



Montgomery County Commission on Aging

January 22, 2026, Monthly Meeting Minutes 8:30 am

Meeting Location
Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82378694890?pwd=YU5RaHJQTjNTSzYvZ2lObHNqY204Zz09>

Members Not Present

Liz Barnes
ChiQuita Battle
Elizabeth Boyd
Robert Cosby
April Stubbs-Smith

Proof of Quorum

Majority of members present.

Staff Present

Peter Illig
Dr. Patrice McGhee
Tremayne Jones

Guests

Shawn Brennan (Age Friendly Montgomery)
Jean Dinwiddie, Alumni
Rachel Goldberg- Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA)
Mansi Gosalia
Mamika Hada (Asian American Health Initiative)
Jose Ortiz
Ingrid Lizama (Latino Health Initiative)
Stacy Sigler – Montgomery County Recreation
Marcia Pruzan, Alumni
Eric KuoHwa Wang
Marsha Weber, Alumni
Meredith Williams
Sandra Zolotor

Guest Speakers

Natalie Fani Golzalez – President, Montgomery County Council

Handouts

November 20, 2025 Minutes

January Agenda

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Time: 8:30 AM

Presenter: Linda Bergofsky, Co-Chair

Co-Chair Linda Bergofsky called the meeting to order and welcomed Commissioners, guests, partner organizations, HHS staff, and invited speakers.

Approval of October Minutes: The November 2025 Minutes were presented and approved unanimously.

A. Discussion of County Council President's Priorities for 2026

Presenter : **Natalie Fani-Gonzalez**, President, Montgomery County Council

Council President Fanny Gonzales outlined priorities:

(1) Immigration: Trust Act (codifies no status checks for services; bans local police as immigration agents); opposes Maryland's 27G20 ICE agreements; will testify in Annapolis.

(2) HHS: Appointed Laurie-Anne Sayles as HHS committee chair; moved a \$1M special appropriation to fill gaps in senior nutrition, home care waitlists, and family caregiver supports.

(3) Data centers: Introduced a Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) to establish commonsense and science-based siting standards for future data centers in Montgomery County with, on top of existing setbacks, an additional 500-ft buffer, noise controls and environmental protections. A community meeting will be held on Feb. 3 at 7 pm. Montgomery County efforts will align with Sen. Chris Van Hollen's federal energy-cost legislation.

(4) Capital Improvements Program (CIP): Pushing for a \$100M co-located Glenmont/Ashton police station with Park Police; interim detentions at Wheaton; Fani-Gonzalez is requesting \$5M from General Assembly with no tax increases.

(5) Operating budget for FY27: It will be released in March release; Priorities are to prevent cuts to non-essential items and protect vulnerable residents.

(6) Economic development: A priority is to attract/retain jobs in Montgomery County.

B. Discussion of Commission on Aging Business for 2026

- **Officers:** Linda Bergofsky led a discussion of important upcoming items for the CoA
 - The slate of officers for 2026 was presented, voted on and approved. They are as follows: Co-Chairs Linda Bergofsky and Wayne Berman
Vice Chair Yvette Monroe

Treasurer Marie Sloan
The position of Secretary is currently vacant.

- **Annual Forum:** The Annual Forum will be held May 28th in the Silver Spring Civic Center. It will be three quarters of a day. Several suggestions have been made for topics, but the theme has not yet been finalized. Commissions are encouraged to join the planning group which will begin its planning activities on January 26.
- **Future CoA Meeting Topics:** Several possible topics emerged from discussions. These included how to help healthy active older adults enrich their lives perhaps by helping to provide much needed services to others. Additionally other topics came up as either for the general meetings of special trainings such as the County budgeting process and how older adults will be affected by AI. Linda asked Commissioners to send her suggestions for topics and possible speaker names.

Area Agency on Aging Report

Peter Illig, HHS

Peter Illig provided updates from the Area Agency on Aging:

Staffing

- The hiring process has begun to hire two program managers within the long-term care ombudsman program.

