

MEMORANDUM

April 18, 2013

TO: Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **FY14 Operating Budget: Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services**

Those expected for this worksession:

Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Dr. John Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services
Stuart Venzke, DHHS Chief Operating Officer
Patricia Stromberg, DHHS Management and Budget
Pofen Salem, Office of Management and Budget
Deborah Lambert, Office of Management and Budget

Aging and Disability Services

Excerpts from the County Executive's Recommended Budget for Aging and Disability are attached at © 1-4.

Background Information – Commissions on Aging, People with Disabilities, and Veterans

1. Commission on Aging

Testimony from the Commission on Aging is attached at © 5-6. The Commission's budget statement, which provides more detail on the Commission's FY14 requests is attached at © 7-9. The

Commission's FY12 Annual Report is attached at © 10-39. The Annual Report includes a copy of the Council's resolution in support of the Senior Agenda at © 24-28.

The Commission is requesting funding for: (1) a "Village" coordinator, (2) printed material on transportation, mental health, and safety, (3) increased resources for the Senior Outreach Team, or SORT, (4) an increase to the rate for housing people in senior foster care, and (5) a Mobility Management System Coordinator.

Highlights from the Annual Report include:

- The senior population is expected to increase by 74% by 2020. Montgomery County has the largest share of Hispanic and Asian elderly in the State. More than 25% of seniors aged 65 and older, a majority of whom are women, live alone. An estimated 18% of seniors have limitation in performing daily living activities.
- The Commission's top priorities are transportation, mental health, and housing. The Commission's research shows that older adult isolation occurs in all types of living situations and that small, neighborhood-focused efforts appear to produce the most positive impacts.
- The Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, which includes 59 trained volunteers, conducted more than 3,100 visits and investigated 287 formal complaints. The public guardianship program served 102 people in need of protective services, a 16% increase from FY11.
- The Nurse Team conducted 1,687 Adult Evaluations and Reviews Services (AERS) evaluations to enable people to receive long-term care Medicaid-funded services. There is a wait list that ranges from 40 to 80. The Older-adult Waiver Program served 560 Medicaid-eligible seniors. There are more than 1,700 eligible seniors in need of the program and on the State's registry.

2. Commission on People with Disabilities

Testimony from the Commission on People with Disabilities is attached at © 40. The Commission (1) shares its concerns about the proposed change that will move resource coordination for people with disabilities from the Department of Health and Human Services to non-profit providers; (2) supports the request from InterACC/DD for a \$665,000 increase to the DD Supplement; (3) supports an increase to the Adult Foster Care rate; (4) supports increased staffing to open Gaithersburg and Olney libraries and add hours to Poolesville and Long Branch; and (5) supports the funding for the Mobility Management Administrator and requests the position also include transportation for people with disabilities. The Commission's FY12 Annual report is attached at © 41-62.

Highlights from the Annual Report include:

- An overview of data on people with disabilities. The report notes that there are almost 75,000 people living in Montgomery County with a disability. As of December 2011 there were 13,253 people receiving Supplemental Security Income and 57% of those have a disability.

- About 3% of County residents between the age of 5 and 17 years old are identified as having one or more disabilities, about 5% of residents aged 18 to 64 have one or more disabilities, and about 31% of residents aged 65 or older have one or more disabilities.
- Over 13% of County residents aged 18 to 64 with a disability have poverty status compared to 6% of residents without a disability.
- As of July 2011, there were 729 Montgomery County residents on the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Waiting List, 20 of those were in the “Crisis Resolution” category.
- A description of programs that increase the hiring of people with disabilities including the County Government hiring preference program, the customized employment public intern project, the Montgomery County QUEST intern partnership, and the Montgomery County Project Search Program.
- The Report also notes that the 2011 American Community Survey estimated that 5.6% of people without a disability aged 18 to 64 were unemployed compared to 15.2% unemployment for people with a disability.
- Montgomery County initiated the “Respect the Space” to raised awareness about the proper use of accessible parking. The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and law enforcement have partnered to give access to law enforcement about disability parking privileges.
- The Report discusses the need for additional accessible housing and the Design for Life Work Group. The Commission’s testimony notes Bill 5-13, Property Tax Credit for Accessibility Features.

