

SUB-CABINET ON SENIOR VITAL LIVING

Meeting Summary Notes

Wednesday, December 19, 2014

Subcabinet Members

Adams, Bruce
Albornoz, Gabe
Levy, Judith

Members Not in

Attendance

Ahluwalia, Uma
Adler, Joseph
Bahdeh, Jewru
Friedman, Eric
Hamilton, Parker
Hartman, Ken
Hughes, Jennifer

Lacefield, Patrick
Matthews, Catherine
Rodriguez, Reemberto
Roshdieh, Al
Short, Chuck
vanBalen, Ana Lopez
Vaughan-Prather, Judith
Voss, Chris

Staff

Brunetto, Odile
Bryant, Jennifer
Davis, Betsy
Greene, Jay

Heyman, Austin
Huggins, Gloria
Kaufmann, Barbara
Oji, Samuel
Kenney, John
Laboy, Tina
McClelland, Jim
Rosenberg, Emily
Roslund, Byron
Schoenfeld, Isabelle
Silberman, Rachel
Smakula, Phil
Stroman, Dana
Wawrzusin, Mario

CountyStat

Lindens, Dennis
Gottesman, David

Guests

Kauffman, Charles
Marks, Leslie

Welcome and Introductions

Gabe Albornoz convened the meeting with introductions. Gabe conveyed the regrets of Co-Chair Uma Ahluwalia who was unable to attend today's meeting.

How do we know we are making a difference in the lives of seniors and their caregivers?

David Gottesman, CountyStat Manager and Dennis Lindens, CountyStat Analyst, gave a presentation to start the discussion on improvements to the County's Senior Initiative and to shape the strategic direction.

What is the point of a CountyStat project?

- Update the Executive leadership on the Senior Initiative by assessing progress to date, main challenges, and emerging opportunities. What has worked, what have we learned, and what are we going to do moving forward?
- Provide a forum for evidence-based collaborative decision making
- Seed and maintain a common information base on Montgomery County's older adults—i.e., needs, trends and circumstance.

The Goal of CountyStat is to seek first and foremost to promote evidence-based decision making through systematic data collection and analysis. CountyStat is the facilitator of a process; they look to departments for their subject matter expertise in designing appropriate measures.

The goal of the Department(s) is to take ownership of the measures and presumably use them first and foremost for internal decision making. If a Department finds a high-level measure is not of value to all stakeholders, then this suggests conflicting goals that need to be addressed prior to data collections.

Desired short-term outcomes:

- Commitment to a process and common roadmap for tracking the County's work with older adults
- Consensus on the agenda for the CountyStat meeting
- Explicitly defined roles, responsibilities, and deliverables among coordinating bodies

What we want to inform the County Executive's office of:

- What the Senior Sub-cabinet has done? – A progress check

- What will the cabinet do in the future? – A show of commitment
- What is the focus of the Senior Sub-cabinet? – What are the issues
- What will we do about the issues? – Action Plan/Steps
- What can we do better? – Continuous quality improvement

There will be a CountyStat meeting to update Mr. Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer on the Senior Agenda and other initiatives on Wednesday, January 21 at 3:30pm at the CountyStat office.

➔ **Action:** Prepare for the meeting, CountyStat provided the Senior Sub-cabinet with the Headline Measure and Indicator Template. The templates must be completed and returned to us no later than Friday, January 9.

There is a clearly connection between CountyStat and the Office of Management and Budget. Quantitative data is needed to ensure that items on the competition list will meet the proposed needs.

In February, Department Heads will have a retreat to forge County goals and make recommended priorities for Mr. Leggett’s upcoming four-year term as Executive.

**Findings from Survey: Structured Discussion: Past and Future Contribution of Sub-cabinet
There is no common definition for “Seniors” (50+).**

Organization	Age	Organization	Age
Commission on Aging	60+	Libraries	Self-identify
Civic and Social Engagement	50-65 Depends on program	Safety – Fire	~50+
Health and Human Services	55+ Depends on program/ regulations	Safety – General / Abuse	65+
Health and Wellness	60+	Safety – Financial Exploitation	68+
Housing and Community Affairs	55 and 62 Older Americans Act	Transportation	50+ / 60+ Varies by program

Laws, regulations, and practical considerations prevent a common definition for seniors.
Question: Would it be beneficial to agree on a common reference point (i.e. “let’s use this when possible”)?

