

Advisory Committee on Consumer Protection

Virtual Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ingmar Goldson, Aemish Rao, Linda Perlman, Savitri Taneja, Lesley MacDonald

OCP STAFF PRESENT

Brittany Freeman, Patty Vitale

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Ingmar Goldson. Linda Perlman motioned to adopt the agenda. Savitri Taneja seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE MEETING MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved the meeting minutes. Linda Perlman motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Aemish Rao seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

- Report from subcommittees
 - Data Analysis
 - Aemish Rao gave an update that the subcommittee's main goal is to create a report by the end of the year. They will be using the data from the Sentinel to pull data points and do a deeper analysis. They would like to have a report pulled together by the end of the year.
 - Brittany Freeman is waiting to get access to the Sentinel so that she can pull data for the subcommittee.
 - Educational Programming
 - Lesley MacDonald informed the group that their subcommittee has met twice and are aiming to scope out what their goals are and how it will relate to the data that the Data Analysis subcommittee is working on. The subcommittee will use this data for potential programs. The subcommittee is also working on a fact sheet on immigration scams. OCP is working with Lesley and the Gaithersburg Financial Empowerment Center on the fact sheet and a speaker for an event in mid-October focusing on financial education for the newcomer population in Gaithersburg.
- Speakers for upcoming meetings
 - Ingmar Goldson recommended reaching out to Delegate Vaughn Stewart to speak at one of the Committee's upcoming meetings. Brittany to send Ingmar an email draft and Ingmar will reach out to the Delegate.

OFFICE REPORT

Brittany Freeman shared that OCP's podcast, Consumer Connection, will be releasing their first episode at the end of the month. Patty Vitale gave an update about the case management system. It's not possible to bring in a new software that hasn't been vetted by the County, so we have to work with the system we currently have. OCP is still working to get software issues worked out on accessing Sentinel data. Brittany Freeman shared that automotive, retail, and home improvement were the top categories for OCP new cases in the month of June.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT AND DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Brittany Freeman discussed upcoming dates that subcommittees could use for potential programming. She also mentioned OCP is launching their podcast in July. The Committee also discussed moving the time of the monthly meetings to 9am starting in September. Brittany will reach out to the full Committee for input.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 8:30 a.m. – virtual.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. by Ingmar Goldson.