

COMMISSION ON AGING
APRIL 25, 2024
9:30 a.m. - 12 Noon

David Engel called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Attendance is recorded as follows:

Name	Role	4/25/24 Attendance
David Engel	Chair	x
Yvette Monroe	1st Vice Chair	x
Wayne Berman	2nd Vice Chair	x
(Niki) Ezeani	Treasurer	
Laurie Pross	Secretary	Absent
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	
Gerard Ettienne	JCA	
Monique Gardner	HHS	x
Phoebe Shih	HHS	
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	-	
Norman Goldstein	-	x

Mona Grieser	-	x
Morris Klein	-	x
Bob Levy	-	x
Kendall Matthews	-	ab
Kathleen McGuinness	-	x
Sibo Ncube		x
Anna Maria Izquierdo-Porrera		x
Richard Ricciardi		x
Beverly Rollins		x
Barbara Seltzer		x
Marie Sloan		
Katie Smith		x
Kate Stein		x
Mary Sweeney		x
Arthur Williams		ab
Janice Zalen		ab
Marcia Pruzan	Alumna	
Paul Moss	Partners in Care	
Marsha Weber	Alumna	x
Lindsay Niemoller	Volunteer Center	
Sara Fought	JCA	x
Denise Israel	Transportation/RIDE ON	x
Kristin Cummings	JCA	x
Grace Kim	JCA	
Kuohw	Guest	x
Kathi Dennis	JCA Interages	
Odile Brunetto	Alumna	
Shane Rock	JCA	
Cynthia Grissom	WorkSource Montgomery	
Ruth Kershner	HHS	
Dr. James Bridgers	HHS	
Josi Makon	Guest	x
Ingrid Lizama	Guest	x

TRIBUTE TO AUSTIN HEYMAN:

- David Engel and the commission devoted this meeting to Austin and his accomplishments.
- In his comments, County Executive Mark Elrich said that Montgomery County owes a debt of gratitude for all he has done. He noted that Austin and his wife Barbara devoted themselves to every aspect of community involvement from children and educational issues to intergenerational and cultural understanding, to advocacy for older adults and to those suffering from disabilities.
- A number of other commissioners talked about Austin and their close association with Austin and how he has touched their lives.
- David will forward a Document by Austin on a proposal for a new agenda for Community for Lifetime.

AAA UPDATE: Presented by Dr. Kimberly Johnson, Director, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) :

Director, Area Agency on Aging (AAA)
COA Report_ April 2024

Key AAA Positions filled

- Support Planning Agency (SPA) supervisor
- Long-term Care Ombudsman Program

Key Vacancies Remaining

- Assessment, Evaluation and Review Services New Unit
 - (1) AERS Nurse Manager
 - (5) AERS Community Health Nurses (CHNII)
- Community Outreach Manager

Development and Implementation of a Branding Plan for Aging & Disability Services

- In collaboration with the County Public Information Office
- Planning and strategy meetings occur on a weekly basis
- Providing overview of Programs within Aging & Disability Services

Longevity Ready (LRM) Maryland

- MDOA Leadership is currently reviewing and discussing listening tours.

Older American Month- May 2024

- Proclamation reading will be held on April 30, 2024 at 1:15 p.m. attendees need to arrive by 1:00p.m.
- In honor of Older American Month, AAA staff in collaboration with Rec will host a celebration at Long Branch Recreation Center scheduled for Friday, May 24, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Proposed Assisted Living Regulations

- Comments were gathered from A&D program staff and submitted to M4A.
- Comments were also gathered from the Ombudsman program staff and shared with the State Long-term Care Ombudsman.

FY25 Area Plan

- To comply with the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended the Maryland Department of Aging (Department) requires each AAA to develop a four-year Area Plan for its planning and service area. Area Plans are the basis upon which the Department awards Federal and State grants. These plans should be updated annually. The Area Plan for FY 2025 is an update for the AAA 2024 – 2027

LIAISON REPORTS:

TRANSPORTATION:

Denise Israel shared the following information:

- Flex Ride-on bus service operating in Glenmont, downtown Rockville, and looking to expand to Germantown, Poolesville, Aspen Hill and elsewhere. The program is under review. It currently covers riders with disabilities, picking most at home or at the nearest intersection.. The cost of ridership is \$1 .The ride -on bus routes including the seven which have been changed can be found on our website (ride -on -bus .com.)
- Metro red line will be shut down from June 1 to August 31 between Glenmont and Tacoma. There will be free shuttle buses available in Wheaton, Silver Spring, and Tacoma that will operate during metro rail hours.
- Ridership is rising. This past December, ridership was up 37% from 2023.
- Distribution of Senior smart trip card: From May 2nd to the 9th, with five community centers acting as distribution sites.
- Ride On does have a program with Ride With Us to transport voters to early voting May 2nd through the 9th.
- Older Americans Month celebration at Long Branch on will take place on May 24th.
- Health and Wellness Expo is at Leisure World on June 6th.

- On June 11th at the annual Elder Abuse Awareness Day at Holiday Park there will be a recognition of this day.
- Question about transportation to Rec centers- there are ongoing meetings.

