

LeadingAge Maryland - 2024 - SB 875 - Miriam Kelty

Uploaded by: Aaron Greenfield

Position: FAV

TO: Finance Committee
FROM: LeadingAge Maryland
SUBJECT: Senate Bill 875, Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program Elderly
DATE: March 1, 2024
POSITION: Favorable

LeadingAge Maryland supports Senate Bill 875, Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program

Elderly

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of more than 140 not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. Members of LeadingAge Maryland provide health care, housing, and services to more than 20,000 older persons each year. Our mission is to be the trusted voice for aging in Maryland, and our vision is that Maryland is a state where older adults have access to the services they need, when they need them, in the place they call home. We partner with consumers, caregivers, researchers, public agencies, faith communities and others who care about aging in Maryland. LeadingAge supports innovative community-based care models that promote healthy aging-in-place and an intervention for social isolation and loneliness in older adults.

Senate Bill 875 establishes the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program in the Maryland Department of Aging. Under this proposed program, the Montgomery County Consortium will establish a 3-year strategic plan for the pilot program. They will also be responsible for submitting annual reports to the Department of Aging regarding the implementation of the plan in several key areas. These areas include administration, direct services provided, operations, programming, fund-raising, outreach, financials, and client satisfaction among leaders of the villages. The Governor must include an \$80,000 appropriation for the pilot program. These funds are to be used for employing an operations manager, fund-raising, marketing and outreach, and programming. At the end of the three-year program, the Consortium will provide a comprehensive report to the Department of Aging which will include best practices for creating and operating a hub and spoke model, establishing a hub and identifying resources within the community, and identifying the capacity of each hub.

The Village Model is a promising model for the care of older adults in the future. It is consumer-driven and prioritizes aging-in-place. That it is embedded within the community contributes to the model's sustainability. It also promotes engagement with the community which can be a protective factor against social isolation and loneliness in older adults. Social relationships have been demonstrated as an important indicator of positive health outcomes in

older adults. Older adults who actively participate in their Villages experience improvements in social and civic engagement, quality of life, and confidence in believing they can age in their own homes.

Successful communities are also active in other parts of the state, such as Baltimore County. LeadingAge Maryland particularly supports the bill's provisions in identifying the capacity of each hub, including geographic and population capacity along with developing recommendations regarding how best to support interested and diverse and underserved communities with the development of villages.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 875.

Aaron J. Greenfield, Greenfield Law, LLC, 410.446.1992

EveryMind TestimonySB875.Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Alyssa Sanders

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 875 –
Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program

Senate Finance Committee
March 1, 2024

As an organization deeply committed to the well-being of seniors and aging adults in Maryland, EveryMind is proud to offer our strong endorsement of Senate Bill 875 - the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program.

EveryMind provides services and programs to older adults in Montgomery County that enhance their quality of life and promote independence. We understand firsthand the importance of fostering social connections and providing comprehensive support to seniors as they age in place. The need to invest in community support for aging Marylanders has never been timelier – in the next 6 years, it is expected that 22% of Maryland’s population will be 60 or older.

The village model, which this bill seeks to further develop through a pilot program, has shown immense promise in empowering seniors to remain active and engaged in their communities. By offering volunteer-led services such as transportation, grocery shopping assistance, and social activities, villages play a critical role in combating social isolation and promoting overall well-being among older adults.

SB875 represents a crucial opportunity to expand access to these invaluable resources and services for seniors across Maryland. By establishing a pilot program that focuses on growing the village community, older adults will be supported to age in place in their own homes and strategies to meet the needs of older adults will be expanded.

Moreover, this pilot program aligns perfectly with our vision of creating a more age-friendly Maryland. By investing in initiatives that prioritize social connection and community support, we can ensure that seniors have the resources and assistance they need to age with dignity and independence.

In conclusion, EveryMind wholeheartedly supports SB875 and urges lawmakers to prioritize its passage. By coming together to support our aging population, we can build a stronger, more resilient community for all Marylanders.

Thank you for considering our testimony and for your continued commitment to supporting seniors in our state.

