

COMMISSION ON AGING- JUNE 27, 2024

9:32a.m.-12:11p.m.

In Attendance:

Name	Role	6/27/24 Attendance
David Engel	Chair	X
Yvette Monroe	1st Vice Chair	X
Wayne Berman	2nd Vice Chair	X
(Niki) Ezeani	Treasurer	X
Laurie Pross	Secretary	X
Arunima Ghosh	Asst. Secretary	X
Pazit Aviv - Interim	Community Outreach Manager	X
Dr. Patrice McGhee	Chief, Aging and Disability Services	Ex ab
Dr. Kimberly Y. Johnson	Director, Area Agency on Aging	X
Tremayne Jones	Office Services Coordinator	X
Tara Clemons-Johnson	Council Senior Analyst	X
Ama Lee	HHS	X
Gerard Ettienne	JCA	X
Phoebe Shih	HHS	
Sara Swarr	Recreation	
Shawn Brennan	Age Friendly	X
Stacy Sigler	Recreation	X
Ingrid Lizama	Latino Health Initiative	
Linda Bergofsky	-	X
Virginia Cain		X
Betsy Carrier	-	
Jean Dinwiddie		Ex ab
Joyce Dubow		X
Rena Eichler	-	X
Norman Goldstein	-	
Mona Grieser	-	X

Morris Klein		X
Bob Levey		X
Kendell Matthews		
Kathleen McGuinness		X
Sibo Ncube		X
Anna Maria Izquierdo-Porrera		X
Richard Ricciardi		
Beverly Rollins		X
Barbara Selter		X
Marie Sloan		X
Katie Smith		X
Kate Stein		X
Mary Sweeney		X
Arthur Williams		X
Janice Zalen		X
Marcia Pruzan	Alumna	X
Marsha Weber	Alumna	X
Sara Fought	JCA	X
Denise Israel	Transportation/RIDE ON	
Marie Brodsky	Wise Cities	X
Robert Casey	Asst. Dean, HU/AAHP	X
Emalee Crawford	Partners in Care	X
Ben Berbert	Montgomery County Planning	X
Julia (Julz) Abate	ARC of Montgomery	X
April Stup	Guest	X
(Eric) Kuohw	Guest	X

David Engel called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

AAA DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Key Vacancies Remaining

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

Long-term Care Ombudsman Program

- The Maryland State Ombudsman last day in the position is July 9th
- Montgomery County AAA Director is participating in transition meetings with State Long-term Care Ombudsman.
- MDOA Deputy State Long-term Care Ombudsman will provide program support in the interim and until the position is filled.

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

- (2) Radio Commercials are scheduled to be aired promoting Aging and Disability Services as a resource for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers.

Longevity Ready (LRM) Maryland

- MDOA will provide an update at the July 2024 Area Agency on Aging Director's meeting.

MDOA Long-term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Grant

- Montgomery County has applied for the grant to enhance existing Dementia Care programming.

FY25 Area Plan

- Feedback to the FY25 Area Plan was provided by the Maryland Department of Aging.
- Montgomery County AAA responded to the feedback and awaiting approval from MDOA.

ARPR Update

- A No Cost Extension providing justification of unspent funds and a spending plan is to be submitted to MDOA to get approval from ACL.

Aging and Disability Services Fan and Emergency Kit Program

- On June 21, 2024, Aging in Disability Resource Unit program staff began distributing fans and emergency kits to older adult residents in Montgomery County.

LIAISON REPORTS:

African-American Health Initiative: Ama Lee described recent programming: June had a caregiver focus with an in person inaugural at Crossways; a self-care kit will soon be available online; outreach will continue with programs on Sickle cell disease and fall prevention being planned for September and an Alzheimer's Summit for November.

Age Friendly: Shawn Brennan announced the 4 dates for the Age Friendly EcoSystem Summit: Oct 8-9, Oct 15-16. On July 30th there will be a program in the Holiday Park Senior Center called "Driving and Beyond" which will address the decisions pertaining to driving, when it might be time to consider alternatives and other matters.

JCA: Gerard Etienne gave a broad overview of the offerings including but not limited to AI scanning, CHATGBT assisted writing, SHIP and Medicare, Connect-A-Ride training, UTI's, and an art show that will occur on August 9th.

