

Building an Age-Friendly Rhode Island

NEWSLETTER



Rhode Island's age-friendly movement is gaining momentum. Nearly 100 people gathered on January 25 to share ideas, create partnerships and kick-off the next phase of building an age-friendly state. Government leaders Lt. Gov. Daniel McKee and Director of Elderly Affairs Charles Fogarty discussed the increasing aging population across the nation and in our state.

Vin Mor representing the Tufts Health Plan Foundation discussed the global movement to create age-friendly communities. Marianne Raimondo, assistant professor of Healthcare Administration at Rhode Island College and principal investigator of Age-Friendly Rhode Island offered an update on the progress being made and the next steps to move the project forward. With the findings Age-Friendly Rhode Island's recently-released Strategic Plan, attendees moved into work groups divided by key areas identified as the most important to Rhode Island's older adults. In December, the Rhode Island College Foundation was awarded a \$121,000 Tufts Health Plan Foundation grant to further support building an Age-Friendly Rhode Island. RIC faculty Raimondo; Constance Milbourne, associate professor of marketing and co-principal investigator; and Rachel Filinson, professor of gerontology are leading this multi-year project. The initial year of the project focused on gathering information, identifying gaps in services and numerous conversations with older adults across Rhode Island.

The goal for 2017 is problem solving, coalition building and getting to work on the issues detailed in the Strategic Plan. To keep the lines of communication open, the newly-launched website www.agefriendlyri.org is now home to reports, research and ongoing updates. To join the conversation email us at info@agefriendlyri.org. Making Rhode Island an age-friendly place to live, work and play is now one step closer to being a reality.

Marianne Raimondo, assistant professor of Healthcare Administration at RIC and principal investigator for Age-Friendly Rhode Island speaks to nearly 100 attendees. RIC Professor Carol Cummings leads a workgroup. (Photos by Susan E. Bouchard)