Letter of Support Wolek Bill 2-29-24.pdf

Uploaded by: Constance Row

Position: FAV

Senator Ariana Kelly
Annapolis, Maryland

Subject: Letter of Support for SB875 Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program

Dear Senator Kelly,

This letter indicates the support of the undersigned initial members of the Montgomery County Villages Consortium, the non-profit organization established to strengthen the important work of Villages in Montgomery County helping the growing numbers of seniors who are aging in place by choice and necessity. It is essential that volunteer-based Villages continue and grow, given the burgeoning numbers and needs of seniors.

The administrative services organization approach has worked in Village and association management models across the country because it spreads necessary infrastructure costs across a wider base of organizations, thereby reducing, or if subsidized, eliminating costs. While our model will copy some of the ideas of organizations already in existence, it will also have some unique elements, given the history of Villages, our geography, available services, and other factors. Thus, the study approach is a good one, for no doubt we will have data to share and stories to tell. The dearth of Villages in other parts of the State means that the findings can be used when the study is complete.

We commend you for introducing this bill and hope it will find support.

Sincerely,

Constance F. Row
President, Montgomery County Consortium

For members

Friendship Heights Neighbors Network, Constance Row
Little Falls Village, Margie Eulner Ott
Kentlands and Lakelands, Linda Weisman
Takoma Park, Lois Weinberg
Strathmore Bel Pre, Kristi Hullings
East County Seniors, Sylvia Saunders
Silver Spring, Beverly Lunsford

-

SB875_CoA_favr.pdf

Uploaded by: elizabeth Carrier

Position: FAV



COMMISSION ON AGING

February 24, 2024

Finance Committee
Chair, Senator Pamela Beidle
Vice Chair, Senator Katherine Klausmeier
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 875 SUPPORT

Dear Chair Beidle and Vice Chair Klausmeier:

I am writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging in support of the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program bill. The Commission is authorized by the Older Americans Act, P.L. 116-131, and was established by Montgomery County in 1974 to advise Montgomery County government on the needs, interests, and issues of older adult residents, and to advocate on their behalf at the local, state and national levels. Miriam Kelty was a member of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging from 2011 to 2017 and we are very pleased that she is honored by this Bill.

The proposed innovative hub and spoke pilot project described in the Bill is intended to assist the growth of Villages in diverse and lower income communities as well as ensure the sustainability and efficiency of existing Villages. This pilot program will create a grant to support the Montgomery County Village Consortium. The pilot will centralize tasks, currently undertaken by individual Villages, so that member Villages can maintain and grow services and events as well as share their expertise with other communities. The Montgomery County Village Consortium can make a very important contribution to learning, testing, and developing best practices for the hub and spoke model of Village management. This innovative model can potentially offer helpful insights which will be shared across Maryland and help the Maryland Department of Aging with their mission to make Maryland Longevity Ready.

Currently there are 30 active Villages in Montgomery County and seven in development. Although each Village is unique, they have a shared goal to reduce social isolation and provide volunteer help to seniors aging in place. For FY 2021-2022 the Montgomery

Department of Health and Human Services

401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 240-777-1120, FAX 240-777-1436

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

County Villages produced a Collective Impact Report. In this study, the reporting Montgomery County Villages:

- Donated more than 57,000 volunteer hours that were estimated to be worth \$1,700,000.
- Filled 13,340 service requests over a two-year period.
- Provided 6,221 volunteer rides.
- Engaged 3,555 people as members and volunteers.
- Conducted 3,353 social activities and events.

These outstanding results were accomplished by the current operating Villages. However, Villages in diverse and lower income communities require start-up support as starting a Village is a complex process. Additionally, active Villages seek to collaborate on creating an efficient and cost-effective administration to ensure sustainability and future growth. These outstanding results could be expanded by providing administrative support through the hub and spoke model to fledgling Villages.

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging believes that Villages are vital contributors to the well-being of older adults and can help them thrive in their communities. Testing and providing additional administrative support in a hub and spoke model will be a vital way to expand the Village movement and help more older adults age in place.

The Commission on Aging is available to offer additional information to support this Bill.

With great appreciation for this initiative and all good wishes for its success, we urge favorable consideration for SB875.