RECREATION:

Stacy Sigler informed us about several past and upcoming events:

- Active ageing expo was a success.
- Fashion show over at the Long Branch Senior Center with clothes donated by Chico's on April 24th.
- Barbecue Bonanza Day has been set for Friday, September 6 at the MoCo Fairgrounds
- Seniors have worked on 10 different skits (dealing with scams) for the WEAAD celebrations.
- Maryland Senior Olympic season starts in April and have over 30 sports. Runs through October 13th. Seniorolympics.com to volunteer
- Shared senior center have spacing issues (typical in summer)
- County exec added 100k to budget for neighborhood programs to expand on instructional services for 2 days a week.
- No update on the capital budget-
 - Jan/Feb 2025. Senior center and Library will be closed and then the seniors will be moved during this work period.
 - For Holiday Park project- no date set yet
 - Western county- discussions ongoing

Sarah's report with JCA

- Upskill classes on May 9th and May 13th for 15 plus residents. who were impacted by COVID.
- Kensington Club is running their Keshet Cafe on May 5th, which is for those under 65 who were diagnosed with early-stage memory loss.
- On May 16th, Connect a ride is running a travel training workshop.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Minutes from the March 2024 CoA meeting were approved.
- A meeting regarding nursing home inspections was scheduled for April 1st between MDH, the COA, and DHHS.
 - Productive meeting
 - The state will pursue four bullet points
 - The commission worked on a letter which is provided.
 - Follow up meeting in May.

- CMS has come up with nursing home work standards that require minimum number of nurses and other professionals to attend to patients in nursing homes.
- May 24 event. Dr. Johnson will share the details.
- May 28th – 1pm at Asbury. The Maryland Department of Aging is partnering with the National Center to Reframe Aging, to conduct a Reframe Aging educational session that will be hosted by the Grass Roots Organization for the Well-Being of Seniors (GROWS); it will become a sort of a multi -sector meeting, hopefully, with communications people, the Commission on Aging representatives, GROWS members, as well as, hopefully, members of the Public Information Office where discussions can begin regarding the need for new language, new frameworks for moving forward.
- June 11th, at Holiday Park Secret Center, starting at 10 a .m, the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
- Updates of County Council meetings
 - There have been 10 of 9 of 11 meetings and they went well.
 - Even If the two principal budget priorities are not approved in this budget, it doesn't mean that we shouldn't be working to establish relationships with the council members and working forward toward providing advocacy for older adults.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC FORUM

Wayne presented the plan for the Public forum.

- On May 16th, 9 .30 to 2 .30, County Executive Office
- The title, Reimagining Housing for Adults and IDs and Actions, to Make Housing More Available
- The key is to identify the actions needed to overcome any obstacles, to identify what actions the COA, the county and others can take to advance the role of increasing affordability, availability, and accessibility for housing.
- a keynote session will begin about 10 o 'clock with Samar Jha MPA, LLM, Government Affairs Director, AARP and Linna Zhu, PhD, Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute Housing Finance Policy Center presenting some overview of key practices that are taking place around the country, Scott Blackwell from Victory Housing, Alan Goldstein from Fort Lemont Care, who worked with Habitat for Humanity, Sarah Redinger on the development at the Red Oak Road Viewers Mill area.
- The moderator is Summer Cross who works for the Department of Housing and Community Affairs.
- Lunch will be provided by the Senior Nutrition Center staff.

- For the afternoon session, everyone will have a chance to speak or at least write any questions or innovations down on a 3x5 card.
- There will be people on Zoom although they may not be able to ask questions during the afternoon session, but they will be able to participate in other ways.
- A photographer will be available.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Ambassador program is taking off very well - word is spreading. We need more ambassadors to give presentations. They are set presentations, but more volunteers are needed.
- The Library Liaison program has been successful at getting materials in the Libraries.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

- Focusing on mental health

PUBLIC POLICY:

Morris Klein submitted the following:

The Public Policy Committee discussed which bills passed and which bills did not pass in the recently concluded session of the General Assembly. Among bills that passed were the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program (HB1103/SB875), the Continuing Care Retirement Communities Transparency bill (HB68/HB76), Health Insurance - Hearing Aids for Adults Coverage (HB1339/SB778), and Homecare Worker Rights Act of 2024 (HB39/SB197). Among bills that did not pass was legislation to explore a state long term care insurance program (HB347/SB631) and legislation to increase nursing home oversight (HB1475/SB 825)

The Committee discussed how to proceed regarding nursing home oversight and accountability and plan to have additional meetings with the state health department and the county on this issue.

The Committee also discussed Montgomery County legislation, notably ZTA 24-01 (ZTA) (Amending the county zoning ordinance to allow certain Multi-unit living and townhouse living on properties), Bill 38-23E (tenants displacement) and Bill 45-23 (property tax credit for Seniors).

The Committee discussed recent meetings with Montgomery County Council members regarding the annual county budget.

The Committee agreed to discuss its policy goals for future advocacy.

AGING IN COMMUNITY:

- Volunteer requests to help at the Public Forum

NEW BUSINESS:

David mentioned he will send out several documents to the commissioners. He also wished the best to Peter for his service and a happy retired life

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The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.