3. Commission on Veterans Affairs

Testimony from the Commission on Veterans Affairs is attached at © 63. The Commission thanks those who have advocated for Veterans Administration Supported Housing Program (VASH) vouchers, noting that the County has obtained 65 vouchers. They request support for their advocacy for a Veterans Benefits Officer and a Community Based Outpatient Clinic for primary care and mental health care. They share that they are continuing efforts to increase outreach to veterans and to improve communication including improvement to their website. The Commission’s FY12 Annual Report is attached at © 63-82.

Highlights from the Annual Report include:

- Summary of the employment programs and “Respect the Space” efforts that are also described in the report from the Commission on People with Disabilities as these are important efforts to disabled Veterans.
- The 3rd Annual Vietnam Veterans reunion was held at the Silver Spring Civic building. Discussion included “Agent Orange, Health Care and VA Benefits; What You and Your

Family Need to Know,” transgenerational issue regarding toxic exposure, the VA claims process, and the VA appeals process.

- An overview of data about Veterans in Montgomery County. The U.S. Census estimated that in 2011 there were 48,759 Veterans living in Montgomery County, about 6.4% of the population aged 18 or older. Most (88.5%) of the Veterans are male and the largest percentage (35.2%) are Vietnam era Veterans.
- The VA Baltimore Regional Office is ranked 3rd worst out of 58 regional offices in the country based on the average number of days a Veteran waits for a response to a claim. 82.4% of Veterans are waiting 125 days or more for a response from the VA.
- The information included on 2012 key concerns presented to the County Executive include a request for more consistent community education on benefits and asks for support for yearly or semi-annual training similar to the Transition Assistance Planning Course and that the training be recorded for television and made available on demand.

Aging and Disability Services Overview

For FY14, Aging and Disabilities Services is organized into 11 program areas. The following tables show the budget changes since FY10.

Aging and Disability Services Expenditures in \$000's	FY10 Budget	FY11 Budget	FY12 Budget	FY13 Budget	FY14 Rec	Change FY13-14
Community Support Network for People with Disabilities	16,453	15,799	15,061	15,167	12,050	-20.6%
Assessment and Continuing Case Management Services	6,157	6,136	6,000	6,954	7,040	1.2%
Assisted Living Services	1,973	2,008	1,978	1,934	1,899	-1.8%
Home and Community Based Waiver Services	-	1,353	1,400	1,788	2,002	12.0%
In-Home Aide Services/Home Care Services	4,615	4,467	4,789	4,401	4,360	-0.9%
Aging and Disability Resource Unit	994	1,003	809	834	825	-1.1%
Omsbudman Services	664	637	644	655	654	-0.2%
Respite Care	1,036	904	914	928	928	0.0%
Senior Community Services	3,936	2,316	2,225	2,266	2,369	4.5%
Senior Nutrition Program	2,291	2,283	2,344	2,454	2,532	3.2%
Service Area Administration	487	458	444	405	460	13.6%
TOTAL	38,606	37,364	36,608	37,786	35,119	-7.1%

A. Community Support Network for People with Disabilities

Total FY14 recommended funding for this program is \$12,049,826 and 23.0FTEs. This program coordinates a wide range of services for people (adults and children) with disabilities

including employment, services for the visually impaired, autism waiver services, and funding for community based and residential services.

1. State Resource Coordination Grant for Developmental Disabilities

\$325,305 and +3.75FTEs

2. Multi-program Adjustments

-\$3,442,635 and -23.0FTEs

These two budget items are intertwined in that a majority of the multi-program adjustment is the reduction in County staff that would provide resource coordination under the original proposal to contract out this service for all of FY14.

