

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Mass Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Development Board Chairs
Workforce Development Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: July 17, 2017

Subject: Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts through Community Listening Sessions

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners that Governor Charles D. Baker's Council will be holding community listening sessions to address [Aging in Massachusetts](#).

Background: On April 12, 2017, Governor Charlie Baker signed an Executive Order No. 576 establishing the state's first Governor's Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts. The Council's charge is to develop a plan to improve public and private efforts to support healthy aging in Massachusetts, and to achieve the goal of making the Commonwealth the most age-friendly state for people of all ages. Older adults are the largest and fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population and they will make up 23% of the Commonwealth's population by 2035.

Listening sessions are being held to hear ideas about how to make the Commonwealth the most livable state for people of all ages. The Council will advise the Administration on policy to support healthy aging and would like to hear specifically about:

- What factors make your community a great place to grow older?
- How can we support families that include one or more older adults?
- How can we promote more human connectedness (reduce loneliness, isolation) in communities?

- What are the top two issues or concerns that create barriers to people being able to age well in their communities?
- How can we accelerate innovation to support and connect older adults?
- How can we change public perceptions about aging?

Sessions are scheduled for:

July 25, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Barnstable Senior Center
825 Falmouth Road
Hyannis, MA 02601

August 2, 2017

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Elder Services of Berkshire County
877 South Street, Suite 4E
Pittsfield, MA 01201

The public is invited to attend to assist with making a positive impact across Massachusetts communities. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request, contact: William Travascio at 617-222-7597 or William.Travascio@state.ma.us.

If unable to attend but would like to share ideas please send via email to: Aging.Conversation@state.ma.us. For more information, visit: www.mass.gov/agingcouncil.

Action

Requested: Please share with managers, staff, partners and customers as appropriate.