

**COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES
November 17, 2016**

Members Present	Members Absent
Morton Faller	Helen Abrahams
Grace Whipple	Syed Yusuf
Noelle Heyman	Barbara Mulitz
Isabelle Schoenfeld	Stephanie Edelstein
Charles Kauffman	David Denton
Jerry Morenoff	Sue Guenther
Monica Schaeffer	Noureen Chochan
Richard Jourdenais	
Judith Levy	Alumni members
Judith Peres	Marcia Pruzan
Miriam Kelty	
Rudy Oswald	Guest
Hilea Seeger	Rose Li
Paul Del Ponte	
Bonnie Klem	Liaisons
John Honig	Faisal Khan, Department of Transportation
Revathi Vikram	Jim Campbell, Commission on Veterans Affairs
Amoke Alakoye	
Karen Maricheau	Staff
Tamara Duell	Odile Brunetto, Department of Health and Human Services
Mary Petrizzo	Tremayne Jones, Department of Health and Human Services

Call to Order–Chair, Noelle Heyman called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Welcome and Introductions–Noelle welcomed all attendees. Staff and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes–September and October minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s report– Treasurer Revathi Vikram reported that the COA account has a balance of \$6,425.82.

Ad Hoc Nominating Group– The Ad Hoc Nominating Group is still seeking nominees for the 2017 secretary position. Any members interested they should contact Miriam Kelty, otherwise Noelle will appoint a commissioner.

Recruitment of COA applicants for 2017–It would be helpful if chairs, committee members and alumni members could help with the recruitment process for the COA. One challenge the commission faces is that those who apply for the commission may only want to be part of the commission and not serve on any committees or help with COA activities. The COA needs volunteers who are active in the community. The Executive Committee is reaching out to Stakeholders who may be interested in applying to join the Commission on Aging.

Debrief of Legislative Breakfast-The Legislative Breakfast that was held on November 17th before the COA meeting was a success. Commissioners discussed during the debriefing the importance of staying in contact with the delegation during the year and if a meeting takes place the Public Policy Committee should be informed of the outcome of the meeting. There was not as much participation from the delegation this year, most likely due to a very late County Council meeting the night before the Legislative Breakfast. The delegation was informed about the dental care issues. There was also discussion of the need, when talking about elder abuse, to raise awareness of physical and psychological abuse in addition to financial exploitation. Commissioners who attended suggested that more time is needed after the meeting to interact with the delegation. Other issues discussed included a lack of awareness of senior services in the county – both the availability of those services and who is eligible.

Area Agency on Aging Report–AAA Director Dr. Odile Brunetto provided several updates:

- HHS has begun budget preparations for the FY18 county budget which will include up to 3% across the board reductions.
- The Dementia Friendly Advisory Group met and reported on the 8 workgroups; the current focus was planning and organizing the Dementia Friendly America Initiative kickoff event scheduled for December 5th at 10:30 am in Gaithersburg Maryland.
- Odile met with key leaders of Nexus Montgomery to discuss the Nexus Montgomery Regional Partnership. The Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) has awarded \$7.6 million to six hospitals in Montgomery County that have joined forces to address common challenges affecting the health of the community. The target population includes seniors over the age of 65, the medically frail, those with severe behavioral health conditions, and those without eligibility for health insurance. Nexus Montgomery received a planning grant from the HSCRC and has developed a program that aims to provide a care management intervention that will reduce overall hospital costs. Nexus Montgomery has named this program Wellness and Independence for Seniors at Home (WISH). The program includes the following components: targeted identification and referral, risk stratification, care coordination, and population health improvement interventions. WISH will be provided to Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and over, including those who are also enrolled in Medicaid (dually eligible) who are at risk of hospitalization. The population age 65 and over was selected because in 2015, 12.3% of the Montgomery County population was age 65 or older. With a projected annual population growth rate of 3.2% over the next five years, compared to only 0.1% growth for the population under age 65, the 65+ population will be 15.8% of Montgomery County's population by 2020. According to the Maryland hospital discharge database, utilization of inpatient days by the 65 and over population in Montgomery County is five times higher than that of the population under age 65. Therefore, growth in this population group will have a tremendous impact on hospital spending, if it is not addressed. By the end of year one of the project, the target population will expand to include eligible seniors living in the defined service areas of the Regional Partnership partner hospitals regardless of place of residence. The project's goals include:
 - ◆ Participants will improve their functional health status.
 - ◆ Participants will improve their self-management skills, especially for chronic

- diseases and conditions.
 - ◆ Participants will experience more coordinated health care and supporting services.
 - ◆ Participants will reduce their need for acute medical services, especially avoidable hospital and emergency department use.
- The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), in collaboration with the AARP Foundation, launched a national public education campaign to raise awareness of the growing problem of social isolation and loneliness in older Americans. It is estimated that one in five people over age 50 are affected by isolation, a problem that has been associated with higher rates of chronic disease, depression, dementia and death. This topic is the focus of the annual Eldercare Locator Home for the Holidays Campaign, developed to encourage discussion of important issues affecting older Americans at a time of the year when family and friends often gather together. The Eldercare Locator is funded by the Administration for Community Living. Efforts to strengthen the health and well-being of older Americans must address the critical issue of isolation. It is a major risk factor for elder abuse. N4A hope that this campaign will raise awareness about this important issue and spur efforts to prevent isolation and promote community connections.

Committee Reports

Aging in Place Committee (AIPC). Discussed the affordable housing rental summer study that was conducted in 2012. There will be a meeting on December 13th to discuss the county planning rental housing report and to discuss topics for 2017 summer study. AIPC co-chairs briefed the incoming co-chairs on what their responsibilities are and what the COA has accomplished over the last several years. The this was followed up by a list of tasks expected of committee co-chairs.

Communications and Community Outreach Committee (CCO). Nothing to report at this time.

Health and Community Planning. Previously the Health and Wellness Committee. The committee is focusing on two topics: Dental and Dementia Friendly. More information to follow.

Public Policy Committee (PPC). United Seniors of Maryland (USM) will meet on January 25, 2017 at the Miller Senate Building East and West Wings, 11 Bladen Street, First Floor, Annapolis, from 8:00-1:30 pm. Caucus meetings with legislators will take place from 10:30-11:45 am in the Miller Senate President East & West Wings and the Senate and House Buildings. USM is expecting 500 attendees. USM represents 3 million seniors in Maryland. Buses to the event will leave from Leisure World. For more information and to reserve a bus seat and register for this event visit: <https://aarp.cvent.com/MDJan17>.

Seniors Today. Austin Heyman leads this show's effort to share news and information of interest to senior residents of Montgomery County. Seniors Today airs on Comcast/RCN 6, Verizon 30 the following times: Sunday 6:00pm | Mon - (10:00am) | Tues - (1:00am, 12:30pm, 6:00pm) | Thurs - (2:30am, 6:00pm) | Fri (10:30am) | Sat - (2:00am). For more information on Seniors Today please go to <http://montgomerycountymd.gov/ccm/seniorstoday.html>. The December show features: the Maryland CARE Act, JSSA Services, and JCA's InterAges.

Stakeholder Meeting Planning. The planning committee held their first meeting on November 15, 2016. The Stakeholders Forum will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 from 8:30-12:00 pm at the Silver Spring Civic Building, One Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring, Maryland. The theme will be “Age Friendly Montgomery” and the forum will focus on four topics that were discussed at the Summit on Aging in December 2015: Housing, Transportation, Communication, and Home & Community Services. The next stakeholders planning meeting will take place on Dec.13th from 12:00-1:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted
Stephanie Edelstein, Secretary