Since the March 15 budget, DHHS and the State have continued to discuss how this transition will work and it is now expected that some portion of resource coordination will stay in DHHS or FY14. **A new proposal for this will be a part of the Executive's budget adjustments. The Committee should defer any recommendations on this issue until after it receives the updated plan.**

Other Issue:

County DD Supplement

The Executive's FY14 Recommended Budget includes \$7,872,486 for the County's supplement to eligible organizations that provide direct services to the developmentally disabled. This is the same amount of funding provided in the FY13 Approved Budget. The Council approved \$154,362 in FY13 to provide a 2% increase to the DD Supplement. The Council was not able to provide an increase in recognition of the additional people served by these organizations (expansion).

The DD Supplement funds are allocated to all DD providers in the same proportion as State funding, as State funding takes into account the number of clients, severity of disability, and services required. While Montgomery County has chosen to provide a county supplement in recognition of the higher cost of providing services in Montgomery County, the State payment is considered a full payment to the client. The County DD Supplement is not a direct supplement to a specific employee's pay but rather a payment to assist the entire organization in meeting its costs.

Last year, the Committee discussed the purpose of the supplement and the ways that different organizations may choose to use the funds. The Committee recommended and the Council agreed that a majority of the supplement should be used to improve the pay of direct service providers.

Recognizing that this was potentially new direction for some organizations, the Council included the following language in the Budget Resolution that provides for a transition period.

This resolution appropriates \$7,872,486 to the Department of Health and Human Services to provide a supplement to organizations providing direct services to clients of residential,

community supported living arrangements, day habilitation, or supportive employment provided through the Developmental Disabilities Administration. The Council intends that the majority of these funds should be used to increase the pay of direct service providers in recognition of the higher cost of living in Montgomery County compared to other parts of Maryland. In order to receive this supplement, an organization must demonstrate to DHHS that its hourly wage exceeds the minimum State pay for the appropriate program. Beginning in FY 2014, each organization must report to DHHS on the amount of funds used to improve hourly pay. Beginning in FY 2015, the Council expects each organization to allocate 75% of any supplement received to improve hourly pay.

Section G of this resolution includes entities eligible to receive this non-competitive payment.

The Department will update the Committee on their work with provider organizations to meet the requirements in the FY13 Budget Resolution. DHHS reports that they are now collecting wage and rate data from the DD providers. They will analyze the data and work with the DD providers to ensure that the hourly rate exceeds the minimum State pay for the appropriate program.

Council staff recommends that the FY13 language (updated) be included in the FY14 Budget Resolution. The testimony from InterACC/DD says that the State rate is \$9.13 and they are working with DHHS to make sure that all organizations pay at least \$1 more per hour.

The Council received testimony from Montgomery County InterACC/DD (© 83), Ms. Hamilton (© 84-85), SEIU (© 86-86a), CHI Centers (© 87-88) and Community Support Services (© 89) requesting that the Council add \$665,000 to the DD Supplement. As previously noted, the Commission on People with Disabilities also supported this recommendation. The request is in two parts:

- \$350,000 for expected growth in services in FY14. It is expected that there will be 145 new individuals served in FY14. Assuming the average supplement is \$2,400 per person, the cost for these new individuals will be \$348,000. InterACC/DD says that without these expansion funds organizations will either have to pay employees less for working with these new clients or take money from existing services to reallocate to these new services.
- \$315,000 for a 4% cost of living adjustment. InterACC/DD says this would allow organizations to provide employees with a cost of living adjustment and allow them to catch up on some of the lost earning power of the last several years.

Prior to the economic downturn, the County did recognize the need for expansion funds and Council staff thinks it would be unfortunate for provider employees to be paid only the State rate for new clients. Council staff recommends that the HHS Committee place \$348,000 for expansion of services on the reconciliation list. Council staff also recommends that the Budget Resolution specify that this funding (if approved) is to provide a supplement to organizations serving new clients and that the supplement per new client cannot exceed the supplement paid based on the current number of clients.

At its April 17 session, the Committee agreed to place three 1% inflationary adjustment increments for non-profit contracts on the reconciliation list. **Council staff recommends the same for the DD Supplement.** Each 1% would be \$82,205 assuming the expansion funds are approved (total \$246,615). If the Council is unable to fund the expansion, each 1% would be \$78,725 (total \$236,175).