Sincerely,

David Engel

David Engel, Chair

Montgomery County Commission on Aging

Department of Health and Human Services

401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 240-777-1120, FAX 240-777-1436

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

Department of Health and Human Services

401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 240-777-1120, FAX 240-777-1436

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee.pdf

Uploaded by: elizabeth Carrier

Position: FAV

Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
March 1, 2024
On behalf of Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA)
In support of SB875.
Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program
Submitted by Elizabeth Carrier

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Elizabeth Carrier and I am honored to have the opportunity to testify in support of SB875 the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program.

I serve on the Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA) and I am speaking on behalf of the Commission. I also am a founder and past Board Chair of the Bradley Hills Village in Bethesda.

The Commission believes that villages are vital contributors to the well-being of older adults. This is accomplished as villages provide services and programs that help reduce social isolation and help older adults age in place in their communities. Testing and providing additional administrative support in a hub and spoke model, as described in SB875, will be an important way to expand the village movement.

SB 875 will provide needed administrative support through a “hub and spoke” program that provides administrative services to villages. This program will assist in the growth of villages in diverse and lower income communities and will help to ensure the sustainability and efficiency of existing villages. The proposed pilot will centralize tasks so that participating villages can share their expertise and maintain and increase services and events that are offered. The pilot can make an important contribution to learning, testing, and developing best practices for this model of village management. This innovative model can offer insights to villages across Maryland and help the Department of Aging with their mission to make Maryland Longevity Ready.

With great appreciation for this initiative and all good wishes for its success, we urge favorable consideration for SB875.

+++++

The Commission is authorized by the Older Americans Act, P.L. 116-131, and was established by Montgomery County in 1974 to advise Montgomery County government on the needs, interests, and issues of older adult residents, and to advocate on their behalf at the local, state and national levels.

Additional questions contact:
Elizabeth Carrier
5805 McKinley Street
Bethesda, MD 20817
Betsycarrier1@gmail.com
202-344-0088

AAPI Caucus Testimony SB875.pdf

Uploaded by: Harry Bhandari

Position: FAV



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE ASIAN AMERICAN
AND PACIFIC ISLANDER CAUCUS
MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DELEGATE HARRY BHANDARI, PH.D
CHAIR

DELEGATE MARK S. CHANG
FIRST VICE CHAIR

DELEGATE LILY QI
SECOND VICE CHAIR

SENATOR CLARENCE K. LAM, M.D., M.P.H.
SECRETARY

DELEGATE CHAO WU, PH.D
TREASURER

DELEGATE DAVID MOON
CHAIR, LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY
COMMITTEE

DELEGATE KRISSELDA VALDERRAMA
CHAIR, OUTREACH COMMITTEE

DELEGATE SARAH WOLEK

Dear Chair Biedle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

As the Chair of the Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus, I am writing to express our unequivocal support for SB875/HB1103, which proposes the establishment of the Miriam Kelyt Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program within the Maryland Department of Aging.

The Miriam Kelyt Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program represent an essential step forward in enhancing and expanding these efforts. By centralizing administrative tasks and fostering collaboration among Villages, this pilot program aims to address the unique challenges villages face in diverse and lower-income communities, thereby ensuring that more seniors can age in place with dignity and support.

The Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus recognizes the importance of such initiatives in promoting the health, independence, and social connectivity of older adults across Maryland. The proposed bill aligns with our commitment to advocating for policies that support the diverse needs of our aging population.

We commend Delegate Wolek for introducing this significant legislation and thank all advocates for their dedication to advancing this cause. The lessons learned from the collective impact of Montgomery County's Villages, underscore the potential of the Hub and Spoke model to transform senior living and community support systems across our state.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to grant a favorable report on SB875/HB1103. We stand ready to provide further information or assistance to support this bill's successful passage.

Thank you for considering our support for this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Harry Bhandari
Chair, Maryland Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus

HFAM Testimony SB 875.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph DeMattos

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

March 1, 2024

Senate Bill 875: Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 875.

HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state. HFAM is affiliated with the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), which is the largest association in the United States representing long-term and post-acute care providers.

