**2021 GSA Age Director’s Interest Meeting, 2-25-21**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees**: Dr. Neil Charness, Callie Kindelsperger, Andrew Revell, Deborah Nichols, James Appleby, Ken Ferraro, Michelle Porter, Peter Lichtenberg, John Schumacher, Jodi Waterhouse, Anne Barret, Elisabeth Burgess, Joann Montepare, Sara Czaja, Lenard Kaye, Diane Martin, Pamela Saunders, Esme-Fuller Thompson, Wendy Rogers, Suzanne Kunkel, Robyn Golden, Cassandra Barragan, Patricia Heyn, Ross Andel, Natalie Galucia

* **Putting in a symposium for GSA Age Director’s meeting.**
* **Remembrance service for Kathy Hyer?**
  + GSA’s done a number of things. A board resolution passed to make her honorary Board Chair for 2021 to recognize her work and achievements. Idea of suggesting some sort of symposium would be a good idea and coordinate with other departments?
  + GSA in close touch with Kathy’s husband & has let him know that the society is establishing a student-policy internship in Kathy’s name that will enable a student to spend 3-4 months with the GSA Staff over the summer. Doing a service at the Annual Scientific Meeting could be an option but need to coordinate first.
  + Contact University of South Florida to get in touch with them too. Peter Lichtenberg will help coordinate with Ross Andel at USF
* **What are people doing related to AFU Initiative, relates to symposium.**
  + Wendy & Ross the two originators of item on original agenda.
  + Wendy-just received AFU at her university in 2020. In the College of Applied Health & Sciences. Dean helped prepare the proposal to join the AFU initiative. Planning to host a virtual event this semester to understand what’s happening across campus that’s relevant. Dean would then like to have an outward-facing event that links to community. In preliminary planning stages of AFU.
  + Cassandra Barragan- will put a link to environmental survey in the chat so everyone will have access to that if needed for reference.
  + Ross Andel-trying to use opportunity to bring campus together around study of aging, aging education, etc. Gaining some interest, don’t have designation, haven’t been able to convince their Provost Office to get AFU initiative status. But able to reach out to medical campus, college of business, health, etc. to forge new relationships before they get the designation themselves.
  + Joann: Relationship between this interest group & AFU always important. Was this group that jumpstarted much of the engagement of institutions at our end. Looking at most members, it’s the directors of aging centers that are the engine behind the age directors groups on their respective college campuses. How to gain momentum after applied and received designation & keep momentum going. The AFU Work Group talking about need to think more carefully about integrate age diversity and age diversity inclusion efforts could be another topic to include in a symposium.
  + Michelle: The Working Group wants to have series of town hall meeting to Tool Kit that was developed but having informal conversation where people can share ideas at various stages. Will be in the works for the spring semester. Hoping to do at least one session a month.
  + Joann: Happy to coach a symposium and organize the event.
* **COVID Topic and Vaccinations, vaccinating older people of color.**
  + Entering into a critical phase of getting people vaccinated in the U.S. Peoples’ reluctance to get the vaccine is proving to be an issue.
  + Any initiatives?
    - Peter-Our Med School partnered with the campus, partnering with Detroit Health Dept. to use a van to go out and offer the vaccination to older population who suffers from transportation as a problem. Slowly but surely that we’ve been included in this at initiative of the medical school.
    - James- Energy building around policy changes or interventions to help support home-bound in older adults to getting access to vaccines. Conversation around what we might be able to do to intervene around that population.
    - Neil- plan to use our research participant registry to get the word out. And the Tallahassee Senior Center is really good about getting the word out to advertise opportunities in community.
    - Minority & other disadvantaged groups?
      * Robin-Rush University Medical Center in Chicago- had a push for clergy for people from African American & Latin communities to come in and get vaccinated to talk to their hesitant populations about getting the vaccine. In communities of color, many of them don’t possess Internet, but 24,000 names came to her for her staff to call, trying to get them in for vaccinations via phone if they don’t have internet; also working on using a van to provide service to home-bound senior citizens of color.
      * Jodi-University of Colorado-Senior’s Clinic associated with University Hospital, the hospital pushed out thru the app that 70 & over patients could now get the vaccine, School of Pharmacy & College of Nursing students were deployed to immediately pull up reports of highest risk patients from minority reports, impaired populations, and hold for most vulnerable of patient populations; students & clinicians immediately began to call to get them to nearest vaccination center. Hospital hosted a drive-thru vaccination 2 Sunday’s in a row. Pushed them to community clinics if transportation was an issue. Nearly 60 percent of clinic patients have been vaccinated.
      * James-Looking to November, still planning for in-person meeting in Phoenix, but opening up options to attend virtual meeting as well. But on topic of vaccines, by time we get to November, one issue on the table, that a lot of the population going to resist getting the vaccine. If anything happening at any of your centers that are success stories to address vaccine hesitancy, a compelling topic to present at a symposium. Translates over to hesitancy around other vaccines as well, not just the COVID vaccine.
    - **Development of GSA Leadership Institute to train future gerontologists**.
      * Doesn’t have to be center directors, wanting folks to assume leadership roles broadly, as in running an institute.
      * Sara-appropriate for leadership roles within organizations within GSA being able to assume these kinds of roles. Like to think of it a little more broadly outside of academic scope.
      * Patricia-her institute directing a mentorship training through GSA for early careers with special focus on diversity. The interest of the fellows & trainees in being exposed to professionals in a more leadership position, one value of the workshop was faculty, deans, etc. can mentor or answer questions related to how to develop what the career paths are to achieve that role & impactful in terms of leadership opportunities.
      * Pamela-could do a survey to meet needs and see what the gaps are.
      * Sara-a lot of institutions & universities offer leadership programs & training. Could look at different programs as sort of a blueprint to base model on.
      * Elizabeth-benefits of this group is how diverse it is, seeing leadership & cross-pollinating important in developing new leaders. Producing something within GSA would be invaluable, partner with AGHE?
      * John-Training research leaders on research teams? How to run a team? Maybe make it narrower & say leadership & team research on aging?
      * James-making sure building up the pipeline of future leaders is important. Collaboration with AGHE makes sense.
      * Ken-a Visitation Program? People would want to go to peer institutions and visit, how are you doing things on your campus?
      * Sara-put together a small group to start looking?
      * Peter- put together a survey, how to promote and fight for aging on your respective campuses to increase amount of receptivity across campuses?
    - **Other Business/Topics?**
      * Len Kaye-Place of Aging within the broader discussion regarding diversity inclusion & equity. Noticed some disregard for age being a factor or variable when discussions are taking place. Felt uneasiness of how to ensure that this is part of the discussion but not cancelling out current emphasis on racial injustice but caught somewhat between rock & hard place in finding out place in larger discussion.
      * Andrew-Dartmouth University doing work on COVID w/older adults unable to get the vaccine. Working on advocacy on college campus.