B. Assessment and Continuing Case Management

Total FY14 recommended funding is \$7,039,574 and 58.55FTEs for this program which provides multi-disciplinary assessments, care planning, and case management to frail seniors and adults with disabilities. This program area includes Adult Protective Services, Adult Evaluation and Review Services (AERS), and the public guardianship program.

The budget book shows that there is an expectation that the number of people on the Social Services to Adults (SSTA) waiting list will decrease in FY14 and FY15. As a part of the FY13 budget there was an increase to the Senior Care/Gateway Grant which was to be used to add 2 Social Workers with the expectation that the waiting lists would decline.

1. Multi-program Adjustments ***\$84,671 and +0.0FTEs***

Multi-program adjustments account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. FTEs are the sum of full-time and part-time positions. **Council staff recommends approval.**

C. Assisted Living Services

Total FY14 recommended funding is \$1,899,098 and 7.07FTEs for this program that provides subsidies and case management to low-income seniors who live in group homes or in adult foster care homes.

1. Multi-program Adjustments ***-\$34,908 and +0.0FTEs***

Multi-program adjustments account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. FTEs are the sum of full-time and part-time positions. **Council staff recommends approval.**

Other Issue: **Adult Foster Care**

The Council has received testimony from the Commissions on Aging and People with Disabilities recommending a \$310,000 increase to the County funding for the adult (senior) foster care to increase the reimbursement rate to adult group home operators. The Commission's testimony

indicates that the rate has not been increased in 20 years. In addition, the Council received testimony on behalf of the Metropolitan Assisted Living Group Home Association (© 90-96) and from Ms. Coley who is an assisted living group home operator (© 97).

The Adult Foster Care Program provides housing and case management in group homes for adults with disabilities and frail seniors who are at risk for abuse and neglect. Participants must be unable to live independently and have no other resources to provide the needed care and supervision. There are income and asset limits. Adult Foster Care clients live in licensed group homes with 4 to 16 beds. The housing subsidy paid to the group home provider is County funded.

Council staff has asked the Department to provide additional information to the Committee on the Adult Foster Care subsidy, Assisted Living Group Home Subsidy, Older Adult Waiver program and Project Home that will provide a brief description of each program, FY13 and FY14 funding, the average subsidy and the source of funding, the expected number of people served in FY13 and FY14, the type of housing, and the last time the subsidy was adjusted.

The Commission on Aging says that at current rates the Department is having difficulty placing people. The \$310,000 increase would be the first of a two-year increase that would in total raise the monthly subsidy by \$475 and make it equal to the rate paid for those in the Assisted Living Group Home Program. The Commission on People with Disabilities also supports this increase and says it would raise the rate from \$1,175 for a double room or \$1,375 for a single room to \$1,650 per month which would be the same as the Assisted Living Group Home Subsidy.

At this time, Council staff does not have a recommendation and suggests that the Committee review the comparative material and return to this item at its follow-up session.

D. Home Care Services

Total FY14 recommended funding is \$4,360,993 and 15.5FTEs for this program which provides in home assistance to senior and adults with disabilities that need help with daily tasks in order to remain independent and live in the community.

Last year, as a part of the Senior Initiative, the Council added \$50,000 to re-establish the Chore Services program for about 21 people and \$20,000 to re-establish the Heavy Chore Services program which is generally used to assist with hoarding situations. These funds are included in FY14.

1. Multi-program Adjustments ***-\$40,047 and 0.0FTEs***

Multi-program adjustments account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. FTEs are the sum full-time and part-time positions. **Council staff recommends approval.**

E. Home and Community Based Waiver Services

Total FY14 recommended funding is \$2,002,224 and 13.00FTEs for this program which coordinates Medicaid long-term care waivers. Waivers allow the funding of services in the community (“Money Follows the Person”) in order to avoid the need for placement in a nursing home or other institutional setting. Money Follows the Person participants can access funds for community-based services through five waiver programs: (1) the Living at Home waiver, (2) the Older Adults Waiver, (3) the Traumatic Brain Injury waiver, (4) the Community Pathways waiver, and (5) the New Directions waiver.