Senate Bill 875 establishes the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program in the Maryland Department of Aging; establishes the purpose and the goals of the Pilot Program are to support the "village" concept of local, volunteer-led organizations that aim to provide certain services to community members who choose to age in place and to expand those services to more residents in the geographic region; and requires the Montgomery County Village Consortium to establish a certain plan and submit certain reports.

The "village" concept is an innovative way of helping older adults continue to age in place safely and independently with an enhanced quality of life. Villages are membership-driven organizations that provide support services such as organizing social activities, providing volunteer opportunities, assistance with transportation, and help around the house.

HFAM has long advocated that Marylanders should receive care in a clinically appropriate setting that meets both their medical and personal needs. If a person can safely age in place at home, then they should have the opportunity to do so. The village concept can help people safely remain at home in the community longer, reducing overall total costs of care.

We have an opportunity for villages to start to fill the gap between the services older adults need and what they can afford to age in place. And, villages are increasingly serving older adults in under-resources communities and diverse populations. This legislation is a step forward towards ensuring that we best utilize the resources we have available to expand and enhance the village model in Maryland.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 875.

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.
President and CEO
(410) 290-5132

SB875 favorable support CHAI 03.24.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Budlow

Position: FAV

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Peter Burstein
President

Esther Weiner
First Vice President

Ron Bronfin

Scott M. Brown

Cronshi Englander

Eugene Poverni

Steven Stern
Vice Presidents

Jeffrey Powers
Secretary

Matthew Rothstein
Treasurer

Mark Pressman
Housing Management Chair

Howard Sollins
Immediate Past President

MEMBERS

Ari Abramson

Rivka Bier

Liz Briscoe

Reba Cornman

Peter D. Fastow

Michael A. Gaines, Sr.

Jonathan Herz

Rev. Arnold Howard

Martha Nathanson

Zed Smith

Jill Spector

Neil Sweren

Richard H. Topaz

Judy Paschkusz-Weiss

LIFE MEMBERS

David Bavar ^{Z1}

David Brooks

Sanford Gardin

David Carliner

Howard Chertkof ^{Z1}

Paul Cooper

Benjamin Dubin

Alan Fink

Samuel Frank ^{Z1}

Ken Gelula

Cass Gottlieb

Erwin Greenberg

Jerome Gross ^{Z1}

Fritzi Hallock

Lowell Herman

Leroy Hoffberger ^{Z1}

Arnold Kohn ^{Z1}

Harold Manekin ^{Z1}

Aaron Max

Edward Obstler ^{Z1}

Melissa Peters

Robert Pollokoff

Melvyn Pugatch ^{Z1}

Jeffrey Rosen

Lee Rosenberg

Arnold Scheinberg

Ina Singer

Todd Tilson

Robert Weinberg ^{Z1}

Larry Wolf ^{Z1}

Lisa K. Budlow
Chief Executive Officer



TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc. (CHAI)

SUBJECT: SB 875 Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program Elderly

DATE: March 1, 2024

POSITION: Favorable

Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc. (CHAI) supports SB 875 Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program Elderly

Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc. (CHAI) is a community based nonprofit organization serving northwest Baltimore City and County. Now celebrating 40 years of community service, CHAI strengthens northwest neighborhoods through housing and community development so residents of all ages can thrive. With nearly 1,700 units of affordable senior housing, CHAI’s work has a special focus on supporting older adults to age well in the community for as long as they choose. Beyond our safe, stable, and supportive housing communities, CHAI provides many programs and services directed specifically to support seniors aging in their own homes. These include the Myerberg Center, a 55+ hub of activity, wellness, and connection; our Senior Home Repair and Benefits program, which offers home repairs and modifications to low-income senior homeowners; our new CHAIway senior transportation program; and Northwest Neighbors Connecting, a thriving village of approximately 120 members established in 2012.

In the 12 years since our NNC village began, we have seen first-hand the enormous value of the village model and the importance of our village to its members. NNC is member-run – all programming, trips, speakers, clubs, and events are created and designed by members for members. This keeps them engaged in the kind of activity they find meaningful and allows them to continually innovate and refresh the way they spend time together. NNC members participate in art club, diversity dialogues, cultural outings, affinity circles, and more. But more important than the activities themselves is the bond of care they offer one another. They provide weekly wellness checks, support one another through medical procedures, celebrate birthdays, mourn losses, and generally show up for one another when needed. NNC members truly have a village to support them as they age in place. This support was never more important than during the pandemic, and the value of NNC to its members grew tremendously during that time.

