

HEALTHY AGING

MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Making Martha's Vineyard an Aging-Friendly Island

Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard Contact Information

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Mission Statement

The mission of Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard (HAMV) is to create an aging-friendly Island, meeting the needs of the rapidly growing 65+ population and those who care for them.

Organization Description

HAMV is a planning, advocacy, and community-building organization. We convene coalitions on key priorities, identify new programs to address service gaps, and secure seed funding. We conduct research to raise awareness and inform planning.

We maximize our effectiveness by "building bridges" with a broad and diverse array of island stakeholders and seek, whenever possible, to support the development of an integrated, island-wide perspective to optimize our collective energy and financial investment.

We educate, build awareness, and activate in the following ways:

- Convene and manage coalitions of island organizations/consumer activists to focus on key priority areas
- Identify evidence-based programs/services to address service gaps, secure seed funding, and create pilot programs

- Conduct research and share analysis/recommendations with Older Adults, service organizations and local governments to stimulate conversation, support decision making and create a long term, shared vision on priorities
- Sponsor educational/awareness seminars
- Address ad-hoc needs of our Older Adults and the agencies that serve them

More information can be found about HAMV at our website www.hamv.org

HAMV also collaborates with national, state and regional entities, including NCOA, AARP Rural Labs and the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative, and we were instrumental in obtaining WHO/AARP certification of Age and Dementia-Friendly communities for all towns on the island in 2022.

Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) is our fiscal agent.

Board Members

- Cindy Doyle, Board Chair
- Paddy Moore, Past Chair and Founder
- Lyndsay Famariss, Administrator, Edgartown Council on Aging
- Beth Folcarelli, Martha's Vineyard Community Services CEO
- Iris Freeman, Social Worker and Educator in Elder Justice
- Leon Haley, Professor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh
- Bob Laskowski, Retired Physician/Healthcare Administrator
- Megan Panek, MV Director, Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands
- Thaddeus Thompson, Previous Administrative Director, Clinical & Perioperative Services and Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer at MVH
- Adam Turner, Executive Director, Martha's Vineyard Commission

FY22 Accomplishments

During FY2022, HAMV's accomplishments include:

- Completion of an island-wide Older Adult survey (2,500 respondents) and the creation of island-wide and town level analysis of findings. Shared these results with over 20+ stakeholder audiences of service agencies, town governments, etc. Completed a mailing of summary findings to 6,000+ Older Adult households.
- Developed a 5 year Community Action Plan, informed by survey and other data sources working with the MA Healthy Aging Collaborative and island partners.

- Obtained certification from WHO/AARP for all six towns to be designated as age friendly and dementia friendly by submission and acceptance of our community plan, partnering with MVC4L on dementia-related action steps.
- Continued and strengthened a pilot program for an island-wide Home Safety Modification Program for 65+ homeowners (or those with disabilities), working with Martha's Vineyard Builders Association and local contractors. The pilot program is referral based (from COAs, MVH, EMTs) and includes identifying participants, conducting a home assessment for minor home safety renovations (i.e. grab bars, stair railings, improved lighting, pull-out shelves etc.), matching the participant with a willing contractor to conduct the renovations, and providing a post-renovation assessment of the project. With grants from MVH and MVSBCF, we will continue to fund home renovations for 50+ pilot participants.
- Convened and led monthly meeting with the Older Adult Transportation Coalition, consisting of over 15 service agencies, to address the needs for alternative transportation options for Older Adults, both on- and off-island.
- Launched the GoGoGrandparent Pilot Program to address on-island needs. Exploring models and funding for off-island medical transportation. Worked with COAs and Coalition members to introduce 3 additional transportation options for Older Adults.
- Hosted bi-monthly meetings with the Falls Prevention Coalition and oversaw island-wide efforts for Falls Prevention Month (Sept), developing a host of print and media assets on awareness, education, and empowerment available to all island service agencies.
- Advocated on behalf of other island agencies to raise awareness of Older Adult needs and to obtain funding and demonstrate legislative support for key initiatives.
- Continued to educate and provide educational seminars for Advance Care Planning, strengthening our partnership with MVH and other health care providers, raising the percentage of Older Adults who have completed Health Care Proxies to over 30% (an increase of 10%+ Y-O-Y). 75% of those who attended educational seminars led by HAMV went on to complete a Health Care proxy.
- Collaborated with the COAs, Food Equity Network, Food Pantry, IGI, and churches to assure isolated Older Adults had access to food and medication during the pandemic.

- Submitted numerous proposals for funding to support these initiatives to Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands, Tufts Foundation, Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, Martha's Vineyard Hospital, Farm Neck Foundation, ARPA funding (via the county) and Martha's Vineyard Community Foundation.
- Created "Project Happiness 2.0" in partnership with IGI to bring gardening projects to isolated Older Adults via the COAs.
- Convened and led monthly meetings with the Digital Inequity work group, including libraries, YMCA and the COAs, to develop one-on-one "when you need it" technology assistance programs for Older Adults, complementing what local agencies are doing.
- Initiated a new early stage pilot program "Home Sharing", modeling it from national programs, to address workforce housing issues and to address Older Adult isolation and need for support.
- Published our newsletter to over 1,400 subscribers raising awareness of island programs serving Older Adults, sharing information on aging research and trends, and providing information on local resources.
- Advocated for the development of the Green House model nursing home, working with MVH and Navigator Homes to bring this 10 year journey to completion, resulting in a 70 bed skilled nursing home facility on-island that is available to residents at all income levels.