1. Money Follows the Person Options Counseling Grant \$275,000 and 0.0FTEs

DHHS says that The Money Follows the Person program provides Options Counseling (O.C.) to help individuals leave nursing facilities and re-enter the community. The County provides education about community-based living options, and helps people apply for programs that can help them live independently. Each O.C. encounter is reimbursed by the State at \$127.50 per unit, which would allow us to serve approximately 2157 clients. **Council staff recommends approval.**

2. Eliminate Medicaid Waiver and Case Management -\$224,403 and 0.0FTEs

3. Annualization of FY13 Broker Positions for Older Adult Waiver Program \$118,476 and 0.0FTEs (this item is incorrectly shown in the Senior Community Services program in the budget book)

Last year the Committee reviewed changes made to this administration of this program that resulted in a mix of county and broker positions. These changes align the FY14 budget with the administration of the program. **Council staff recommends approval.**

4. Multi-program Adjustments \$163,126 and 0.0FTEs

Multi-program adjustments account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. FTEs are the sum full-time and part-time positions. **Council staff recommends approval.**

F. Aging and Disability Resource Unit

Total FY14 recommended funding is \$834,359 and 9.0FTEs this program that assists seniors, people with disabilities, and their families in defining needs, locating services, and facilitating any the application process.

1. Multi-program Adjustments
-\$9,594 and 0.0FTEs

Multi-program adjustments account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. FTEs are the sum of full-time and part-time positions. **Council staff recommends approval.**

G. Ombudsman Services

Total FY14 recommended funding is \$654,406 and 5.5FTEs for this program that investigates and resolves complaints in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

1. Multi-program Adjustments
-\$743 and +0.0FTEs

Multi-program adjustments account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. FTEs are the sum of full-time and part-time positions. **Council staff recommends approval.**

H. Respite Care

Total FY14 recommended funding is \$927,986 and 0.0FTEs for this program that provides temporary, occasional care of frail seniors, adults and children with disabilities, and children with severe behaviors and/or medical conditions in order to give relief to family members and primary care givers. Over the last year, the number of clients served in Respite Care has ranged from 86 to 257 (during the month of June). In any month, the number of respite requests that could not be filled ranged from 19 to 154.

There are no changes recommended for FY14 and Council staff recommends approval.

The Council received testimony in support of the respite care program. The Commission on Aging's budget request asks for \$90,000 for 6,000 hours of respite care at a cost of \$15 per hour. The budget indicates that in FY11 there were 1,174 unmet requests for respite care. Last year the Committee was told that the number of respite requests that could not be filled in any given month ranged from 19 to 154 (there are months, such as the summer months, with very high requests.)

I. Senior Community Services

Total FY14 recommended funding for this program is \$2,368,657 and 5.93FTEs for this program that provides a variety of services that help seniors remain independent and active in the community such as legal services, senior transportation to recreation centers and to grocery shopping, and health insurance counseling.

***1. Add Mobility Management Administrator
\$60,000 and 0.0FTEs***

The Committee will review all the FY14 Executive recommendations for senior transportation at the April 25 joint session with the PHED Committee so Council staff is not making any recommendations at this time.

As background, the Executive's recommendation is to add \$60,000 for a contract for a Mobility Management Administrator. The budget says the resources will "develop a countywide Mobility Management System (MMS) that can leverage other resources and coordinate them to meet the transportation needs of low and middle-income older adults in Montgomery County. The funds will also result in the development of a strategic marketing communications plan to publicize transportation programs to seniors which will leverage existing county resources for implementation."

On February 4, 2013 the HHS and T&E Committees held a joint meeting on senior transportation where they reviewed the report from Senior Fellow Elaine Binder on Senior Transportation and Mobility Management System. Ms. Binder's report has several recommendations with the top two priorities being to: (1) Create a formal mobility management position capable of working collaboratively with all departments with senior transportation programs, as well as nonprofit and for profit transportation providers. One responsibility for this position would be to convene a network of providers to identify solutions; and 2) Develop a strategic communications and marketing plan with the outcome of increasing awareness of existing services.