CHAI fully supports Senate Bill 875, which establishes the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program in the Maryland Department of Aging. We are excited to see the development of a plan for the pilot program and would like to offer our support to the Montgomery County Consortium as the work begins. Over the past 12 years, we have learned much about what makes villages successful and would be glad to contribute to this effort.



Written Support - SB875 - Miriam Kelty Aging and S

Uploaded by: Liz Woodward

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: February 29, 2024

Bill Number: **SB875**

Bill Title: Miriam Kilty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program

Committee: Senate Finance

MDOA Position: FAVORABLE

The Department of Aging (MDOA) submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 875 - Miriam Kilty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population. Pursuant to a recent Executive Order, in January 2024, MDOA launched the Longevity-Ready Maryland Initiative,¹ which will build upon existing efforts across state agencies, private and philanthropic sectors and other stakeholders to tackle real-life challenges throughout the lifespan, taking a whole-of-life and whole-of-government approach. Key goals of Longevity-Ready Maryland are for all Marylanders to lead lives that are healthy, financially secure, socially connected, purposeful.

The village model has emerged over the past several years as an innovative, cost-efficient way to support older adults in their own homes. Villages support community members by providing volunteer-led key services like transportation to appointments, assistance with grocery shopping, home repair, and social engagement activities. Villages are typically established as 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and sometimes charge membership dues to provide services.² There are currently 42 established villages in Maryland to the best of MDOA's current knowledge. MDOA currently funds some Maryland villages, including the Montgomery County Village Consortium (a non-profit collaboration of multiple villages), through two state funding streams, including a

¹ See, Maryland Department of Aging: Longevity-Ready Maryland Initiative *available at:* <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/LRM.aspx>

² See, AARP, "The Village Model: Current Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities," *available at:*



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

statutorily-authorized Aging in Place annual grant fund. MDOA is strongly committed to this model as it is a person-centered, volunteer-driven, low-cost way to keep older Marylanders healthy, well-supported in their homes.

Conducting this three-year pilot program to growing Maryland's village community fits perfectly with MDOA's Longevity-Ready Maryland Initiative's goals and has MDOA's strong support. This consortium will share valuable best practices and lessons learned for village operations and strategy in the future while supporting the establishment of new villages in diverse, underserved communities statewide. This work will serve as an excellent extension of MDOA's existing village support and engagement statewide.

For these reasons, the Department of Aging respectfully urges a favorable report for SB875. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmel Roques".

Carmel Roques

Secretary

Maryland Department of Aging

SB875_CoA_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Marc Elrich

Position: FAV



COMMISSION ON AGING

February 29, 2024

Finance Committee
Chair, Senator Pamela Beidle
Vice Chair, Senator Katherine Klausmeier
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 875 SUPPORT

Dear Chair Beidle and Vice Chair Klausmeier:

I am writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging in support of the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program bill. The Commission is authorized by the Older Americans Act, P.L. 116-131, and was established by Montgomery County in 1974 to advise Montgomery County government on the needs, interests, and issues of older adult residents, and to advocate on their behalf at the local, state and national levels. Miriam Kelty was a member of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging from 2011 to 2017 and we are very pleased that she is honored by this Bill.

The proposed innovative hub and spoke pilot project described in the Bill is intended to assist the growth of Villages in diverse and lower income communities as well as ensure the sustainability and efficiency of existing Villages. This pilot program will create a grant to support the Montgomery County Village Consortium. The pilot will centralize tasks (currently undertaken by individual Villages) so that member Villages can maintain and grow services and events as well as share their expertise with other communities. The Montgomery County Village Consortium can make a very important contribution to learning, testing, and developing best practices for the hub and spoke model of Village management. This innovative model can potentially offer helpful insights which will be shared across Maryland and help the Maryland Department of Aging with their mission to make Maryland Longevity Ready.