Recreation: Stacy Sigler announced that on June 11th Elder Abuse was highlighted at Holiday Park. During the summer there will be adventure camps and students will engage with older residents to teach technology. Despite the lack of direct funding for the BBQ Bonanza, there will be celebratory bbq brunches served over the holiday. This year there will also be 1000 farmers market digital coupons given out by the MDOA. In order to receive a coupon, one has to pre-register and pick them up between July 23-26.

"Our Grain of Sand"- film done by the Latino Health Initiative won a prize.

Ben Berbert, Montgomery Planning

He presented "Attainable Housing Strategies" which is one solution to "the missing middle" issue with regard to housing. Mr. Berbert offered this approach as a way of providing several kinds of single family homes. He acknowledged that it is hard to build homes in Montgomery County, hard to diversify housing in the county and hard to find land. The strategy he has developed focuses on the issue of density and attempts to ease some of the restrictions making building easier and expanding the stock of available housing types to include duplexes, triplexes in areas where only detached homes now exist(with small and medium targeted efforts) . Only the areas around growth corridors would be left to re-zoning which would have to be accomplished through Master plans. This Attainable Housing Initiative will be presented to County Council in the fall. A key feature of this initiative is its "Pattern Book" which contains elements that are desirable, elements to avoid. In the discussion that ensued, Morris asked whether SNF's, Assisted Living facilities, schools and homes currently owned by Montgomery County residents would be affected by this Initiative- the answer is not

directly. The current Master Plan supports exclusion, the continuation of years of inequitable housing practices. This initiative expands housing options. Kate Stein asked whether accessibility, green design, use of solar panels, pre-fab construction, creative incentives, and space for community activities might all be appropriate for inclusion IN THE “ Pattern Book”. Pazit Aviv commented on the likelihood of neighborhood resistance to the efforts Mr. Berbert has described despite any attempts to be transparent. Robert Cosby questioned how well density can be measured and stated that the Master plan is likely to affect racial equity more profoundly than anything else. Linda Bergofsky asked about the Agricultural Reserve- it is not currently being tapped for housing. Wayne Berman queried Mr. Berbert regarding the concept of one-level living: it is not addressed in this initiative though stackable one-level living units would address it.

Julia Abate- Arc of Montgomery

Ms. Abate gave us a presentation about respite care provided by Arc of Montgomery. Respite care is caregiving relief for the caregiver. Families are entitled to up to 140 hours per year of support. The age groups fall into three categories: 0-17, 18-59 & 60+. Arc of Montgomery engages partners who help provide services in the areas of adult day care, respite facilities, in home care and therapeutic camps. After the 30-day application process, 2130 respite services were provided in 2023, 2489 so far have been provided in 2024. Eligibility for respite care is not means-tested but if you are eligible for a Medicaid waiver, you are not eligible for respite care through this program. The income restriction has been lifted for children recently and outreach efforts are increasing as well as continuing coordination with A & D, MCPS & Sickle Cell. The Hispanic community has traditionally been resistant to respite services and recently 24 families were particularly affected. Anna Maria Izquierdo reminded the Commission that some Latinos live in mixed (documented and undocumented) households, that legal status has an enormous impact; that the upcoming election will have an immense influence and there will be need for additional funding.

May 2024 minutes were approved as submitted. There will be a July meeting of the full CoA where we will vote on budget priorities and establish advocacy foci. There will be no meeting in August.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications: Beverly Rollins reported that some additional library liaisons are needed. In September 50+ will air a memorial to Austin Heyman.

Aging in Community: Wayne Berman noted that Villages, Transportation and Universal Design/Housing were among the topics discussed in this committee and being considered for budget priorities.

Public Policy: Morris Klein reported that nursing home inspections, the LTC ombudsman issue, tax credits for veterans, and support for the Consortium were all important to this committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Linda Bergofsky suggested getting onboard the “Reframing Aging” train by playing one of the videos developed by MDOA or Frameworks as a way to refresh our language and begin our own journeys to eradicate ageism, perhaps as a preamble to CoA meetings.