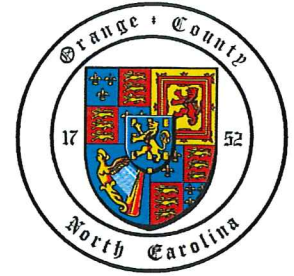


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Orange County Board of Commissioners
Post Office Box 8181
200 South Cameron Street
Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278



June 16, 2016

Mr. Doug Dickerson
AARP -NC
1511 Sunday Drive #12
Raleigh, N.C. 27607

Dear Mr. Dickerson,

On behalf of Orange County, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP and the World Health Organization to become an Age-Friendly Community. We have a long-standing history of providing outstanding services to the older adults in our community. In 1980 we were the first county in NC to create a county Department on Aging. Building off of being first, in 2000 we were the first county to create a Master Aging Plan (MAP), a five year strategic plan to address needs of older adults in our community. We are now in the fourth year of the 2012-17 MAP. We are interested in being a part of the Age-Friendly Community Initiative at this time, as we are in the planning stages for the 2017-22 Master Aging Plan. The Aging-Friendly Community Initiative will provide a great framework for our planning and for prioritizing needs in our county.

In developing the previous MAPs, we have done in-depth community needs assessments, including surveys, focus groups, subject-oriented work groups, and large community meetings. The planning effort is led by our Department on Aging staff along with the county appointed Advisory Board on Aging. The MAP Leadership Team is comprised of a diverse group, including town and county staff, non-profit executives, funding agencies, health care providers, and academia. The Advisory Board on Aging is responsible for making sure the goals and strategies that are addressed in the plan are met. The board receives a quarterly update from staff. The MAP Leadership Team meets three times annually to also receive a progress report. Progress reports are also posted on Orange County's website.

We have over 25,000 older adults in our county and that number is expected to double in the next 20 years. By being a part of the Age-Friendly Initiative we are committed to making Orange County a great place to age well. We look forward to working with AARP-NC.

Sincerely,

Earl McKee, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners

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