.
         2. AARP has done some great publications about aging in your homes.
         3. Aging-in-Place Specialists (certified) – doing paid work in state to help plan for future modifications in home.
         4. Data shows: 20% of us are planners; the rest get hit by a 2x4.
         5. Resources
            1. MCOA Simple Home Modification for Aging at Home **(shared with these notes)**
            2. Harpswell Aging at Home Assessments

Link for the initial assessment: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KTC8KPB>

6 month reassessment form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HR8CWLV>

* + - * 1. How to Fall Safely (Harpswell):  <https://vimeo.com/showcase/3844211>

1. **Resource Update – Transportation**

Bob McIntire, Hallowell All Age Friendly Committee

* 1. Transportation Summit in 2019
     1. Output from that summit – KVCAP is our provider.
     2. After looking at opportunities that we have, we chose to formalize relationship with Catholic Charities and SEARCH program. We have about 8 people in Hallowell taking advantage of those kinds of services as a program of the city. It has met some needs.
     3. Some informal relationships have developed: occasionally get request from someone that needs help.
     4. Also created HallowellHelps.org website – prompted by some parents at elementary school who wanted to help during COVID
        1. Tried to spread info out as best we could (e.g. Newsletter that goes out to everyone in town 3 times a year)
           1. HallowellHelps.org has received only 2 calls.
           2. A couple of referrals have come though city hall.
     5. Transportation comes up, usually an immediate need. Resources remain hodgepodge on a good day.
     6. Challenged by population density according to KVCAP director.
     7. Does KVCAP have on-demand, door-to-door transportation services like other rural transportation services?
        1. Typically, they will do it but as volunteer program and would only use staff in emergency situation. E.g., RTP in Cumberland Co., just didn’t have volunteers. So, maybe a low hanging fruit would be to recruit volunteer drivers for this on demand program.
           1. The difference from volunteer programs is that drivers can get reimbursed mileage.
           2. There is the opportunity to build it, if you want it, through rural transportation providers (like KVCAP). Might be worth a conversation with them about this post-COVID.
        2. Questions is, who handles intake?
           1. Need to make sure rider and driver feel safe and comfortable.
           2. KVCAP is happy to take volunteers any time and, initially, for this relationship, we spoke to both of them. Catholic Charities seemed best for Hallowell’s demand.
     8. Sara Grant: Senior Companions can also help with transportation.
        1. Background checks; safety, driving record, etc.
        2. Options are open for recruiting more volunteers, etc.
        3. Training for Senior Companions?
           1. 20 hours (includes orientation) of training
           2. We’ve chunked it out so not as arduous as maybe it used to be.
  2. Should transportation be an MDASH issue?
     1. 20% of people in our data are transportation insecure.
     2. Needs to be an ongoing conversation; keep it on the table.

1. **Community Planning** (Bob McIntire)
   1. Comp Plan is ongoing – trying to be proactive about getting information out and having public conversations.
   2. Heart and Soul process was happening, though has slowed down due to COVID and weather.
   3. For MDASH – my advice is to take advantage of ongoing things and see what we can gather there.
2. **Next Steps** 
   1. August 25, 11-1p.m. -- M-DASH Gray meeting with Elizabeth Dragon, former city manager of Franklin, NH, to discuss *Franklin for a Lifetime* planning process. Hallowell group is invited.
   2. Next Meeting: October 7, 12-2p.m.