

COA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 18, 2024

9:32 a.m.- 11:14 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Engel

Barbara Selter

Wayne Berman

Yvette Monroe

Virginia Cain

Betsy Carrier

Nkiru Ezeani

Jean Dinwiddie

Beverly Rollins

Kate Stein

Laurie Pross

Peter Flandrau

Morris Klein

OLD BUSINESS:

David Engel called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

The Treasurer's report revealed that the CoA's current balance is \$2182.94.

In April, the CoA full meeting's agenda will focus on:

1. Austin Heyman who passed away on April 16<sup>th</sup> after an amazing life of contributions too many to count to the lives of older adults in this county and elsewhere. 50 + will devote an entire program to him.
2. Kimberly Johnson will address income-based programs such as Senior Care.

In May, the CoA full meeting will focus on a de-brief regarding the May 16<sup>th</sup> Public Forum.

The first Quarterly report is due.

The CoA is not able to support AARP's tables in Montgomery county libraries; they have been directed to Age Friendly for possible partnering.

The CoA sent a letter of support for Friedson's tax credit bill.

A follow-up letter to the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with the Department of Health concerning the inspections of nursing homes was to go to Councilmembers and to Marc Elrich. A meeting to discuss further action has been requested for early May. Morris Klein gave some highlights of the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting :

-OHCQ admitted it was behind; stated that it was "doing the best it can".

-Acknowledged that, in the past these inspections have cost upwards of \$1 million for Montgomery County alone and \$400,000 for the state.

-Gabe Albornoz indicated he would be in touch regarding this issue.

-Dr. Kalyanaraman, Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services (Maryland) who appears to be the primary contact and expressed a commitment to correcting this situation.

Update on May 16<sup>th</sup> Public Forum:

Wayne Berman reported as follows:

-The Proclamation regarding Older Americans Month will be included. The morning session will include two speakers, one from AARP, one from the Urban Institute. Each of the speakers will be given 5 questions and will be asked to address the progress made since 2018 as reflected in the previously CoA-published document. Councilmember Friedson may join us during the lunch session. Julia Derrigo will facilitate the Innovation to Action portion of the summit -the afternoon portion. We are hoping for an interactive summit!

-We will be sending invitations to Councilmembers. It is understood that May 16<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date of the straw vote on the County budget and Council availability may be limited.

A discussion regarding various aspects of the budget process ensued:

-Whenever we don't get what we ask for, we start from scratch the next year.

-Inclusion in the budget as a line item is not the only measure of success. For example, our work through non-profits in the county furthers our goals and theirs.

- Examples of CoA's budgetary advocacy are the Access Hears, dental coverage for older adults and increased staffing in Adult Protective Services available to lower income individuals in the county as a result of our past efforts.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

David Engel noted the following upcoming events recognizing Older Americans Month and related matters in the county:

-April 30: 1:15p.m. Proclamation Older Americans Month

-May 24: Longbranch 10 a.m.-12 noon

-May 28: GROWS in conjunction with MDOA is doing an educational session on Reframing Aging beginning at 1:00 p.m. at a TBD site.

-June 11: World Elder Abuse Day- at Holiday Park Senior Center- provisionally John McCarthy has been invited to speak and the CoA may also be asked to participate.

The Civic Engagement group is looking for non-white, non-English speakers for its survey- Connect Montgomery Alliance for 60-minute interviews.

-Peter Flandrau stated that, before his final day at work with the county (April 26, 2024) , he will clarify the activation of each Commissioner's participation on the CoA.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.