

SUB-CABINET ON SENIOR VITAL LIVING

Meeting Summary Notes

Wednesday, June 9, 2015

Subcabinet Members

Albornoz, Gabe
Levy, Judith
Snuggs, Clarence

Members Not in Attendance

Adams, Bruce
Ahluwalia, Uma S.
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

Anderson, Mary
Aurand, Andrew
Brunetto, Odile
Davis, Kelly

Driscoll, Loraine
Greene, Jay
Goldstein, Scott
Gottesman, David
Huggins, Gloria
Oji, Samuel
Kenney, John
Linders, Dennis
McClelland, Jim
Nesselt, Beth Anne
Resnick, Jim
Silberman, Rachel
Smakula, Phil
Stroman, Dana

Guests

Mayor, Mara_Kauffman,
Charles
Schoenfeld, Isabelle

Senior Summit 2015

Consultants

Bennett Connelly
Pamela Lockett

Welcome and Introductions:

Gabe Albornoz convened the meeting with introductions. Gabe congratulated the Commission on Aging (COA) for the very informative Annual Meeting held Thursday, May 28.

Introductions of Senior Summit Consultants:

Bennett Connelly and Pam Lockett were introduced as the consultants that will work on the upcoming Senior Summit.

Pam shared that she is the Director of an international non-profit Chapter Hope Worldwide Mid-Atlantic. She also serves as the County Council's appointee to the Community Action Board which serves low-income residents. Pam's work with the Community Action Board Member has included convening focus groups to collect input from local residents related to the needs of low income individuals/families and issues of poverty.

Bennett shared that he is a retired County employee. Recently, Bennett worked with the Department of Economic Development (DED) to identify businesses that have age-friendly policies for their staff. In working with DED, Bennett collaborated with the COA, the Vital Living Committee and other stakeholders. Bennett expressed that there has been an impressive amount of work done in Montgomery County (MC) on senior issues and the challenge will be to streamline the information into a manageable document that can be used during the Summit. The document will be data driven and will examine strategies that have been used in the past seven years and what is needed for the next three years.

Review of the FY16 Senior Initiative Budget—Department Directors and Representatives

Department of Recreation:

- Maintained and added five days to the weekly transportation initiative that offers door-to-door service to five senior centers.
- The senior mini-trips will continue to be funded
- Restored and enhanced Recreation Center hours of operations which allows increased capacity for programming

Department of Health and Human Services:

- The addition of a \$10,000 that will assist inspiring Villages with technical assistance.

- A new Caregiver Support Position will soon be filled that will tie into the theme of the Senior Summit and aid the County's effort to be recognized and remain an "Age Friendly" and "Dementia Friendly" community.

Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA):

- There are future projects that will add 600 senior housing units. Currently, a proposed 75-unit mixed-income senior development will be built in Silver Spring and another project that will add 100 units.
- Next to the Silver Spring Library, a 149 unit will be built with 139 affordable senior units
- The DHCA will continue to explore additional creative solutions as the department works with their partners to increase senior housing options.

Public Safety:

- Maintained and added funds to the senior outreach initiative which maintained staff and programming.

Transportation

- Maintained all programs for seniors (Call 'N Ride, free Ride-On access and same-day service).

Anticipated Reductions: Gabe shared that due to the loss of the Wynn Case, MC Departments will face somewhere between a \$6-9 million reduction in FY16 and FY17. The Office of Management and Budget is currently examining options. We will no doubt convene emergency meetings to discuss reductions and to work collaboratively to minimize program disruptions.

Senior Summit II—Summary of June 1 meeting with County Executive (CE):

Confirmed with Mr. Leggett:

- The date is tentative awaiting confirmations from key-note speakers. Date will be scheduled between December 1-15.
- Invited Key-note speakers:
 - Morning: Sandy Markwood, Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Area Agency on Aging has been invited as the morning speaker and
 - Afternoon: Fernando Torres-Gil, Professor of Public Policy, Director of the Center of Policy Research on Aging Public Policy, Social Welfare of UCLA.
- The location will be the Universities of Maryland at Shady Grove.
- The Summit will be an open meeting. Any and all are welcome to attend—subject to capacity limits of between 350-400 participants. Federal/State/Local elected and appointed officials as well as key partners will be invited to participate.
- The CE has four overarching goals/objectives:
 - To recognize all accomplishments since the last Summit in 2008
 - Report on gaps in services and areas of need
 - Create a framework for a three-year strategic plan
 - Develop priorities for the CE 2017 recommended operating budget.
- Mr. Leggett added:
 - The need for more outreach, intentional and strategic programing to ethnic and racially diverse seniors (particularly those who speak English as a second language). He stated that this population often feels marginalized and that their specific needs are not being addressed. Ensuring all seniors have a voice at the table is very important to the CE.
 - Methods of communications need to be explored and expanded because seniors want to feel connected. An example of seniors' desire for communication and connection was seen in a

