

COMMISSION ON AGING
MARCH 28, 2024
9:32 a.m. - 12 Noon

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

Attendance is recorded as follows:

Name	Role	3/28/24 Attendance
David Engel	Chair	X
Yvette Monroe	1st Vice Chair	X
Wayne Berman	2nd Vice Chair	x
(Niki) Ezeani	Treasurer	Absent
Laurie Pross	Secretary	X
Arunima Ghosh	Asst. Secretary	x
Peter Flandrau	Community Outreach Manager	X
Dr. Patrice McGhee	Chief, Aging and Disability Services	x
Dr. Kimberly Y. Johnson	Director, Area Agency on Aging	x
Tremayne Jones	Office Services Coordinator	x
Ama Lee	HHS	x
Gerard Ettienne	JCA	x
Monique Gardner	HHS	x
Phoebe Shih	HHS	x
Sara Swarr	Recreation	x
Shawn Brennan	Age Friendly	x
Stacy Sigler	Recreation	x
Linda Bergofsky	-	x
Virginia Cain		x
Betsy Carrier	-	x
Jean Dinwiddie		x
Joyce Dubow		x

Rena Eichler	-	x
Norman Goldstein	-	x
Mona Grieser	-	x
Morris Klein	-	x
Bob Levy	-	Absent
Kendell Matthews	-	Absent
Kathleen McGuinness	-	x
Sibo Ncube		x
Anna Maria Izquierdo-Porrera		x
Richard Ricciardi		x
Beverly Rollins		x
Barbara Seltzer		x
Marie Sloan		x
Katie Smith		x
Kate Stein		x
Mary Sweeney		x
Arthur Williams		x
Janice Zalen		x
Marcia Pruzan	Alumna	x
Paul Moss	Partners in Care	x
Marsha Weber	Alumna	x
Lindsay Niemoller	Volunteer Center	x
Sara Fought	JCA	x
Denise Israel	Transportation	x
Kristin Cummings	JCA	x
Grace Kim	JCA	x
Holly Mancuso	Marilyn Balcombe Office	x
Kuohw	Guest	x
Kathi Dennis	JCA Interages	x
Odile Brunetto	Alumna	x
vsPNOF	Guest	x
Shane Rock	JCA	x
Cynthia Grissom	WorkSource Montgomery	x

Ruth Kershner	HHS	x
Dr. James Bridgers	HHS	X
Harriet Q	Guest	x
Austin Heyman	Alumnus	x
Grace Pederson	Guest	x
Amoke Alakoye	Guest	x

AAA UPDATE: Presented by Dr. Kimberly Johnson

Director, Area Agency on Aging (AAA)
COA Report March 2024

Key AAA Positions

- Onboarded Program Manager for the National Caregiver Program
 - The monthly Caregiver eNewsletter has re-launched
 - Caregiver series will be held a Holiday Park Senior Center beginning July 2024
 - Partnering with Dementia Club-Kensington at White Oak Community Center
 - Will also have presence at Wheaton Community Center and North Potomac Recreation Center
 - LGBTQ+ workgroup has resumed in partnership with Dr. Amena Johnson, LGBTQ Community Liaison for Montgomery County
 - Dementia Friendly workgroup has resumed and co-led by Ama Lee, African American Health Initiative, and Paul Moss, Aging Community Navigator

Key Vacancies Remaining

- (1-Position) Long-term Care Ombudsman Program
- Support Planning Agency (SPA) supervisor
- Assessment, Evaluation and Review Services New Unit
 - (1) AERS Nurse Manager
 - (5) AERS Community Health Nurses (CHNII)
- Community Outreach Manager as of April 30,2024

AAA Performance Metrics

- In collaboration with the Planning, Analytics, and Customer Service (PACS) staff, work is being done to examine the performance and outcome measures of the AAA Programs.
- The overall goal is to improve data collection and analysis of data.

Longevity Ready (LR) Maryland

- Participated in LR meeting with MDOA to discuss implementation plan for Regional Listening Tour/Townhalls
- There will be Listening Tour/Townhalls across (5) regions
- Fredrick, Prince Georges, and Montgomery Counties makeup a region.
- An implementation proposal is being drafted on how to best hold the Listening Tours/Townhalls within each county

Purpose

To inform and make aware stakeholders about Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative

To hear from all stakeholders such as older adults, caregivers, providers, businesses and nonprofits that serve older adults and help them remain healthy and connected and thrive in their communities

To learn about the needs, challenges and opportunities

To seek input on how the state can better prepare to become longevity ready

Key Principles

Connection, community voice and collaboration are important to the MDOA, and we aim to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusivity in our initiatives through direct feedback.

Audience:

Older adults

Adults with disabilities

Caregivers

Healthcare providers, PACE Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

Senior centers

Nonprofits working to serve older adults

Businesses serving older adults

Format: In-person and virtual (if possible); we want to cast a wider net and capture better the voice of the community

Timeline: April to September 2024

Older American Month- May 2024

- Theme – Powered by Connection- which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being. We will explore the vital role that connectedness plays in supporting independence and aging in place by combatting isolation, loneliness, and other issues.
- Proclamation has been developed in recognition of Older American Month and is tentatively scheduled to be presented by Councilmember Glass on April 30, 2024 at 1:15 p.m.