The Commission on Aging has voiced its support for a Mobility Management System Coordinator as a County position, rather than contract and recommends an additional \$47,000 for funding for such a full-time position.

The Commission on People with Disabilities stated its support for the Executive's recommendation but asks that the position's duties also include transportation for people with disabilities.

The Grassroots Organization for the Well-being of Seniors (GROWS) supports full funding for a mobility management program, but does not specify an amount of funding.

***2. Enhance The Escorted Transportation Pilot Project Contract for a Full-year
\$55,000 and 0.0FTEs***

This item will be discussed at the joint HHS/PHED Committee session on Senior Transportation on April 25th.

This is an annualization of the program that was funded in FY13. The funding is provided to the Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington to provide a "Smooth Ride" escorted transportation pilot program. The FY13 effort is expected to fund 550 one-way escorted trips. An escorted trip provides the person with assistance in and out of the car and into the appointment. Often

this kind of transportation is used to help seniors to medical appointments. This is different from the Connect-a-Ride program that is funded in the Department of Transportation (\$237,497 for FY14).

3. *Shift Charges for Senior Transportation Services (previously DOT charged DHHS)*
-\$142,500 and 0.0FTE

This item will be discussed at the joint HHS/PHED Committee session on Senior Transportation on April 25th.

For FY14, the Executive is recommending a shift of some senior transportation funds from DHHS to Recreation. This is part of this re-alignment of funds. Certain senior transportation is provided by the Department of Transportation and the costs are charged-back to the programmatic department.

4. *Multi-program Adjustments*
\$11,562 and 0.0FTE

Multi-program adjustments account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. FTEs are the sum of full-time and part-time positions. **Council staff recommends approval.**

J. Senior Nutrition Program

Total FY14 recommended funding is \$2,532,312 and 3.0FTEs for this program that provides lunches to seniors at sites around the county, as well as providing home-delivered meals, nutrition education, and physical fitness activities.

1. *Increased Cost Title III Older Americans Act*
\$158,945 and 0.0FTE

This is a technical adjustment to align the grant with the amount that is expected in FY14. About \$73,000 of the increase in the Older Americans Act funding will go to funding home delivered and congregate meals.

2. *Home Delivered Meals*
\$82,000 and 0.0FTEs

The Department says that it estimates that it will serve about 600 people in FY13. Of these, 95% will be seniors. In FY14 DHHS believes it can serve approximately 630 people. Based on a recent sequestration notification from the Maryland Department of Aging, the program may need to eliminate about 8,300 meals as a result of a \$45,640 reduction for FY14. All 630 recipients could be affected if the program spreads the cuts across the entire client population.

	FY13	FY14
	Budget	Rec
Home Delivered Meals		
Older Americans Act Grant	385,224	455,561
Nutrition Services Incentive Program	58,697	50,770
Program Income	33,704	35,000
State Nutrition Grant	30,989	30,990
General Funds	171,536	252,665
TOTAL FUNDING	680,150	824,986
People Served	600	630

Council staff recommends approval understanding that the actual amount of funding may change based on sequestration.

3. Congregate Meals

No specific change identified in the budget

DHHS says it expects to serve approximately 3,700 people in FY13, and, without sequestration reductions would be able to sustain that number. Based on a recent sequestration notification from the Maryland Department of Aging, the program may need to eliminate about 15,900 meals as a result of a \$176,340 reduction for FY14. The program could spread the reduction in a way that impacts all of the meals participants, or it could target the reductions, which would impact fewer people more heavily. Congregate meals are provided at more than 40 locations that include senior centers, community centers, HOC senior housing, churches and synagogues, and to certain senior association program sites.

Congregate Meals		
Older Americans Act Grant	841,962	845,067
Nutrition Services Incentive Program	176,090	152,300
Program Income	101,112	105,000
State Nutrition Grant	92,965	92,964
General Funds	514,610	511,995
TOTAL FUNDING	1,726,739	1,707,326
People Served	3,700	3,700

Council staff recommends approval understanding that the actual amount of funding may change based on sequestration.

