

Building an Age-Friendly Rhode Island

NEWSLETTER

*A*ge-Friendly Rhode Island hits the road again, this time partnering with the Rhode Island Healthy Aging Data report team to share our respective work in more than a dozen cities and towns across the state. From Cranston to Barrington to Newport to South Kingstown the teams crisscrossed the state offering detailed community profiles and encouraging age-friendly initiatives.



Marianne Raimondo, PhD., Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration at Rhode Island College and Principal Investigator of Age-Friendly Rhode Island, discussed what it means to be an age-friendly community. She shared an update on recent work, describing initiatives already underway.

Beth Dugan, PhD., Associate Professor of Gerontology at the University of Massachusetts Boston and Principal Investigator of the Healthy Aging Data Report, discussed the findings in the report detailing each community's specific indicators and how they stack up across the state and the region.

The purpose of these visits was two-fold, to present the data for each specific community and to engage residents and leaders in conversations about pursuing age-friendly initiatives in their own cities and town. One of the goals of Age-Friendly Rhode Island is to keep the lines of communication open and staying connected by sharing what is being done with the information gathered last year for the Strategic Plan.

Local leaders, representatives from senior services, recreation and public works, community and social service organizations and a wide array of local residents attended the sessions. Anyone interested in the age-friendly concepts, goals and initiatives was encouraged to participate.



Above - Carmela Geer, Executive Director of the Edward King House in Newport and at left, Marianne Raimondo, Principal Investigator of Age-Friendly Rhode Island address a gathering in Newport. (Photos by Susan E. Bouchard)

So many great ideas and connections came out of these meetings. Sharing this work across the state is just one of the ways to keep this age-friendly momentum going.