- In honor of Older American Month, AAA staff will host a celebration at Long Branch Recreation Center tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 24, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m

SPECIAL SPEAKER: COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH:

-He began his presentation by telling us that Montgomery County is healthier than ever, that , since Covid, we are continuing to feed more individuals in need. \$3.2 Million went into this year's budget to cover non-profits providing services to the community. Adult Protective Services and Community-based services generally received increased funding.

-Mr. Elrich addressed the grants process in Montgomery County by reminding us of its history, admitting that the present system is too convoluted and not suited to many of the non-profits involved. He offered "front-funding" as a better approach and indicated that certain state offices use AI to evaluate grant proposals. In any event, he stated that grants should align with departmental missions.

-Mr. Elrich indicated he felt that perhaps our two primary budgetary priorities, that of the Outreach Manager and that of the Workforce Implementation Manager might fall in the purview of the Pubic Information Office and its existing staff.

-The County Executive began his remarks regarding housing by noting that \$50 million went into the budget for this. He emphasized that Montgomery County needs partners in order to build affordable housing for older adults. He offered other possible solutions such as co-housing, the use of pensions for additional funding and increasing collaboration with non-profits in the county.

- Mr. Elrich announced that there is some good economic news occurring up-county in Poolesville where a library is due to be expanded, a new fire station is being opened, a high school is being re-built and a community center is being created to address some of the healthcare needs of the migrant population nearby.

LIAISON REPORTS:

ASIAN AMERICAN HEALTH INITIATIVE:

Phoebe Shih described the program being offered in celebration of National Nutrition Month: a second-generation Japanese doctor is giving a presentation on diabetes to the Asian population whose diet is often high in rice and noodles.

TRANSPORTATION:

Denise Israel shared the following information:

-The University Blvd dedicated bus lanes have just been completed.

-Ride-on is now available 7 days a week.

-Active Aging Expo is taking place on April 24 at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg.

- There will be another Montgomery County sponsored event on June 6th at Leisure World.

RECREATION:

Stacy Sigler informed us about several upcoming events:

- BBQ on September 24th
- Social Isolation presentation on June 11th
- Fashion show on April 24th
- Basketball skills on April 17th

She also mentioned that the Cardboard Regatta was a success.

Ms. Sigler reminded us that Bone Builders is the most popular class at the senior centers, both in person and on line.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HEALTH INITIATIVE:

Ama Lee reported that since the summit they have been working on brain health with Fire and Safety, primarily at The Leggett.

DR. JAMES BRIDGERS:

He announced that weekly meetings are going on to address the situation surrounding the expiring ARPA funds, rising numbers of unhoused individuals in Montgomery County and the continuing need to learn how to do more with less.

WORKSOURCE MONTGOMERY:

Cynthia Grissom announced that the department had passed with flying colors! She also noted that age does not always get captured in databases.

AGE FRIENDLY-MONTGOMERY

Shawn reminded the group of an upcoming conference- Reframing Aging on April 11th happening here locally. Also, the Age Friendly Summit will take place again over a two-day stretch, October 8-9 and Oct 15-16, 2024- both days will be virtual.

OLD BUSINESS:

David Engel noted that there is a need for Spanish speakers to volunteer to help with reading for JCA Interages school programs.

Minutes from the February 2024 CoA meeting were approved.

A meeting regarding nursing home inspections is scheduled for April 1st between MDH, the COA, and DHHS.

Until otherwise instructed, Commissioners should plan to go ahead with their talking points on our top two priorities and plan to try to develop rapport with the council members. We are requesting 2 very needed FTE's and we should also bring up the other priorities if we have time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC FORUM:

Wayne reported that "Reimagining Housing For Older Adults" will take place May 16th from 9:30am-2:30pm at the Rockville Executive Office Building. "Save The Date" flyers are ready for distribution.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Ambassador presentations are taking place in Villages and in Senior Centers throughout the county. Those doing the presentations are requested to keep attendance records and encouraged to use the word "constituent" when speaking to legislators. The Library Liaison program is going well.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

Mental Health is the topic being explored.

PUBLIC POLICY:

An update on some the bills:

- The LTC study bill was withdrawn.
- EOL bill was 1 vote short in committee.
- Nursing Home bills in Senate and in the House-both in play.
- Council President Friedson's tax cut bill is stalled.
- Faith-based, multi- use land bill-going forward.

AGING IN COMMUNITY:

Transportation had been the recent topic resulting in information presented to us revealing that Metro Access is somewhat unreliable and that there is a need for an emergency back up system for those Montgomery County residents who enjoy the benefits of programs in Senior Centers but remain dependent on less than reliable transportation to be driven to/from those centers.

NEW BUSINESS:

David reminded us all that if we would like to participate in the nomination of awardees for the Neal Potter Award, we should contact him directly.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.