

## ***Summary of Aging Non-profit Partnership Meeting***

April 2, 2020

Present: Aileen Tinney (CC), Tasha Cornish (SMOC), Sam McClure (Chase Brexton), Marina Nellius (MedStar House Calls), Stephanie Archer-Smith (MoW), Lauren Averella (Civic Works), Laura Bristow (AIM), Kim Burton (MHAM), Tiffany Nicolette (CHAI), Ted Gross (GEDCO), John Shaia (Banner Neighborhoods), Betsy Simon (Z-HAP), Reba Cornman (Commission on Aging), and Alma Balonon-Rosen (Enterprise Community), Nakia Mack (Keswick), Allyse Depenbrock (Mayor's Office)

Funders: Beth Harber (Abell), Cathy Brill (Stulman), Earl Millett (Weinberg), Lara Hall (Blaustein)

After welcoming greetings and introductions, Jim, Rebecca, and Amy presented on the Baltimore City Older Adult Food Strategy draft, which is part of the larger food access plan run through Holly Freishtat at the City planning office.

Slides on the public health response are attached

BCHD is using be a four-tiered approach to food access with the objective to reach through meal delivery programs the most vulnerable population who have no support and are not able to grocery shop.

Slide # 8 shows the triage criteria.

After the presentation:

Questions—

- *What is the role of the Commission?* As the strategy rolls out, the Commission will be instrumental in getting the LEAN ON message out especially to those who are isolated.
- *What is paid delivery?* This was a reference to Baltimarket – the Virtual Supermarket located in several senior high-rise communities and other sites. It does not have a high capacity.
- *Do you have a complete list of Baltimore City Housing communities with older adult residents?* We have a list of 145 residential senior facilities. Currently working on an updated contact list for each of these centers to better understand food need and to address quality assurance to ensure proper protocols for food handling and social distancing are being enforced. Projecting Salvation Army will be the meal provider serving a significant portion of the 145 senior housing facilities.
- *If there are others living with a resident 85+ who needs food, will the others be served meals?* The Eating Together meals and Grab n Go serves the spouse who is not 60 + but

cannot serve adult children because it is a federal program. However, Salvation Army's services are not restricted by age. It is an emergency response program.

- *Are seniors in grocery stores a good idea?* The BCHD is recommending seniors to stay home and limit public exposure.
- *How to reach home-bound, cognitively impaired residents?* Marina Nellius from MedStar House Calls program says she will share all the resources and MAP phone number with the homecare service network of professionals led by Dr. Mattan Schuchman at Hopkins J-home.

Suggestions for Messaging for the LEAN ON Campaign - (see slide #10)

- 1) Radio Stations –Heaven 600, WLUV (George Mitchell's Program), WEAA (Merkle Hunter's program)
- 2) City TV—Lee Michaels who is also a Commissioner may help
- 3) Flyers to Police and Fire department to distribute in communities
- 4) Public Service Announcement
- 5) Meet with Mayor's Office for contact person for the neighborhood associations.

Amanda Smith, BCHD Epidemiologist, showed the recent Statistics on food access inquiries and referrals to show the increased numbers, the age and geographic demographics of the callers, and trends— (attachment).

Before the meeting adjourned, several partners shared some to the alternative measures they are taking to provide services and critical needs.

**GEDCO**—service coordinators are doing well visits (by Phone) and need assessments. They are still providing grocery shuttles maintaining social distancing protocol and food distributions with the Food Bank.

**CHAI**—service coordinators and building managers are also do check ins and need assessments. They have shut down their grocery shuttles and are making arrangements to have groceries delivered. The building Eating Together programs are still operating serving prepackaged individual frozen meals. Myerberg Senior Center is offering virtual classes throughout the day to maintain social connections and engagement.

**Z-HAP** – Betsy has coordinated weekly conference call connectivity meetings with invited presenters. This week she invited Dr. Thomas Cudjoe, Johns Hopkins, to speak about social isolation. Valuable updated information is disseminated to all the Z-HAP members and its network.

**Meals on Wheels** – Continues to provide enormous support to address the food insecurity caused by COVID. Stephanie expressed MOW has tripled their capacity and are delivering over 1,500 meals /day. They are receiving close to 100 referrals/day from MAP intake specialists.

**Keswick Wise & Well and Keswick Multi-care** – Working with Action In Maturity, St. Mary's Outreach, and Hampden Family Center to address the critical needs in the 21211, 17, 18 zip

codes. Also, AIM is providing transportation for Keswick employees who rely on MTA for transportation. Providing virtual YouTube classes for Wise & Well members.

**Catholic Charities**—Aileen's tech was not working. Will share with the group her activities.

**St. Mary's Outreach** – Tasha reported her staff and Board are calling residents at Rolandview Towers (over 300 residents) and those living in their homes she has identified as high risk.

**Civic Works** - Lauren reported the Farm Van is operating and they are receiving referrals daily for home delivery from MAP and 211. They deliver fresh produce from local sources farms, meals catered by Wild Thyme, local sourced soap, toilet paper, and hand sanitizer. They are serving all the CSI Co-op buildings along with Coleman Manor.

**MHAM** – Kim Burton together with Councilman Zeke Cohen, Baltimore Mediation Center, and Probono Counseling have spearheaded and formed the Baltimore Neighbors Network (BNN) coalition of non-profits and neighborhood associations to train professional and volunteer counselors to respond properly to callers suffering from anxiety, loneliness, and despair escalated by the COVID crisis.

Our time ran out so we were not able to hear from everyone, but I invite you to add your organization's work-arounds, activities and any resources with the group.

With appreciation,  
Liz Briscoe