Currently there are 30 active Villages in Montgomery County and seven in development. Although each Village is unique, they have a shared goal to reduce social isolation and provide volunteer help to seniors aging in place. For FY 2021-2022 the Montgomery

Department of Health and Human Services

401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 240-777-1120, FAX 240-777-1436

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

County Villages produced a Collective Impact Report. In this study, the reporting Montgomery County Villages:

- Donated more than 57,000 volunteer hours that were estimated to be worth \$1,700,000.
- Filled 13,340 service requests over a two-year period.
- Provided 6,221 volunteer rides.
- Engaged 3,555 people as members and volunteers.
- Conducted 3,353 social activities and events.

These outstanding results were accomplished by the current operating Villages. However, Villages in diverse and lower income communities require start-up support as starting a Village is a complex process. Additionally, active Villages seek to collaborate on creating an efficient and cost-effective administration to ensure sustainability and future growth. These outstanding results could be expanded by providing administrative support through the hub and spoke model to fledgling Villages.

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging believes that Villages are vital contributors to the well-being of older adults and can help them thrive in their communities. Testing and providing additional administrative support in a hub and spoke model will be a vital way to expand the Village movement and help more older adults age in place.

The Commission on Aging is available to offer additional information to support this Bill.

With great appreciation for this initiative and all good wishes for its success, we urge favorable consideration for SB875.

Sincerely,

David Engel

David Engel, Chair

Montgomery County Commission on Aging

SB875-COA Testimony_SenateFinanCmte.pdf

Uploaded by: Marc Elrich

Position: FAV

Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
March 1, 2024
On behalf of Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA)
In support of SB875.
Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program
Submitted by Elizabeth Carrier

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Elizabeth Carrier and I am honored to have the opportunity to testify in support of SB875 the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program.

I serve on the Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA) and I am speaking on behalf of the Commission. I also am a founder and past Board Chair of the Bradley Hills Village in Bethesda.

The Commission believes that villages are vital contributors to the well-being of older adults. This is accomplished as villages provide services and programs that help reduce social isolation and help older adults age in place in their communities. Testing and providing additional administrative support in a hub and spoke model, as described in SB875, will be an important way to expand the village movement.

SB 875 will provide needed administrative support through a “hub and spoke” program that provides administrative services to villages. This program will assist in the growth of villages in diverse and lower income communities and will help to ensure the sustainability and efficiency of existing villages. The proposed pilot will centralize tasks so that participating villages can share their expertise and maintain and increase services and events that are offered. The pilot can make an important contribution to learning, testing, and developing best practices for this model of village management. This innovative model can offer insights to villages across Maryland and help the Department of Aging with their mission to make Maryland Longevity Ready.

With great appreciation for this initiative and all good wishes for its success, we urge favorable consideration for SB875.

+++++

The Commission is authorized by the Older Americans Act, P.L. 116-131, and was established by Montgomery County in 1974 to advise Montgomery County government on the needs, interests, and issues of older adult residents, and to advocate on their behalf at the local, state and national levels.

Additional questions contact:
Elizabeth Carrier
5805 McKinley Street
Bethesda, MD 20817
Betsycarrier1@gmail.com
202-344-0088

Testimony for MCVS Senate bill 030124.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Jo Deering

Position: FAV



Testimony to the Maryland Senate Finance Committee in Support of the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program bill, SB875.
March 1, 2024

Members of the Committee:

My name is Mary Jo Deering. I am President of the Washington Area Villages Exchange (WAVE). WAVE is the nonprofit umbrella organization that brings together 79 nonprofit villages in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, DC, to learn and grow by sharing experiences and ideas. We serve the 43 known villages in Maryland. Miriam Kelty was one of the WAVE founders in 2010. She created and led an innovative village in Bannockburn, Montgomery County, for many years; personally mentored villages around the region; and served as WAVE president for several years. We're pleased that she is honored by this bill and know that she would be too.

My testimony may or may not necessarily reflect the opinions of individual villages that participate in WAVE.

WAVE strongly agrees that that villages are vital contributors to the well-being of older adults and can help them thrive in their communities. In the nearly 15 years that WAVE has been serving villages, we have seen a significant evolution of approaches to creating and sustaining them. The original model—geographically small, neighborhood based—still flourishes in many communities. In addition, the value of collaboration and economies of scale has promoted new models capable of assembling more resources for aging populations. We are also seeing more multigenerational villages. What remains the same is the “neighbors getting to know and help neighbors” principle.

