

## County Forum on Creating a More Aging-Friendly Community Ideas from June 26, 2013 Forum at Bailey's Senior Center

**Number of participants:** 18

**Format:** The Chair for the VA Commonwealth Council on Aging opened the meeting with a few brief comments in Spanish and English. The Fairfax Area Agency on Aging (AAA) director facilitated the forum in English. One AAA staff person interpreted for the Spanish speaking participants, and the AAA Multicultural Community Planner paraphrased and interpreted in Vietnamese for the Vietnamese participants.

**Cultural note:** Approximately 8 participants were Spanish speaking and needed interpretation, 2 were Vietnamese and needed interpretation, and the rest (10 people), understood and interacted in English (included non-Hispanic population).

### SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY

#### COMMENTS

- Is there a free legal group that can help individuals protect themselves from fraud and scams?
- Special number to call (not 911) for those who fall and need help getting up?
- Access to medical prescriptions for those who can't afford it.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### COMMENTS

- More churches to provide volunteer drivers.
- Build team of rotating volunteer groups; find out & maintain a list of these groups.
- More wellness activities at senior centers; more exercise classes; keep senior centers open!

### SERVICES

#### COMMENTS

- Don't know about available services.
- What services are offered for free in Fairfax County?
- Income pre-screening card that could be shared across agencies.
- More outreach for the Aging, Disability and Caregiver Resources Intake line #!
- No more cuts in services please; we are enjoying what Fairfax County currently has.

### HOUSING

#### COMMENTS

- Affordable Housing; need more for older adults. Seniors feel they might have to move out of county because they can't afford rent.
- Available medical care for those who don't qualify for Medicare or Medicaid.
- What kind of services/help for someone living independently or alone?
- Intergenerational multi-generation home/shared housing program in Massachusetts - seniors & college students.
- Fairfax County should see if they could purchase foreclosed homes and turn into senior community homes (community approach).

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**TRANSPORTATION**

**COMMENTS**

- Don't cut Fastran service to grocery stores 1 or 2 times a month; it makes it difficult for those who are living independently with no adult children or relatives.
- More available services like Metro Access.
- Bring transfer bus slips back.
- Increase more public transportation every 10 – 15 minutes to get more people off the roads driving; more during the day not just rush hour.
- More accessible safe driving classes in multiple languages.
- Use Medicare card as senior bus pass.