



Montgomery County Commission on Aging
Meeting Agenda
July 24, 2025
9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Virtual via Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82378694890?pwd=YU5RaHJQTjINTSzYvZ2lObHNqY204Zz09>

Phone Call-In: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 823 7869 4890 and Passcode: 297852

***NOTE:** If you need access to Sign Language Services, please contact Tremayne Jones
one week prior to the meeting at (240) 777-1262 or at Tremayne.jones@montgomerycountymd.gov

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| 9:30 AM | Welcome and Co-Chairs' Remarks |
| 9:45 AM | Collaborations with other Boards, Commissions, and Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Steve Riley, Chair, Commission on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities- Tonya Gilchrist, Chair, Commission on People with Disabilities (Invited)- Commission for Women (Invited) |
| 10:15 AM | Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approval of June Meeting Minutes- Status of follow-up to Caregiving Forum- The Commission on Aging Strategic Vision and FY 27 CoA Priority Setting |
| 10:50 AM | A & D and AAA Updates |
| 11:05 AM | Liaison Reports |
| 11:15 AM | Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Public Policy- Communications- Aging in Community- Health & Wellness |
| 12:00 PM | Adjournment |

The next full Commission on Aging meeting will be on Thursday, September 25.

Attachments:

June 2025 CoA Meeting Minutes

The Commission on Aging Mission, Vision, and Scope

News You Can Use To:

Understand How For Profit Ownership is Transforming the Post Acute Care Industry: The New York Times published two articles on July 15 describing the impact of publicly traded for profit companies on medical rehabilitation hospitals. While most rehab facilities that are better at helping patients return home and stay there are for profit, these same facilities have statistically significant worse rates of potentially, preventable unplanned readmissions to general hospitals, but most consumers don't have easy access to information on quality. Importantly, rehab hospital inspection reports are not posted on [Care Compare](#), Medicare's online search tool for consumers. The authors also noted that "Medicare is not authorized by law to fine rehab hospitals for safety rule violations, even ones involving deaths uncovered during inspections, as it has done with nearly [8,000 nursing homes](#) during the last three years, imposing average fines of about \$28,000." One particularly problematic chain owns one in seven rehab hospitals in the US, making it hard to avoid. You can read these two articles [here](#) and [here](#).

Consider the Benefits of Co-Housing for Older Adults: According to a recent article in [The Guardian](#), older adults should be giving more consideration to the idea of co-housing when thinking about downsizing from a single family home. There are approximately 170 active co-housing communities in the US, the vast majority of which are multi-generational, such as Liberty Village in Frederick County. Co-housing communities are intentionally designed to foster connection through a shared commitment to thoughtful interaction in strategically placed common areas. While senior co-housing is particularly attractive to healthy, educated, and proactive adults who want to live in a social and environmentally vibrant community, some communities prioritize financial and racial diversity as core values and to extend access to people with lower incomes.

Embrace the Longevity Dividend: Approximately 180,000 Montgomery County residents are age 65 and older; that number is expected to increase to almost 250,000 people by 2040. This demographic trend is not unique to our county; Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Delaware all have more older adults than children. Coupled with declining birth rates and subsequent declines in population, the conventional wisdom is that an increasingly aging population is bad for the economy. But, Andrew Scott and Peter Piot writing for [International Monetary Fund Policy](#) contend that "... the pessimism around an aging population is too one-sided. In fact, the combination of older people becoming more numerous and more likely to work makes them essential to economic dynamism." Instead, the authors propose that increased life expectancy and workforce engagement among older workers offer a "longevity dividend" that can power economic stability and boost productivity. The dividend can only be realized, however, by rejecting the notion that demography is destiny and not reframing work to accommodate older individuals.

Promote the Importance of Access to Hearing Aids: A new study recently published in JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery used meta-analysis to show that hearing aids and cochlear implants improve social outcomes in adults with hearing loss. We know from anecdotal evidence that hearing loss is associated with social isolation and loneliness, which are known to negatively impact mental and cognitive health. However, high-quality evidence on the impact of hearing rehabilitation devices on social outcomes remains limited. In this systematic review of 65 studies and meta-analysis of 35 studies, including 5911 participants and 2664 participants, respectively, use of hearing aids and cochlear implants was associated with improved social quality of life and decreased perception of social handicap compared to before using the device and nonusers. The authors conclude that the use of hearing rehabilitative devices should be encouraged for those with hearing loss to potentially enhance social engagement and functional outcomes.

Save the Date for National Caregiving Month Activities: November is National Caregiving Month and the National Family Caregiver Support Program is planning a week of powerful, informative, and uplifting events for caregivers. Please save the week of November 17 on your calendars for a mix of virtual and in-person activities. More details to come.