SOAR Program (Supporting Older Adults with Resources)

- Consolidates Senior Care and Senior Assisted Living Subsidy programs.
- Aims to strengthen case management and align with **Longevity Ready Maryland**.
- implementation recommendations produced under contract have been completed and are expected to be provided to the Maryland Department of Aging by the end of January.

Federal Level

- The continuing resolution from November 12, 2025, will expire on January 30 which would jeopardize Federal funding for the Older Americans Act programs. Montgomery County is coordinating with other state AAA and other interested parties to seek action to address the needs with Congress.

Branding/Outreach

- Aging & Disability branding campaign ran through **Jan 6** with:
 - TV ads
 - Bus ads
 - Geofencing
- A report is being developed that will show the response, results, outcomes and impacts of the campaign. Timing is unclear but it will be shared.

Nursing Home Experience-of-Care Survey

- There are 34 nursing homes in the county of which 33 facilities are eligible to participate. One is ineligible because it has no long-stay residents.
- Survey began early December.
- Results thus far:
 - Two nursing homes have declined to participate.
 - 8 facilities have been visited; 11 are scheduled.
 - 128 residents have been surveyed.

AAA Area Plan

- 4-year plan covering FY27-30 required by the Older Americans Act
- Must align with the Maryland State Plan on Aging
- Four goals:
 - Build a longevity ecosystem
 - Promote economic opportunity
 - Prepare Marylanders to afford longevity
 - Optimize health, wellness and mobility

Nursing Home Inspections

The biannual OHQC report on nursing home inspections has been received and is being analyzed.

Commissioner Discussion

Questions were raised about when Montgomery County would take over nursing home inspections. Mr. Illig said there were ongoing discussions about many aspects that would need to be resolved.

A question came up about whether the CoA should write another letter in support of the Older Americans Act. Mr. Illig with clarify that.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee

- Working on revisions of the Ambassador's Program's slide-deck.
- 50+ in Montgomery County focuses on transportation in January and African American history sites in February.

Aging in Community Committee

- AIC will focus on the healthy aging ecosystem this year.
- Each month will focus on one aspect of the ecosystem beginning with transportation followed by financial security on February 10.

Health & Wellness Committee

- The Committee will focus on one topic and produce a practical product.
- It will continue subgroup work on prior projects.
- Priority topics include home care and workforce issues.
- The Committee will ask Tina to identify current county gaps to help guide focus.
- The meetings have moved to a new time this year on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM.

Public Policy Committee

- The Committee meets the second Thursday of every month at 9:30.
- The Maryland General Assembly is in session, and a subgroup of Commissioners is meeting on Fridays at 11:30 to track legislation and discuss a course of action.
- The Committee reviewed a piece of legislation on providing a \$3,000 state tax credit to caregivers who provide care to their parents in their home and submitted testimony to the legislature.
- The Committee is currently monitoring issues related to the caregiver stipend feasibility study, a universal design curriculum for Montgomery College, a Montgomery County Council special appropriation to cover in senior nutrition, in-home care and respite care.
- At the Federal level the Older Americans Act needs to be reauthorized.
- David Engel and Betsy Carrier continue their involvement with the Urban Institute's work on housing for older adults.

Public Comments

Sandra Zolotor commented on the need for contact information of people on the call so that follow-up could occur on specific items. The best way to contact the Commission is through Peter Illig at Montgomery County who is the liaison to the CoA.

Stacy Sigler from Montgomery County Senior Recreation discussed upcoming recreation/senior center events

Mamiko Hada is the new Senior Wellness Coordinator at the Asian American Health Initiative. They are preparing for the Asian American Heritage Month in May.

Other Business

There was discussion about the possibility of getting reduced rental costs for Villages to use schools when that is the only venue available for meetings in the community.

Adjournment

Time: 11:16 PM

Meeting adjourned by Co-Chair Bergofsky.