

04/11/2022
2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall
Tim Boston
Outreach Coordinator
City of Biddeford

- **All in Attendance**

- Presentation from Ashley Perrone, Meals on Wheels and SMAA
 - Presentation: Southern Maine Agency on Aging
 - Focused on refuge/immigrant community
 - Connecting with established organizations to help New Mainers
 - Catholic Charities has been a good partner, esp. re: language access
 - DEI Work began in 2021; started training with USM
 - Current caseload not diverse
 - Offering Halal meals
 - She and Bistra are on a language access sub-committee
 - SMAA serves York and Cumberland counties
 - Informal partnerships with other organizations like Catholic Charities
 - Discussion of translation challenges
 - Looking for cultural brokers
 - Outreach to rural communities is a challenge; LGBTQ populations
 - Congregate meal programs:
 - Community Café - traditional meal, once a month (donation based) --> Community Center in Biddeford
 - As You Like It – restaurant-based program, meal credit (donation based)
 - Other areas of need: daily chores, salt/sand in winter
 - Recruitment/retention of volunteers
- Community Engagement Effort
 - Who are we looking to reach?
 - Specific communities, or the community as a whole?

- Before we reach out, examine ourselves
- What are the existing challenges that we can help others interpret?
- What existing/current processes can we examine and engage in?
 - Discussion of Comprehensive Plan, engagement efforts around it
- Homework to be done by the group to establish a Mission/Vision/Values statement
- Comp Plan example as a brainstorm for inclusivity
 - Can be recorded and watched/participated in later
 - Challenges of print media changing to digital platforms
 - Possible Biddeford Beat features
 - Identifying demographics in the city:
 - Schools
 - Places of worship
 - Service Providers
- Decision to focus on our HW before moving forward with an outreach effort or formation of sub-committees

- **Meeting Adjourned**