

# **Commission on Aging**

## **Executive Committee Meeting Summary - July 18, 2024**

### **Minutes Approval and Financial Report**

- Last month's minutes were approved unanimously.
- No disbursements since the last treasurer's report.
- A condolence note was sent to Council Andrew Friedson on the passing of his father.

### **Meeting Schedule and Priorities**

- August meetings for both the Executive Committee and the Commission on Aging will be canceled to focus on priority ranking.
- Priorities will be voted and ranked in August for presentation to the full Commission in September.
- Kate Stein's suggestion of chronic kidney disease as a priority was tabled for further research and potential inclusion in future advocacy efforts.

### **Speaker Topics and Commission Structure**

- Potential speaker topics include:
  - AI and aging
  - Voter registration and election information
  - Solo aging and dementia
  - Chronic disease (including kidney disease)
- Discussion on the role of the Commission on Aging in addressing chronic disease, potentially in collaboration with the Commission on Health.
- Review of the Commission's roster and term limits.
  - Eight potential vacancies identified.
  - Discussion on the nomination and appointment process, including the formation of a nominating committee.

### **Action Items**

- Send an update on nursing home oversight to Council Member Jawando's office.
- Finalize plans for the nomination committee, including membership and process.
- Research and develop a process for addressing chronic disease as a potential priority.

### **Commission Priorities and Advocacy Issues**

- Discussion on Committees presentations
- Presentation on proposed voting format

**New Business: Wise Cities request for support:**

National Institute for Aging and it's called A2 Pilot. It's part of the National Institutes of Health through the Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratives for Aging Research.

And they've earmarked \$40 million to fund technology demonstration projects that utilize artificial intelligence approaches and technology to improve care and health outcomes for older Americans, including persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their caregivers.

**New Business: PHP Committee report on Design for Life:**

CoA Chair, David Engel, attended the PHP, Parks Parks, Housing and Planning, Committee meeting on Monday, Council President Friedson had asked for CoA attendance because they knew that we had personal experience with the Design for Life program and understand originally there was two Design for Life programs and now there is only one Design for Life program and one HARP program.

The HARP program is administered by Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity. It was initially given the grant money, as you recall, last year for a million and a half for them to do funding for lower income home modifications. That program, even though it's only two years old, has been hugely successful and utilized. And one of the reasons for its success is that it has these nonprofit partners who are managing it. Whereas the Design for Life program, we've heard from Gail Lucas from the permitting department before, we've talked about that program for several years, it is just a waste of county budget line item.

The CoA was asked to work with DHCA and Permitting to come up with some solutions to make the program utilization and results more successful.

**ACTION ITEM:** Chair will follow up with a letter to the PHP and let them know that the Commission on Aging supports the redesign and reassessment of the program and wants to be involved in, since it comes under our mission of wanting to provide.

**New Business:** Discussion of op-ed in Greater, Greater Washington by Wes Henry on nightlife for seniors in Montgomery County.

**New Business:** AARP yesterday came out with a national plan for aging well in America and they came up with four goals, promote healthy living and access to affordable high quality health care, support family caregivers and ensure access to affordable high quality long term services and supports that maximize the dignity and independence and protection of older adults, provide ample opportunities to generate, save and preserve financial resources and create age friendly livable communities that enable people to age in place and continue as engaged members of their communities.

**Adjourn**