Recreation Department senior survey related to Health and Wellness. The number two request of seniors was WiFi in senior buildings.

- Mr. Leggett expressed a need to focus on caregivers.
- The eight workgroups that were established at Senior Summit 2008 will continue to be an important part of the work.

Civic and Social Engagement	Communication and Outreach	Employment
Health and Wellness	Home and Community Basis Services	Housing and Zoning
Safety	Transportation	

- Gabe stressed that Mr. Leggett wants Senior Summit II to be considered the **Community's Summit**--not the CE's Senior Summit. All were invited to share any suggestions or ideas to make the Summit successful.

Senior Summit Work plan | Schedule

Bennett reviewed the Senior Summit II work plan draft which divides the planning of the Senior Summit into different tasks that will be handled by Bennett, Pam and Lorraine Driscoll of the Office of Public Information.

Bennett Connelly:

- Advisory | Steering Committee (21 member)
 - Composition: 7 public members; 7 community partners and 7 from the broader community. Austin Heyman will assist to identify public and broader community members.
 - The first meeting scheduled Tuesday, July 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the Rockville Library
 - Advisory | Steering Committee will plan the Summit which will include:
 - 350 or more invitees,
 - Documents
 - Breakout sessions, and
 - Keynote speakers
 - Add sub-categories under the eight areas to include the CE's current goals and objectives
 - Include residents 30-50 years old who plan to retire in MC. What do they envision for the County when they retire in or about 2020?

Pam Lockett:

- Information gathering
 - Electronic Surveys—Pam will overlay existing senior surveys (AARP, WHO and District of Columbia) to produce a survey that will be reasonable and will capture the information for the Senior Summit.
 - Focus groups—during the summer months, Pam will schedule listening group sessions to gather information from seniors and those planning to retire in MC.
 - Town Hall meetings—a town hall meeting may be scheduled if there is additional information needed after examining the information gathered from the survey and focus group sessions.
 - Jay Kenney shared that information gathering is important to shape the agenda for the Senior Summit. In 2008, there were pre-Summit workgroups that focused on the eight key areas but now in 2015 the needs of seniors may have changed. For example, when the District surveyed their seniors, two new areas of concern were highlighted—preventing elder abuse and emergency preparedness. In MC, seniors now want access to technology and the internet. The next 8-12 weeks of information gathering will give the end users (i.e., Seniors,

Caregivers and Boomers) a chance to share their thoughts about what is needed to make Montgomery County an “Age Friendly Community” where they wish to remain.

Lorraine Driscoll

- Compile the Senior Sub-cabinet’s workgroup accomplishments for the past seven years.

How can the Senior Sub-cabinet help? Suggestions:

- The Department of Recreation Community Center Directors will be asked to assist Pam with scheduling conference rooms and space for the focus groups and possible town hall meeting.
- CountyStat will assist with the electronic survey.
- DHCA was asked to assist scheduling some of the focus groups in senior residential buildings.
- Community Clusters’ staff will assist with identifying diverse residents to attend focus group.
- Representatives from County agencies will be assigned to attend the focus groups to be on hand to answer questions
- Judith Levy announced that the COA will hold summer studies meetings on the Senior Agenda and Age-Friendly Communities. The meetings will be open to the public and held on June 23, June 30 and July 7. Pam suggested that perhaps one or more of these meetings could be used as focus groups or listening sessions.

World Health Organization (WHO) | AARP “Age-Friendly Community” Designation

Gabe announced that Mr. Leggett confirmed that he would like to pursue the “Age-Friendly Community” designation. The AARP presented at the COA’s annual meeting and acknowledged that the work that MC has been done puts us well beyond stage one of their multi-stage three-five year process.

