

AGING IN COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of the January 14, 2025, Meeting
9:30 am to 11:30 am

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 9:30AM

Commissioners In Attendance: Wayne Berman (co-chair), Betsy Carrier (co-chair) Laurie Pross, Mary Sweeney, Kate Stein, Yvette Monroe, Vernell DeWitty, Sibon Nicube, Joyce Dubow, Linda Bergofsky

Staff: Pazit Aviv, MoCo; Peter Illig, MoCo

Guests: Kuohwa Wang and Becky Donahue

OPENING REMARKS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS:

At this meeting our goal was to plan ahead for the next several months for AIC Committee meetings. To set the stage for this discussion we heard from Pazit Aviv about factors affecting aging in community. We then discussed the Committee's mission and speakers we heard from last year. With this foundation we brainstormed to identify some of Committee members' current priorities and topics to focus on.

Pazit said the choice to age in place should be a call to action rather than a preservation of the status quo. Aging in place does not necessarily mean staying in your home of many years, but may mean aging in the community with some of these assets:

- **Good Health:** Changed lifestyle to respond to the aging process, sufficient access to good medical care, access to good home care, making advance care plans, addressing mental and cognitive health needs, caregiving, access to good nutrition (COA's Health and Wellness)
- **Built environment:** Affordability, accessibility, attainability. Impacts large developments and Individual homes. Homeowners and renters have different needs.
- **Mobility:** transportation needs for people who do not drive, safety for older drivers, and accessibility of public spaces and streets.
- **Financial:** Impact of poverty on aging in place, impact on middle-income older adults to afford retirement, employment resources
- **Social:** Isolation and loneliness, lifelong learning, volunteerism, civic engagement, villages, arts
- **Technology access:** Tech literacy, access to devices, access to the internet

- **Safety:** Prevent abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. Emergency preparedness.

Betsy shared several slides to help further frame the conversation.

The focus of the AIC:

- From CoA website: The Aging in the Community Committee **identifies** issues that enable older adults to age either in their own homes or other non-institutional community environments. Issues including housing, transportation, food security, technology, and more.
- From CoA's budget priorities: The overall **mission** for the CoA's Aging in Community (AIC) Committee is to **build** a more equitable and inclusive community for older adults through policies, programs, and practices that enable longevity, accessibility, community building, and livability.

During 2024 the AIC heard mainly from county employees about County programs. The topics were as follows:

- January-County policies to provide affordable housing & role of faith-based community in addressing housing issues
- February-Update on Villages, number of village leaders
- March- Panel session on County transportation programs
- April- Panel on Volunteer and workforce issues to help older adults find employment
- May- Review of issues that AIC Committee may consider balance of year
- June and July- identifying budget priorities for AIC
- September- AI and Cybermaster program
- October – Next steps on housing (County)
- November- Update on County's Technology offered to older adults
- December- Multigenerational care giving

Following up on this information the Committee identified key themes and focus areas.

1. **Affordable Housing & Education (Joyce, Mary)**
 - Emphasize education on accessing affordable housing.
 - Invite HOC to AIC meeting
2. **Health Care Access (Sibo)**
 - Ensure older adults have access to quality health care.
 - Enable older adults to age in place through better services.
 - Address unmet needs in family respite services, particularly for underserved communities (e.g., Vietnamese and Spanish families).
3. **Barriers to Aging in Place (Vernell, Sibo)**

- Identify and address obstacles to successful aging in place.
- Advocate strongly for aging in place and improve communication strategies.
- Establish common goals and objectives.
- 4. Support through Villages (Kate, Sibo)**
 - Strengthen and expand Villages to provide robust services.
 - Focus on reaching underserved and vulnerable populations, including immigrants.
 - Improve access to civic participation and family support.
 - Expand Village initiatives to better serve underserved areas and populations.
- 5. Caregiving (Kate, Laurie)**
 - Advocate for a caregiver tax credit for unpaid caregivers (spouses, grandchildren).
 - Develop caregiving navigation support systems.
- 6. Communication and Information (Dixie)**
 - Enhance marketing and communication efforts to reach older adults effectively.
 - Improve collaboration across committees to address intersecting issues (e.g., safety, employment).
- 7. Safety (Dixie)**
 - Ensure physical safety and address issues of exploitation, abuse, and long-term care for older adults.
- 8. Collaborations and Resources**
 - Leverage resources from organizations like AARP.
 - Avoid duplicating existing efforts by borrowing effective practices.
 - Explore joint efforts with similar advocacy groups.
 - Respite services
- 9. Data and Leadership (Linda)**
 - Use data to tailor solutions for the County's older adult population.
 - Lead with innovative approaches to caregiving, housing, and elder roles in the community.
- 10. Emphasis on collaboration, advocacy, and targeted support for older adults, with a strong focus on communication, caregiving, and addressing barriers to aging in place**

UPCOMING MEETING: Our next meeting is planned for Tuesday February 11, 2025. The topic will be an update on County housing initiatives.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 11:30 am