4. Multi-program Adjustments
-\$162,663 and 0.0FTEs

Multi-program adjustments account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. FTEs are the sum of full-time and part-time positions. **Council staff recommends approval.**

K. Service Area Administration

Total FY14 recommended funding is \$459,652 and 3.0FTEs for this program that provides service wide administration.

1. Multi-program Adjustments
\$54,315 and 0.0FTEs

Multi-program adjustments account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. FTEs are the sum of full-time and part-time positions. **Council staff recommends approval.**

L. Other Issues raised by the Commission on Aging (©7-8)

1. Village Coordinator

The Commission on Aging is requesting \$85,755 for a position to be the County's "Village Coordinator." The Commission believes this would help establish and strengthen these programs. Representatives from the existing villages told the Commission that social isolation is one of the biggest problems for seniors and a Village Coordinator could help bridge this gap through outreach and the development of new villages.

Council staff offers two thoughts regarding this request. The first is that part of addressing isolation is transportation and, if approved, the Mobility Manager should be able to address this aspect of the problem. The second is that when the Regional Centers had more resources they often helped facilitate discussions in communities that were interested in becoming a "village." If the Committee sees this issue as a priority, it might be more flexible to provide some funding (perhaps \$25,000) that the Regional Centers could use to pay a contract facilitator for these kinds of efforts.

2. Printed Material

The Commission on Aging is requesting \$30,000 for printed material as many seniors do not have access to or are able to use on-line services. The Commission also recommends that there be a one-time mailing to people turning 65 providing information on senior resources.

The GO Committee discussed this issue with the Public Information Officer at its worksession and encouraged the PIO to find ways to accommodate the printing of material but did not add any funding to the reconciliation list. Unless there is specific health information the Commission is recommending be printed, Council staff believes this issue is best addressed by the PIO.

3. Senior Outreach Team (SORT)

The Commission on Aging is recommending a \$60,000 increase to senior mental health services to serve an estimated 28 homebound seniors. The SORT grant and related programs are administered by Behavioral Health and Crisis Services.

The SORT grant was reduced substantially in FY10. The County currently receives about \$201,000.

The Committee last had a specific discussion of this funding in FY12. At that time the State had reduced funding for hospital diversion (during FY11) and there was an abolishment of vacant positions including five Therapists. It was noted that the County continued to provide some services for this purpose through contract services. In FY10, 961 home visits were provided by the Senior Outreach Program and 427 home visits were provided by the Hispanic Outreach Program. In addition, 242 seniors attended “drop-in groups” provided at five senior centers and there were 143 consultations with staff from Aging and Disabilities. Some of the reduction in grant funded was also expected to shift to a fee-for-service model (this was the expectation for the Hospital Diversion program).

Council staff will ask the Department to be ready to discuss this issue during the worksession on Behavioral Health and Crisis Services.

Aging and Disability Services

FUNCTION

The staff of Aging and Disability Services shares the Montgomery County vision, where seniors, persons with disabilities, and their families are fully participating members of our community. The mission of this service area is to affirm the dignity and value of seniors, persons with disabilities, and their families by offering a wide range of information, home and community-based support services, protections, and opportunities, which promote choice, independence, and inclusion.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Jay Kenney of the HHS - Aging and Disability Services at 240.777.4565 or Deborah Lambert of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2794 for more information regarding this service area's operating budget.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Community Support Network for People with Disabilities

This program area provides supported employment for adults with developmental disabilities, service coordination, services for people with visual and hearing impairments and physical disabilities, summer camp for children with multiple disabilities, crisis management and intervention, school-to-work transition assistance, and the Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism Waiver). This program area also provides financial assistance to State-funded providers who serve adults with developmental disabilities.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY11	Actual FY12	Estimated FY13	Target FY14	Target FY15
Percentage of adults with developmental disabilities provided community living services who remain at the same level of independence after receiving supportive services ¹	97	NA	95	95	95

¹ Data not available for FY12.