Jay shared that Lorraine Driscoll will compare the WHO and the AARP process for gaining the “Age-Friendly Community” designation to determine which process would be the best and shortest for MC to pursue. The COA Summer Studies will explore the different “Age-Friendly Communities” designation, their infrastructure, partnerships, and resources. How the designation will benefit the County?

Roundtable Discussion and Updates

CountyStat: Dennis Linder gave an overview of what data and data gathering tools | processes CountyStat is planning to use to assist with the CE’s objectives and the Senior Summit documents.

Civic and Social Engagement: Odile Brunetto reported that at the last meeting CountyStat presented and the workgroup partners were excited that their data will be linked to the new CountyStat website.

Communication and Outreach: Lorraine Driscoll shared that the workgroup is working on compiling the Senior Sub-cabinet work groups’ accomplishments in preparation for the Senior Summit.

Employment: Gabe reported that the CE is reorganizing the Department of Economic Development (DED) and that the proposal is going before Council this month. The proposal is that the DED become an outside independent organization that oversees the business development activities within the County. The CE has made clear that job and employment status for seniors is a high priority. The liaison for that group will be invited to continue to participate in the Senior Sub-cabinet.

Health and Wellness (HW): Odile reported that the HW group meets every other month and is currently working on gathering statistics to determine the benefits of the HW initiatives. Medication management is an initiative of the group. The group is examining and classifying existing medication management resources with the objective of ensuring that the information is complete and accurate. The first step will be to update and complete the on-line resources, and then create written materials in English and multiple languages. Phil Smakula shared that fall prevention is another initiative and the group focuses on in September by contacting community partners to include information in their exercise classes.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS): Jay reported that the group has not met recently. Efforts to restart the group have been unsuccessful. The new Federal term is Long Term Services and Support (LTSS) which includes social support system surrounding homecare, respite care, meals and nutrition and the village concept to assist people to age in place. The information that will emerge from the surveys and focus groups will help shape the work and focus of the HCBS workgroup by determining what is currently on the minds of senior residents surrounding the issue of services and supports.

Housing: Jay Greene reported that the Housing Workgroup has also not met but DHCA has been visiting rental facilities to inform residents and the management about the County's wrap around services. The department is focusing on universal design to generate interest because the program is market driven. The accessible apartment program was implemented three years ago and as of May, DHCA has licensed or is in the process of licensing about 90 accessible apartments.

Safety:

Kelly Davis of the State's Attorney Office announced that the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Event is scheduled tomorrow (June 10) at Holiday Park Senior Center and invited all who could to attend. Today, the first Spanish presentation on Financial Exploitation Awareness was held.

Jim Resnick of the Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) reported that he sees an average of 200-300 senior residents a month to increase awareness of fire and theft prevention. A new initiative is being piloted to send a checklist to a relatives of senior to let them know that FRS visited and provided safety information and/or services (such as a smoke alarms, files for life, fall prevention information, etc.). The initiative is an effort to ensure that lessons are being learned and it gives the relatives the opportunity to request FRS to provide additional information or services.

Dana Stroman of the Department of Police reported on the progress of the SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Working Together) program. The program is an effort to collaborate with seniors and community leaders to determine how the Police can be of assistance by providing services or by being a resource to educate seniors and their caregivers about available services in the County. The SALT has been very well received by the community and will expand its efforts and partnerships in coming months.

Transportation: The Transportation Workgroup met last week and the group is currently working on three projects:

- Conducting a Call 'N Ride user customer satisfaction survey to determine user and driver satisfaction a year after the transition from vouchers to the swipe card.
- Promoting the JCA Connect-A-Ride program:
 - Creating an information brochure and having the brochure translated into 6 languages.
 - Establishing a language line for Connect-A-Ride to assist schedulers to help the diverse senior population
- Establishing an Older Driver Safety Program:
 - Assess seniors driving abilities, and
 - Educate those who should not drive any longer of the available transportation options

Announcements:

- **ACTION**: Gabe will invite Lily Qi of the Office of the County Executive to discuss the newly organized Department of Economic Development.
- Jay reported that the JCA Senior Employment Expo was held on June 1 and was well attended.
 - It is the 50th anniversary of Medicare and CNN and other media sources are looking for stories about seniors and particularly those who have benefited from the Medicare system.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 9 from 3:00-4:30 at the Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland.