

Chesterfield Summit on Aging Overview

There were approximately 120 people in attendance. This included professionals in the aging field, older adults, realtors, builders/developers, nursing students from VCU, county employees, faith community, health care organizations, insurance and financial advisors.

Speakers

1. **Regional Age Way Plan/Mary Creasy** – Mary talked about the Age Wave Plan being facilitated by Senior Connections and United Way. The region has many individuals working on various committees to develop a plan to make the region “age friendly” and provide supports and services for the coming age wave of older adults.
2. **What Other Areas in the State Are Doing to Plan Effectively for a Growing Older Population/Katie Roeper** – Ms. Roeper talked about what other areas in the state are doing. She talked about Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging have their “At Home” program; 50+ Action Plan in Fairfax has their Best Practices in Housing; Charlottesville has their 20/20 Plan; some areas are offering the “Stand Tall Don’t Fall program, which is a fall prevention program for older adults; and the Health Department and Area Agencies on Aging have instituted the “You Can Live Well Virginia” program, which is a chronic disease program. Chesterfield is one of the areas that offer the chronic disease program. She also talked about the Cool-Aid Program which provides window A/Cs, fans, and electric bill assistance to applicants.
3. **Better Housing Coalition/T. K. Somanath** – TK talked about affordable housing that the Better Housing Coalition has done in Chesterfield and the greater Richmond area. He talked about how the housing has been a lifesaver to many adults and that the residents have access to a nurse that visits the property, as well as a social worker to help the residents with services. Two of their housing units offer a Friendship Café in partnership with Senior Connections. The organization has produced over 1,500 new and rehabilitated affordable homes in the Richmond metropolitan area.
4. **Drawing New Lines: Housing Plans evolving for an Aging Population/Kathy Vesley-Massey** – Kathy talked about the work that Bay Aging has done, which includes providing all public transportation in their area to adults of all ages; they direct activities for Bay Family Housing, the organization’s arm that performs Housing Rehabilitation and Weatherization programs and acts as

the regional Senior Apartment Developer, providing affordable, accessible “service enriched” housing for area seniors

5. **Supports for Aging in Place/Sarah Snead** – Sarah talked about the supports that Chesterfield has in place for older adults. These include the Real Estate Tax Relief Program for the Elderly and Disabled; programs offered through the libraries; Access Chesterfield, the county’s transportation program; Senior Centers, Adult Programming, open gym time and social activities through Parks & Recreation; information and resources for older adults through the Senior Advocate’s office; the Seniors-in-Touch program through the Sheriff’s Department, Adult Protective Services and companion services through Social Services; Senior Passport, Adult Continuing Education and Senior Citizens Prom through the School Board.

Workshops: Participants divided into workshops to talk about the following topics.

- **Neighborhood Revitalization & Housing Rehab**, facilitated by Tom Jacobson, Chesterfield Director of Revitalization.
- **Obstacles to Affordable Housing**, facilitated by Will Sanford from Housing Opportunities Made Equal.
- **Transportation**, facilitated by Jim Congable with Senior Connections.
- **Housing Design & Accessibility**, facilitated by Steve Settlege with Tascon/Eagle and Michael Foltz with McAllister & Poltz, PC.
- **Engagement Opportunities: Improving What We Have**, facilitated by Suzanne Fountain with Chesterfield-Colonial heights Department of Social Services.

At the Conclusion of the Summit:

Participants could sign up to work on various committees after the Summit. These included:

1. Minor Home Repairs
2. Obstacles to Transportation – 3 people signed up
3. Livable Communities: Affordable Housing & Accessible Housing – 7 people signed up
4. Volunteer Opportunities & Ways to Get the Word Out on Available Programs – 4 people signed up