

**COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES**

March 26, 2015

Members Present	Members Absent
Sue Guenther	Grace Whipple
Noelle Heyman	Revathi Vikram
Sam Korper	Song Hutchins
Syed Yusuf	Sally Shea
Spencer Schron	
Charles Kauffman	
Judy Levy	
Arva Jackson	Liaisons
Myrna Cooperstein	Phil Smakula, Department of Recreation
Miriam Kelty	Marcia Pruzan, Commission on Health
Rudolph Oswald	Pat Lesnick, Ethnics Affairs Committee
Barbara Mulitz	Gail Gunod-Green, Housing Opportunities Commission
DaCosta Mason	Austin Heyman, Office of Community Partnerships
Tammy Duell	Faisal Khan, Department of Transportation
Paul Del Ponte	Sarah Gotbaum, Elderly Women's Aging Alliance
Jerry Morenoff	
Isabelle Schoenfeld	Guests
	Beth Shapiro, JFGH
	Staff:
	Odile Brunetto, Director Area Agency & Aging
	Tremayne Jones, Department of Health & Human Services

Chair, Judith Levy opened the Commission on Aging's (COA) meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Brief Business Meeting

The COA members unanimously approved minutes from the January meeting. No February meeting was held due to inclement weather.

COA Administrative Business:

Treasurer's Report

The current balance is \$1,793.09

Retreat Update- Judy discussed the workgroup is working to redraft the bylaws and will share the proposed changes with the Commission at a later time.

Chair, Judy Levy will moderate a Senior Leadership Montgomery event which will be held on April 14, 2015 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 at Twinbrook Community Center located at 12920

Twinbrook Parkway in Rockville. The event is titled New Administration - New Budget: Implications for Senior Services. The meeting is co-sponsored by Grows, The Vital Living Network and The Commission on Aging. The cost to attend is \$15.00 to register please visit <https://www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org/programs/senior-leadership-montgomery>
Guest speakers are:

- Rona Kramer, Maryland Secretary of Aging
- Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services
- George Leventhal, President, Montgomery County Council, and Chair of the HHS Committee
- Judy Levy, Chair of Commission on Aging/Moderator

Summer Studies:

Recommendations were discussed at the Executive Committee meeting about this year Summer Studies. There are four potential proposals that were discussed by the Executive Committee:

- Age Friendly Communities
- Affordable Housing and Affordable Rentals
- Long Term Care Insurance
- Long Term Care Services and Facilities

The summer studies will be voted on at the annual COA meeting held in May.

Updates:

Dr. Odile Brunetto discussed the FY16 budget: Recommended by the County Executive (CE)

Senior Initiative: This multi-year effort continues to provide for enhanced services to older adults. The FY16 budget continues services initiated in prior fiscal years and adds the planning and construction of two new senior housing projects. One will be in Silver Spring with 75 units for mixed income (67 units affordable) and the other in Glenmont with 100 units. Many non-profit organizations serving older adults applied for County Executive grants. Among those recommended for FY16 funding are Senior Olympics, Silver Spring Village and Olney Village, and the continuation of the Elder Safe program with the Hebrew Home.

➤ FY16 CE recommended budget

Our County budget shortfall for FY16 is expected to be \$238 million. Each Department has been required to reduce its budget for FY16. For HHS that amount is \$5.7 million. Criteria to reduce budget include those programs that are operated by the State or by the private sector. Five private agencies provide SPAs services for Montgomery County eligible residents enrolled in CFC, which requires SPA services.

The State DHMH contracts with each of these agencies especially for the delivery of SPA services. The SPA program in HHS/A&D has served about 600 persons. Each year, our expenditures exceed our revenues, thus creating a shortfall.

The FY16 proposed budget would reduce the number of persons served by HHS/A&D from 600 to 320, thus shifting 280 persons to be served by the private sector. This would also result in reducing the contractual staffing by six broker contractors currently employed by Athena and assigned to our SPA.

The CFC nurse monitoring services have been in operation for one year and it is difficult to project program growth. Should this program expand beyond projections, HHS and OMB will work together to request a supplemental appropriation mid year FY16.

- State FY16 budget: The General Assembly is working toward restoring for DHMH the FY15 rate increase (2.5%) for Medicaid funded services, as well as the State funded subsidy for Adult Day Care for participants not eligible for Medicaid. No new information has been provided regarding the FY16 MDoA budget reductions. State agencies are under a hiring freeze.
- A new report has been released by Voices for Quality Care on the state of nursing homes in Maryland and Washington DC. It highlights facilities with deficiencies cited by CMS and OHCQ three years in a row that have not been corrected. In Maryland, 91 facilities (40%) have no recurring deficiencies and 137 facilities (60%) do have recurring deficiencies. There is also an increasing number of very serious immediate jeopardy and actual harm deficiencies.
- Three positions in the AAA have been lifted from the hiring freeze: nurse, billing specialist CFC/NM and our data/performance manager. The PT senior fellow for Caregiver supports is being reevaluated for possibly creating a PT permanent county position.

Data Workgroup Survey-Sam Korper discussed the Commission on Aging Task Force Survey: Feedback on the Senior Agenda and Data Collection that was conducted from October 2014 to January 2015. Sam presented results from two questions that were asked on the survey.

