

GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON AN AGE-FRIENDLY MINNESOTA Update

On February 26, 2020 the first meeting of the Governor’s Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota convened at AARP in St. Paul. The first meeting was designed so that the Council members could meet one another, become grounded in the work, and begin to form priority areas/topics.

The Council was formed with an Executive Order with the purpose of exploring the concept of “Age-Friendly Minnesota” and to ultimately make recommendations to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and moving age-friendly systems forward. Nine state agencies and six public members comprise the Council. Minnesota Board on Aging Vice Chair Sherrie Pugh was the appointed Chair of the Council.

Lieutenant Governor Flanagan and Department of Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead provided opening remarks for the Council’s work. A representative from the State Demographer provided an overview of the demographic trends in Minnesota. A representative from AARP’s national office and state office provided an overview of the Network of Age Friendly Communities. Assistant Commissioner Dan Pollock provided an overview of the requirements of the Council. Finally the Council began to brainstorm things we need to learn more about, ways to engage stakeholders, and priorities to accomplish.

The over-arching themes from the Council discussions included:

- Reframing how we think about aging – as an unprecedented opportunity
- Explore both barriers and incentives to establishing age-friendly communities across the state

Meetings are live-streamed for participation across the state. The schedule of meetings is as follows:

1. Feb 26 (AARP)
2. March 25 (Northfield*)
3. April 9 (AARP)
4. April 22 (Maple Grove*)
5. May 13 (AARP)
6. May 27(Rochester*)
7. June 10 (AARP)
8. June 24 (North Minneapolis*)
9. July 15th (AARP)
10. July 29 – (IF NEEDED); draft report due by August
11. Optional: Sept 16th – Alexandria*

*Denotes a city or county location that is already designated as Age-Friendly

More updates to come!

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