

Commission on Aging (CoA) Public Policy Committee (PPC)
April 11, 2024, 9:30 – 10:45am
Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Commissioners: Morris Klein, Kate Stein (PPC co-chairs) David Engel (CoA chair), Linda Bergofsky, Barbara Selter, Janice Zalen, Rena Eichler, Barbara Selter, Norman Goldstein, Yvette Monroe

Staff: Peter Flandrau

Age Friendly: Shawn Brennan

The Minutes for the March 14, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously. Peter informed the Committee that we need to comply with the Open Meetings Act and get the agenda produced 5 days before the meeting.

Discussion on MD General Assembly bills that passed and did not pass. Notable comments were that the Miriam Kelty Bill supporting Villages passed. Sen. Kramer/ Del. Cullison's Bill on nursing home oversight did not pass. HB39/SB197 Home Health workers classification passed.

Further discussion on how the Committee should proceed on the nursing home oversight Bill and issues with County accountability and performance.

ACTION: follow up with Kramer and Cullison on the April 1st meeting with MDH, Mont County and the CoA. Shawn suggested connecting with other organizations. The CoA needs to keep the momentum on getting a response from MDH/ OHCQ.

Kate reported on County bills. Notably ZTA 24-01 enacted 4/2, Bill 38-23E ROFR Bill enacted.

Discussion of County Council meetings with Commissioners. Council members have had an interest in discussing issues outside the top two CoA Budget Priorities. The CoA chair needs to follow up and provide a template for thank you emails and document summaries of meetings.

Further discussion on County Bill 45-23 Property Tax for Seniors. Amendments discussed. Al Carr's letter mentioned adding a renter tax subsidy to offset the disparity in the bill noted by the RESJ report. The County does not know how many seniors might benefit from the bill. Morris moved to get the letter to the EC for a vote. The PPC motion passed to move forward with the letter of support.

Kate brought up developing a PPC advocacy plan that would include perennial priorities, outside of GA session strategies, and advocacy approaches. PPC very receptive to this initiative.

ACTION: Linda and Kate will work on suggestions for the process and the approach for this initiative.

Adjorn