1. Should the goals of the WHO's "Global Age-Friendly Cities" be linked to those of the Senior Agenda? The results were 25% responded- Yes, 5% responded- No, and 75% responded-Unsure
2. The World Health Organization initiative: "Global Age-Friendly Cities" identifies numerous age-friendly features that cities might employ as a guide for self assessment. Should this initiative be studied by the Commission on Aging for further consideration in Montgomery County? The results were 70% responded-Yes, 30% responded-Unsure

Legislative Session/Budget Sessions-DaCosta Mason and Rudy Oswald

Rudy addressed the COA on the Legislative Session and the council meetings with the Council Members that will take place in April. The meeting between the Commissioners and the Council members will focus on the FY16 budget. Talking points will be provided to COA members.

Stakeholders Forum-Spencer Schron discussed the Stakeholders Forum that will take place on October 28th from 8:30-12:30pm at the Silver Spring Civic Building located at 1 Veterans Place,

Silver Spring Maryland 20910. The forum is a follow-up to last year's Stakeholders meeting. Invited event speakers will include State legislators, Council members and County Executive Isiah Leggett.

Planning COA Annual Meeting May 28th –Myrna Cooperstein discussed the planning of the COA annual meeting. There was some feedback from the retreat and people had questions about the timing, content and value of the annual meeting. Chair, Judy Levy has decided they will proceed with the tradition of having an annual meeting which will take place on May 28th at White Oak Community Center, the topic of this year meeting will be “The Age Friendly Community.” Director, Uma Ahluwalia from Health and Human Services will submit on May 29th the responses to Mr. Leventhal's request about what it would take for Montgomery County to apply to the WHO Initiative. The panelists for the COA annual meeting include Jeanne Anthony, Project Advisor from AARP and Gail Khon, DC Age Friendly Cities Coordinator and perhaps Gwen Wright of the Planning Department.

Liaisons Report

Commission on Health–Marcia Pruzan shared with the COA Dr. Charles Doring's presentation entitled “Maryland Program Trains Dentists to Provide Care to Nursing Home Residents.” The Maryland State Dental Association Foundation has developed a pilot program to train 15 teams of dentists, hygienists and dental assistants to provide care for nursing home residents, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Oral Health. The program is an extension of efforts started last year to improving dentistry in long-term care facilities throughout the state. The aim of the project is to get practitioners comfortable with the idea of working in nursing homes, and guide them through the process. Seniors especially those in nursing homes or long-term care facilities often have special dental needs and complicated medical histories that require consideration and consultation with fellow medical providers. The vulnerable elderly are at particular risk of contracting aspiration pneumonia, caused by inhaling bacteria from untreated dental decay.

Department of Recreation–Phil Smakula informed the COA that the new director position at the Schweinhart Center will be announced in a couple of weeks. Phil discussed the upcoming event Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T) which will take place on April 14th at 1:30pm at Holiday Park Senior Center. S.A.L.T. is an enthusiastic group of seniors working together with law enforcement officers to promote health and safety for the older people.

Department of Transportation–Faisal Khan indicated the Department of Transportation is starting a new outreach program to advertise services on the Ride On.

Housing Opportunities Commission– Gail Gunod-Green discussed new partnership/events that are happening. Gail will hire in the near future, a supervisor to oversee the program.

Committee Reports

Charles Kauffman discussed the formation of the COA alumni group.

Aging in Place- Miriam Kelty shared information from the March meeting which was devoted to discussion of a framework for assessing AIPC's progress on accomplishing its goals as stated in June 2014. A framework for the discussion and work sessions was prepared by Karen Maricheau. The AIPC worked for 1.5 hours completing the framework for one area that AIPC monitors: transportation. There was discussion about how to define objectives vs. specific tasks, about whether plans to meet with transportation experts constituted specific tasks, and of the scope of AIPC's concerns, e.g. seniors, seniors with disabilities, people of any age with disabilities and/or who used wheels and of whether our concerns extended to all or most aspects of age-friendly communities. AIPC considered possible Summer Study topics it might want to propose to the CoA. Affordable housing and Age-Friendly Communities or How Age-Friendly Communities are being implemented in the U.S. are possible topics. They will be discussed further at the April AIPC meeting. The Committee learned that the Senior Subcabinet met on March 10 and tabled the planned discussion on establishing a Task Force on Age Friendly Communities for Montgomery County. A representative from Ride-On will be invited to AIPC's April meeting to educate the AIPC about how bus routes and schedules are determined, information about ridership and criteria for decision making about changes in service and schedules and about accessibility of vehicles and driver training to assist seniors and people with disabilities.

Health and Wellness- Noelle Heyman discussed the Pilot Project of the Health Partners Coalition, a group with HOC, hospitals and PCC is focusing on working together to improve care. The next Health & Wellness Committee meeting will focus on Hospice and Caring in Montgomery County.

Communications and Community Outreach- Barbara Mulitz stated that Reuben Rosenfeld has resigned from the Commission on Aging and so the CCO is seeking a commissioner to co-chair with Barbara Mulitz. Sally Shea will co-chair Seniors Today. Long Term Care Insurance is a summer study that the CCO may focus on this summer and the committee is also supporting the COA alumni group members. Elder Awareness Abuse Day is coming in June ads will be posed on Ride On buses. The White House Conference on Aging will stream live on April 27th at White Oak Community Center, this is a series of regional forums to engage with older Americans, their families, caregivers, leaders in the aging field, and others on the key issues affecting older Americans. The event is free.

The Neil Potter award will have their May ceremony to announce the winners.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am

Respectfully Submitted
Isabelle Schoenfeld, Secretary