What are the highest priorities to seniors?

<p>Highest Ranked *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation services and mobility • Access to affordable housing • Low-income seniors 	<p>Highly Ranked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and communication • Home and community-based services • Age-friendly infrastructure and services • Public Safety (crime, fire, legal) 	<p>Very Important</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior health issues and wellbeing • Multi-cultural and multi-lingual needs • Senior participation / consideration in planning • Prepare workforce • Coordination / co-location / integration of services • Opportunities for social interaction • Being preferred retirement destination for residents • Economic opportunities and
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*CountyStat proposed that these three Highest Ranked concerns be the focus of the January 21st CountyStat briefing to the CAO.

What are the contributions of the Senior Sub-cabinet?

Highly Ranked:

- Helped improve collaboration and community among departments
- Helped boost knowledge about County services and resources for seniors among staff
- Helped instill a common purpose and cohesive effort across departments
- Helped improve the effectiveness of County services to seniors

Mixed Reaction:

- Improved collaboration between the County government and external organizations/partners
- Helped the County strategically plan for the needs of our aging community

Opportunities:

- Improved knowledge about County services and resources for seniors among residents
- Helped the County maintain, analyze, and incorporate data on seniors for evidenced-based decision making
- Helped accelerated the sharing and dissemination of best practices, lessons learned and new innovations

Recommended Improvements for Workgroups:

More engagement—meet more often
 Department heads need to make workgroups high priority
 More consistent follow through
 Identify clear priorities given broadness of area
 Revisit the eight workgroups (too many?)
 Include participation form HOC and MNCPPC
 Engage more seniors, especially in planning
 Constantly re-evaluate membership and progress.

➔ **Action:** Gabe Alborno recommended to prepare for the upcoming CountyStat meeting that three meetings be arranged early January to discuss the issues that the survey revealed was the highest ranking issues. Staff listed will take the lead in organizing and reporting back to the Senior Sub-cabinet the results of the meeting:

- Transportation – Shawn Brennan and Sam Oji
- Housing – Jay Greene and Leslie Marks
- Low-income seniors – Jay Kenney and Odile Brunetto

The focus of these meetings is to review what was done last year and define priorities, workable policies and 3-4 year goals. It was recommended:

- review the body of work and look at measures’
- invite OMB to be at each workgroup, and
- review the Towson University (May 2007) needs assessment of low-income seniors

➔ **Action:** Prepare a comprehensive needs assessment survey to go out to seniors to determine what their personal goals are, what aspects of aging in Montgomery County are they content/satisfied with, and what they need and/or feel needs improvement.

Comments from Senior Sub-cabinet

Jay Greene shared that housing cannot look at Montgomery County as a whole but must be examined by areas according to the housing market data. The housing market for Silver Spring will be very different from the housing marking in Damascus.

Bruce Adams suggested examining best practices by inviting outside speakers to share information with Senior Sub-cabinet. There is a need to be time-conscious allowing 30-45 minutes for speaker and Q&A session so other cabinet business can be discussed.

Austin Heyman shared that the January 5 airing of Senior Today will include an interview of County Executive Leggett. Mr. Leggett shared his interest in holding another Senior Summit to highlight the needs of seniors in Montgomery County and to focus on the employment, housing and transportation needs of seniors.

There is a need to encourage new housing developers to look at issues important to seniors such as pedestrian safety in their planning process. Developers need to be aware that seniors want and need age-friendly communities.

Tailor services to meet the goals. For example, Fire and Rescue Services' (FRS) staff could note and report seniors who repeatedly go to the hospital and can refer these seniors to services to determine if their needs (i.e. fall prevention or medication management). (FRS and Health and Human Services are exploring collaboration focusing on this issue).

Gabe reported that the Fiscal Year 2016 budget process is underway and each department has been charted to propose a 3% reduction to give Mr. Leggett. The reductions will give the County Executive options so that a strong balanced budget is presented this spring. It is a painful process that will impact County agencies including senior services.

