State: Maryland
Community Name: Calvert County
Population Size: 92783
Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 20
Community Structure: County
Other: Community Type: Suburban (offices, apartments and shops)

Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment
Name: Earl F. Hance
Title: President, Board of County Commissioners, Calvert County
Office Mailing Address: 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Community Contact Name: Ed Sullivan
Email: [redacted]
Position: Aging Services Division Chief
Telephone: [redacted]

Role: Ed Sullivan is the Convener of Calvert County's efforts to become an Age Friendly Community. Ed will work with the Board appointed Commission on Aging and various stakeholders throughout the entire process. He is the Point of Contact and will organize focus groups, surveys to the community, and work with all citizens to implement action plans during the process. He will be oversee all communications to the local press and media outlets. He will receive feedback from the community and communicate with all stakeholders regarding updates and process. He will also communicate with the Board of County Commissioners about all updates and the implementation process.

Older Adult Involvement: Older adults will participate in the efforts to become more age-friendly through various methods. The Calvert County Commission on Aging, a 16-member body comprised of senior citizens appointed by locally elected officials, has already sought and gained approval from the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County to commit to this process. Several focus groups will be held to provide input throughout all stages of the planning and implementation process. Participants will be engaged through marketing to key agency stakeholders such as Public Transportation, Department of
Social Services, Health Department, Parks & Recreation, and other agencies. These focus groups will be held predominately in senior housing areas or senior centers that are adjacent to senior housing communities. In addition, older adults will be involved in implementing the community needs assessments that will be distributed to citizens and involved in evaluating the feedback for the purpose of making recommendations. Older adults will participate in developing action plans to implement change in the community. We are very optimistic that older adults will be involved throughout the entire implementation of the action plan. Finally, older adults will review feedback from the community with the goal of making necessary improvements and changes. They will be involved throughout the entire evaluation process. And they will assist in advocating and developing sustainability for various projects that enhance our community to become more age-friendly. Currently, older adults are actively recruiting stakeholders to participate in the process to become an age-friendly community. They are not only recruiting older adults but recruiting residents of all ages to participate in the process although the participation of older adults is certainly a priority.

Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:

No one ?lives in a vacuum? and can survive without family, friends, and community. Likewise, no community-wide initiative will succeed without the input of all stakeholders throughout the planning, implementation, and feedback process. Because the various domains of livability are linked and interconnected, numerous agencies and stakeholders must be a part of the process for this initiative to succeed. For example, we believe that transportation improvements will decrease social isolation and offer more opportunities for employment and social engagement for older adults. Consequently, Calvert County will make every effort to bring together stakeholders in transportation and the business community to work collaboratively during the process. Moreover, the local business community might be able to provide home maintenance services to older adults, allowing them to age in place, which addresses the housing domain, a priority in Calvert County. As outlined above, the domains are connected which will require multiple agencies and the business community to collaborate to become age-friendly.

AARP Team Member Contact Info:

Dr. Sudha Haley, AARP Maryland Executive Council Member

Most Instructive Area of Work:

Calvert County believes many of its current programs are worthy of emulation. However, we will focus on our agreement with a local non-profit to assist in our efforts to improve transportation as we believe this service is a priority. While our county provides reduced fares for low-income seniors throughout our county and a neighboring jurisdiction, we also work with a local non-profit to offer more specialized transportation services. We employ a staff member part-time whose job is directed towards individual transportation services. We have surveyed older adults for their transportation needs. Our transportation provides service to those with ambulatory and non-ambulatory needs. We also provide aid to seniors who need
assistance with completing the application for the program. This program allows seniors to travel outside of our jurisdiction, and the service is "door to door" service. Another benefit to the program is that we have seen seniors utilize other services our agency offers as a result of applying for this program. We believe this partnership with a local non-profit has benefitted our community greatly, and we have seen applications for the program increase. It allows seniors to age in place, and gives them access to medical appointments, grocery stores, shopping, and other needs.

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