

## Senior Services Round Table

On Wednesday, January 11, 2017, the Department of Housing & Community Affairs' (DHCA) Division of Housing held a seminar for owners and managers of affordable senior housing communities in which the County has invested. The purpose of the Senior Services Round Table was to introduce managers and owners to services offered by Montgomery County to seniors living in affordable senior living communities in Montgomery County.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett has made the well-being of seniors living in Montgomery County one of his governing priorities. Mr. Leggett submitted an application to and was accepted into the World Health Organization/AARP Age Friendly Communities Program. Since 2016 Montgomery County has been working on a Strategic Plan that outlines priorities and actions the County plans to take to be accepted as an "Age Friendly" community.

The Senior Resources Round Table is an example of an "Age Friendly Communities" program. The Round Table is an example of DHCA continuing to partner with the owners and operators of affordable senior living communities.

The program included information from Officer Dana Stroman, Community Service Officer, Montgomery County Police Department, about security assessments the Police Department provides. Mental health care information was provided by Sybil Greenhut, Program Manager, Mental Health Services, and Tina Purser-Langley, Senior Health & Wellness Coordinator, provided information about a pilot "Falls Prevention" program sponsored by the Department of Health & Human Services. In addition, Cindy Libby-Green, Executive Director, Premier Healthcare by JSSA provided information about pilot Medication Management program looking for older adult participants. There was also a presentation about the WISH program (Wellness & Independence for Seniors at Home), by Shenita Freeman, Program Director, Coordinating Center a health care support program for older adults and sponsored by all 6 County hospitals.

The twenty-four attendees gave the program an overwhelming positive response, voting the programs of highest quality and requesting additional programs throughout the year.

DHCA has partnered with and invested in over 20 affordable senior living communities in Montgomery County. DHCA understands that building a building is just one step in providing for a satisfactory quality of life for senior residents. Proper and adequate services are of paramount importance to senior residents. These services are a major element of maintaining an Age Friendly Community.