The hub-and-spokes model is being explored around the country as a promising approach to help sustain existing neighborhood villages and make it possible for new villages to be created in underserved areas. By gathering certain common administrative functions in the hub, “spokes” villages can focus on hyper-local neighborhood connections.

The proposed pilot project can make an important contribution to learning, testing, and developing best practices for the hub and spokes model of village management. There is

Washington Area Villages Exchange, Inc.
WAVEVillages.org
Washingtonareavillages@gmail.com

a dearth of evidence about this innovative model that can potentially offer helpful efficiencies for growing and sustaining villages. The documentation and reports from the pilot village will be invaluable.

WAVE is partnering with the Maryland Department of Aging on projects to encourage and support villages across the state. There are many counties that have no villages at present. We will be reaching out to counties and non-governmental entities to inform them of approaches they can take to promote, establish, and support villages in their areas. The hub-and-spokes model is an attractive option for them to help initiate sustainable villages in their areas. This pilot project in Montgomery County will provide important lessons to help inform their decisions. We would welcome members of this committee or your staff to attend the meetings and programs we will lead.

On a personal note, I myself created a village in my community in Montgomery County 10 years ago. It is a no-member, no-fee all-volunteer model. I started it because I intended to "age in place." I've told my family I'll only leave my house feet first. Our village is flourishing with healthy, active neighbors. But as we age, our village will need to consider the benefits of joining a hub-and-spokes model. I'd like to know there are good examples available when we need them.

Thank you for your attention. I hope you will support this bill.

Mary Jo Deering
President
Washington Area Villages Exchange (WAVE)
President@Wavevillages.org

Wehr Letter of Support Kelly MD SB 875 3-1-24.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Wehr

Position: FAV

March 1, 2024

Senator Ariana Kelly
James Senate Office Building, Room 222
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland

Subject: Letter of Support for SB-875 (2024 Session), Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program

Dear Senator Kelly,

I am pleased to provide this letter, both on behalf of the Montgomery County Villages Consortium and on behalf of Little Falls Village, a Montgomery County Village serving residents of zip code 20816. This letter is in strong support of SB-875 (and its companion Bill, HB 1103).

The establishment of the Miriam Kelty Aging and Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program offers a rare opportunity to extend the development of the Village model to all Maryland seniors.

Villages can provide a very wide range of support services to those who choose to age-in-place; from transportation to medical appointments and shopping, to providing social, cultural, and education events, and services such as assistance with computers, lawn care, and minor home repairs.

Many Villages are well-developed and have the ability to share resources. Some have limited capabilities while other areas are in need of outreach to establish a Village. The hub and spoke model provides the opportunity to extend support to Villages across the spectrum, supporting well-developed Villages and allowing them to share resources, expanding those with limited capabilities, and providing outreach to establish Villages in areas with no Villages in place.

My Village, Little Falls Village is a good example of how one Village can help others- by sharing resources and expertise. Little Falls Village is a well-developed Village with multiple programs and support activities. We are the fiscal sponsor of the Consortium, helping the Consortium to begin its work. We also currently share programs and events with other Villages and plan to extend this approach, as well as our expertise, through the Consortium.

Montgomery County is a perfect place for a pilot program as it contains the entire spectrum of Village types and situations. SB-875 is an excellent investment in helping Maryland seniors maintain and improve their quality of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB-875. We commend you for introducing this Bill and hope it will find support.

Sincerely,

Michael Wehr

H. Michael Wehr
Vice-President, Montgomery County Consortium; Co-Vice-President, Little Falls Village

Sen Kelly SB875 FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Senator Ariana Kelly
Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 1st, 2024

SB875: Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program

Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, Members of the Committee,

I am here today to introduce Senate Bill 875, the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program. This legislation presents an opportunity to address the needs of Maryland's aging population by providing seniors with necessary services and fostering social connection.