Information from Chat Session

From Robyn Golden to Everyone: 02:14 PM

Happy to help with any Kathy Memorial too

From Patricia Heyn, PhD, FGSA, FACRM to Everyone: 02:19 PM

Cassandra,

please could you share your survey

From Michelle Porter to Everyone: 02:20 PM

Here is a link to the new toolkit: https://www.geron.org/images/afu/AFUToolkit\_final.pdf

From Cassandra Barragan to Everyone: 02:23 PM

Environmental Scan <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rnngU63QrO3JRfcgwJMQqYNAprFhpfM5/view?usp=sharing>

Teaching resources <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P7jOMQjyhOO5UhLTPL9XWCo4opIfegur/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18mv4Y9XGL-mz17BAKiNLWuhsOE3XrV5b/view?usp=sharing>

From John Schumacher to Everyone: 02:25 PM

Our AFU focused intentionally on Aging Research. Previously we organized a symposium Re-Imaging Aging Research <https://research.umbc.edu/seminars-and-workshops/?id=49626> to bring "accidental gerontology researchers together.

From Joann Montepare to Everyone: 02:27 PM

Might a GSA symposium submissions that features Kathy's research/collaborations be another way to go

From Patricia Heyn, PhD, FGSA, FACRM to Everyone: 02:28 PM

Great suggestion

From John Schumacher to Everyone: 02:40 PM

Regarding vaccine hesitancy, might GSA contract again with FrameWorks Institute on this project?

From Pamela Saunders to Everyone: 02:45 PM

ASA has a leadership institute

From Debbie Nichols to Everyone: 02:46 PM

I’m sitting in for Pam Teaster (Virginia Tech) today. VT’s Center for Gerontology just launched their online graduate certificate in Leadership for an Aging Society - a 12-credit program.

From Joann Montepare to Everyone: 02:53 PM

Happy to bring the leadership idea to AGHE (v)chairs, we have a meeting coming up soon.

One of AGHE's Academic Program Development Workgroup core objectives is "Professional Development", so a leadership initiative would dovetail nicely with its work. Again, happy to help make the AGHE conenction

From Peter Lichtenberg to Everyone: 02:55 PM

Please do Patricia

From Wendy Rogers to Everyone: 02:56 PM

Nice to see everyone - have to jump to a meeting. Thank you Neil & Callie!

From Patricia Heyn, PhD, FGSA, FACRM to Everyone: 03:00 PM

I see the Geron LI diverse and multi component such as creating materials, resources and even consultation services

From Esme Fuller-Thomson to Everyone: 03:00 PM

Thank you!

From Joann Montepare to Everyone: 03:00 PM

Thanks everyone - looking forward to putting together a collaborative AFU proposal!