

## **ARTHRITIS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**March 17, 2021**

**5:00 – 6:00 pm**

### **Committee Members Present**

Rachel Pigott (Chair)

Dr. Afton Thomas

Salliann Alborn

Linda Kline

### **Committee Members Absent**

Dr. Sumit Bassi

### **Maryland Department of Health Staff Present**

Dr. Olubukola Alonge

#### **1. Welcome**

Rachel called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm with members welcome. The minutes were not approved during the meeting due to the late posting of the agenda publicly contrary to the open meetings act requirement.

#### **2. Discussion**

The National Arthritis Awareness month is in May and a decision was made to discuss with the arthritis foundation on how we could partner in recognition of the month. The American College of Rheumatologists (ACR) has a link to find a rheumatologist near you, Dr. Thomas will share with Rachel and we can post on multiple outlets e.g., Arthritis Foundation, MDH as well as place in the AOTA Infographic and Social Media Post/Creative Considerations document being worked on by Rachel. The target audience for the creative considerations document are family members and caregivers. It was recommended that Rachel should add on” empowering the person experiencing arthritis to be an informed self-advocate for their healthcare” to the objectives. Dr. Thomas also reached out to patients to serve on the AF connect group; yet to recruit anyone but will keep searching for an interested participant. There are currently 10 registered members on the Spring Annual Walk for the Cure Walking group. We discussed about partnering with the fitness committee on appropriate social media messaging to use on our different platforms e.g., #MDFit150. Rachel also shared that there is a new Executive Director for the AF in Maryland who reached out to her.

#### **3. Next Steps**

- Rachel will reach out to the fitness committee to determine standard fitness related messaging that can be used for the Spring Annual Walk for the Cure.
- Buki will send the creative considerations document to Kristi who will send to the Chair of the HWC for approval.

#### **4. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm

**Next Meeting:** April 21, 2021; 5:25 – 6:00 PM