Senate Bill 875 seeks to establish this critical program within the Maryland Department of Aging. This initiative aims to centralize administrative tasks for local volunteer-led organizations known as "villages," which support community members choosing to age in place. Villages play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for seniors by fostering social connections through programming efforts and coordinating volunteer help at home.

The pilot program outlined in Senate Bill 875 serves several essential purposes. It seeks to learn, test, and develop best practices using a hub and spoke model for village administration, lessening the burden on volunteers and coordinating resources to maximize the reach of services provided. Village volunteers help their senior neighbors by driving them to doctor's appointments, the pharmacy, or the grocery store, and by shoveling snow from their driveway or gardening. This is especially critical help if seniors don't have any family nearby. The value of the service time that people are willingly giving to take care of their community members, if quantified in dollars, would be tremendous, and our counties and our state are saving significant dollars through this village movement.

As the senior population continues to increase in Maryland, initiatives such as the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program are essential for addressing the unique challenges faced by older adults and promoting their well-being and social inclusion.

Villages are currently facing the challenge of managing the inevitable administrative tasks (such as fundraising, managing finances, and more). Volunteers are often unable or unwilling to take on that work. To address this issue, seven villages have come together to form a consortium and pilot a hub and spoke model. This model will centralize administrative tasks so that individual

villages within the consortium are freed up to do their core work. It's the first time that this is being tried in our state.

After the three-year pilot, our state will get a report from this consortium on the lessons they've learned that can be leveraged state-wide. Villages are already beginning to form throughout our state, and are reaching out for guidance from more experienced villages that are part of this pilot. By forming this hub and spoke, the experienced villages believe that they will have more time to assist other villages as they form across the state.

There is a friendly amendment to this bill, it makes explicit that the funds for this program will be transferred from the Department of Aging to the Montgomery County Village Consortium. This was a request that originated from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and was voted on favorably by the Health and Government Operations subcommittee.

This legislation represents a significant step forward in supporting Maryland's aging population and fostering vibrant, connected communities for seniors across the state. Thank you for your time today, and I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 875.

SB875_MoCoDHHS_Frey_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Frey

Position: FWA



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 875

DATE: March 1, 2024

SPONSOR: Senator Kelly

ASSIGNED TO: Finance

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS (Department of Health and Human Services)

Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program

Senate Bill 875 establishes the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program in the Maryland Department of Aging to develop best practices using a hub and spoke model for Village administration; centralize administrative tasks; coordinate resources and operations to maximize service delivery efficiency; support new and developing Villages; and build social connection and combat loneliness for seniors aging in place. The bill requires the Montgomery County Village Consortium to establish a 3-year strategic plan for the pilot program and submit an annual report to the Department of Aging regarding the implementation of the strategic plan. Under the bill, the Governor must appropriate \$80,000 for the pilot program in fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services respectfully requests an amendment to clarify that the funding provided under the bill should be allocated by the Department of Aging to the Montgomery County Village Consortium to satisfy the requirements of the bill. The Montgomery County Village Consortium is an independent non-profit and not a part of Montgomery County Government.

Senate Bill 875 addresses two challenges facing Villages¹- sustainability and limited ability to conduct outreach to diverse communities. Some Villages find that it is difficult to enlist enough volunteer power to serve as administrators. They have difficulty retaining leadership and without stable operations are at risk of ceasing operations. By centralizing staff to perform administrative functions, Villages can turn their attention to the activities that are key to Village work, such as building relationships and providing volunteer help to members. Additionally, Villages are very interested in supporting the growth of Villages in diverse and low-income communities. This is an ongoing challenge because establishing a Village requires effort, time, know-how, and resources. The Montgomery County Village Consortium will make the start-up process much easier by providing a nonprofit infrastructure that is already in place, thus reducing barriers and increasing equity of access to the Village concept for non-white and low-income older adults.

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services respectfully requests a favorable report with the clarifying amendment to Senate Bill 875 as it is an innovative way to build infrastructure to support aging-in-place for older adults and enhance the continuum of care for older adults in the community.

¹ Under the bill, Villages are defined as: "local, volunteer-led organizations that aim to support community members who choose to age in place, including by: (1) fostering social connections through activities and events; and (2) coordinating volunteer help at home using the neighbor-helping-neighbor model."