

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

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Commissioners: Morris Klein, Kate Stein (PPC co-chairs) David Engel (CoA chair),
Linda Bergofsky, Rena Eichler Staff: Pazit Aviv, Ruth Kershner

The Minutes for the April 11, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.

Discussion Council Bill 6-24 for disabled veterans and if it is substantially different from 45-23. Further discussion on how the Committee should proceed and figure out if the bill offers more to veterans. *(Bill 6-24 would: (1) establish a property tax credit for disabled veterans; (2) set the amounts of the property tax credit; (3) set eligibility criteria to qualify for the property tax credit; (4) require the continuation of the credit for the surviving spouse of the disabled veteran; and (5) generally amend the law regarding property tax credits.)*

ACTION: It was suggested to write a letter of support and to review the RESJ report.

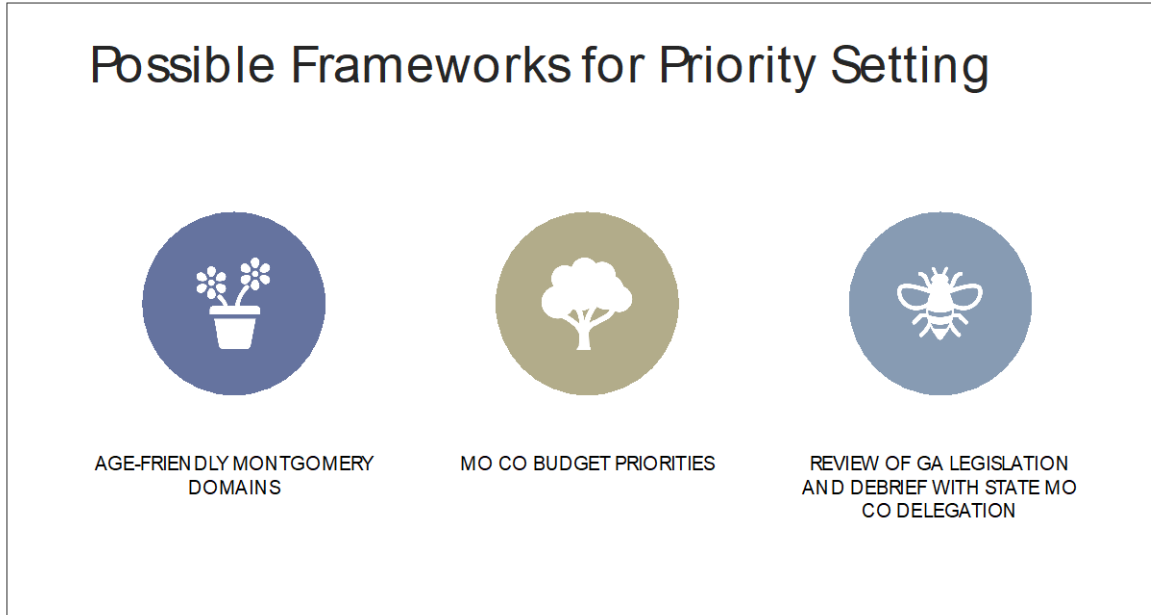
Kate led a discussion of CoA PPC Goals

- How to increase commissioner involvement
- identify perennial policy priorities
- begin to build consensus around policy priorities
- expand our thinking around advocacy tactics
- align policy work with the COA's schedule

Wayne stated by focusing on Budget priorities the CoA loses sight of advocacy issues. Key questions are: When we've been effective, how have we been effective? What hasn't worked? New approaches? (activities, partnerships, etc.) How do we align with CoA calendar? Next steps:

- Reach out to MDSECDOA or MD CoA (David)
 - Multi-sector plan
 - Longevity Ready Maryland
- Crosswalk MoCo delegation with their committee assignments (Linda)
 - Reach out to delegates and senators that sponsored unsuccessful bills to discuss their priorities and plans for next session
 - Policy implications of newly passed legislation, e.g. gaps that remain after passage of Villages act (Linda and Kate)
- Create connection with other commissions on aging (Morris – Washington County, Pazit – Baltimore County)
- Process, calendar and agenda to invigorate our PPC work
 - May: discuss summary of this discussion with EC
 - June: send process for voting on FY26 budget priorities and how we will broaden scope of advocacy work.

Linda provided a framework for priority setting:



Policy priorities – *align with an Age Friendly workgroup domains*

- Civic and Social Involvement
- Communications and Outreach
- Elder Abuse Prevention
- Employment
- Health and Wellness
- Home and Community Based Services
- Housing
- Planning, Open Spaces, Parks and Community Buildings
- Senior Public Safety
- Transportation

Budget priorities – *dive into the Budget line item amounts*

- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Transportation - Transit Services
- Department of Technology Services
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- Office of the State's Attorney
- Community Engagement Cluster
- Office of Consumer Protection
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Office of Public Information
- Montgomery County Police Department

MD GENERAL ASSEMBLY – *use the Summer to debrief and contact Legislators*

What was passed

- Direct care workforce pay and training
- Resident safety and rights
- Renters' rights
- Community based programming support
- Tax credits

What wasn't passed

- Delegation of nursing home inspection authority
- End of life options
- Wages and benefits for nursing home workforce
- Long term care insurance study

Other thoughts:

Look at bills other Counties are advocating for.

Check into what the State CoA is advocating for.

Morris has a tie to a Washington County CoA member.

Pazit can help connect with Baltimore County.

Possible role of PPC in Budget priority process: PPC will provide CoA Committees policy areas and priorities.

An update was provided on the Nursing Home Oversight issue. There is an upcoming meeting on May 21st with MD Dept of Health, the CoA, and Montgomery County representatives from DHHS.

Adjorn