Workgroup Updates:

Civic and Social Engagement: While the workgroup has not held a meeting recently, members have carried on work to facilitate increased engagement by seniors. The Vital Living Network in collaboration with the RSVP Director has offered workshops on volunteer opportunities at several libraries. The Commission on Aging, the Vital Living Network and the Outreach workgroup has been focusing on improving information, such as a flyer on lifelong learning and transportation information to facilitate engagement. The Villages Coordinator has indicated the growth of the village movement and the assistance of the Pro Bono volunteer program of the Volunteer Center. JCA/Interages has hosted meetings to encourage intergenerational connections with MCPS ESOL students and published its first on-line newsletters.

Communication and Outreach: The group continues to work on on-going projects such as Older Driver Safety and Life-Long learning fliers. The County is renewing its website with spring as the target for launching the new site. Effort will be made to have a March presentation for the Senior Sub-cabinet.

Employment: The group continues to explore ways to recognize employers with good practices in recruiting and retention of older adults. The Jewish Council on Aging will hold its annual 50+ Employment Expo June 1 and award "Experience Counts." All were encouraged to let members of the Employment Work Group know of any business that could be nominated for recognition.

Health and Wellness: The group meets every two months and has partnered with hospitals and home health agencies, and disability groups. Health and Wellness workgroup continues to work on on-going projects such as falls prevention campaign and medication management program. Three staff members of the Federal Drug Administration have joined the group; new federal regulations allow nursing homes and assisted living facilities to receive outdated medications to ensure safe disposal of expired medications. Group developing a strategy to educate people about medication management.

Home and Community Based Services: The workgroup is in the process of reconstituting because of a loss of members. Jay and Ken Hartman are working to reform and reinvigorate the group and have enlisted the assistance COA members Isabelle Schoenfeld and Miriam Kelty to revisit both focus of this workgroup and its membership. Odile Brunetto will also participate in this discussion. Pazit Aviv will join the work group to as Villages have as a primary goal the facilitation of aging in place. It was suggested that Daniel Corona be invited to participate to represent the needs of seniors in the East County region.

Housing: Office of Landlord Tenant Affairs will be conducting an outreach program to assist property managers for large development to help their senior population. Seniors who are aging in place in large developments have needs that property managers may not be aware. The Housing workgroup is working to educate program management offices of existing service. A very successful and well attended meeting was recently held and demonstrated the need for and value of convening these property managers.

Safety: There is a great deal of complexity in senior living facilities. Need to strategies with private partners particularly home health agencies. Continue to work on on-going projects such as the Senior Drivers fliers. Police Department has the capacity of pull data for age groups to filter out age of victims, etc. Ralph Vines of the Office of Consumer Protection retired. A new staff member will be assigned to the Senior Sub-cabinet.

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security: The office had three senior-specific outreach events and distributed 600 senior emergency preparedness brochures. The office has just completed and printed emergency preparedness workbooks for individuals with access and functional needs. This workbook helps these individuals and their care-givers identify their support network and develop a personal emergency plan.

Transportation: While the transportation committee has not met this year, there has been a great deal of transportation-related collaboration across departments and with non-profit organizations. The Office of Public Information, Jewish Council for the Aging, and Departments of Recreation, Transportation, and Health and Human Services has worked together in a variety of ways to address mobility needs of older residents. One example of a 2014 success was inclusion of information about Connect-a-Ride in property tax bills sent to 344,000 homes in the County.

Early in 2015, bus ads and bus shelter ads will promote the availability of Call n Ride and free/discounted bus service. Also in 2015, JCA will conclude the final year of a three-year "Inclusive Coordinated Transportation" grant.

Fire/Rescue: Over half of emergency medical transports and, on average, 90% of fire deaths in Montgomery County are senior citizens. FRS is working on initiatives to "prevent" the 911 call through education and outreach and is collaborating with HHS, Meals on Wheels and other partners on efforts to reach at-risk seniors while also working to ensure their smoke alarms are functioning and up-to-date through home visit programs.

Next meeting

Monday, March 9 at 3:00-4:30 p.m. at the Rockville Memorial Library, 1st Floor Conference Room,
Rockville Maryland

Meeting adjourned