FY14 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY13 Approved	15,167,156	43.00
Replace: State Resource Coordination Services Grant for Developmental Disabilities	325,305	3.75
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	-3,442,635	-23.75
FY14 CE Recommended	12,049,826	23.00

Notes: Reduction is due to the discontinuation of the state grant.

Assessment and Continuing Case Management Services

This program area provides multi-disciplinary assessments, care planning, and case management services to frail seniors and adults with disabilities to remedy and prevent abuse, neglect, self-neglect, exploitation, or inappropriate institutionalization. Services include Adult Protective Services, Adult Evaluation and Review Services (AERS), Statewide Evaluation and Planning Services, Social Services to Adults, and the Public Guardianship Program.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY11	Actual FY12	Estimated FY13	Target FY14	Target FY15
Number on Social Services to Adults (SSTA) waiting list	179	84	200	150	100

FY14 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY13 Approved	6,954,903	58.55
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	84,671	0.00
FY14 CE Recommended	7,039,574	58.55

Assisted Living Services

This program area provides subsidies and case management for low-income seniors who live in group homes for the frail elderly and adult foster care homes for frail seniors and adults with disabilities.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY11	Actual FY12	Estimated FY13	Target FY14	Target FY15
Percentage of clients remaining in community placement (i.e., not entering institutional setting) ¹	94	NA	95	95	95

¹ Data not available for FY12.

FY14 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY13 Approved	1,934,006	7.07
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	-34,908	0.00
FY14 CE Recommended	1,899,098	7.07

Home Care Services

This program area provides personal care assistance to seniors and eligible adults with disabilities who are unable to manage independently due to physical and/or mental impairments. In-home aide services prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults, and enhance overall quality of life by providing personal care, chore assistance, therapeutic support, self-care education, and escorted transportation.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY11	Actual FY12	Estimated FY13	Target FY14	Target FY15
Number of clients served annually	407	345	345	345	345
Percentage of clients with no unmet personal care needs	93	93.2	95	95	95

FY14 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY13 Approved	4,401,040	15.50
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	-40,047	0.00
FY14 CE Recommended	4,360,993	15.50

Home and Community Based Waiver Services for Older Adults

This program area administers and operates the Home and Community Based Waiver for Older Adults (Medicaid Long-Term Care Waiver) that provides a continuum of services designed to allow frail seniors to live in the community, rather than in nursing homes.

FY14 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY13 Approved	1,788,501	13.00
Add: Money Follows the Person Option Counseling Grant	275,000	0.00
Eliminate: Medicaid Waiver Administration and Case Management	-224,403	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	163,126	0.00
FY14 CE Recommended	2,002,224	13.00

Aging and Disability Resource Unit

This program area assists seniors, persons with disabilities, and their families, in defining service needs, locating required services, and facilitating the application process to access services.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY11	Actual FY12	Estimated FY13	Target FY14	Target FY15
Percentage of callers that received referrals/information they need	87	93	92	92	92

FY14 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY13 Approved	834,359	9.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	-9,594	0.00
FY14 CE Recommended	824,765	9.00

Ombudsman Services

This program area investigates and resolves complaints made by residents, staff, and family members in nursing homes and assisted living facilities for seniors and people with disabilities.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY11	Actual FY12	Estimated FY13	Target FY14	Target FY15
Percentage of complaints resolved	82	86	85	85	85

FY14 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY13 Approved	655,149	5.50
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	-743	0.00
FY14 CE Recommended	654,406	5.50

Respite Care

This program area provides temporary, occasional care of frail seniors, adults and children with disabilities, and children with severe behaviors and/or medical issues to give relief to families and other primary caregivers.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY11	Actual FY12	Estimated FY13	Target FY14	Target FY15
Number of unmet requests for service in Respite Care	1,174	NA	NA	NA	NA
Percentage of customers with disabilities that remain in the community ¹	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

¹ Data not available because survey was not conducted. A new set of measures is under development for FY14.

FY14 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY13 Approved	927,986	0.00
FY14 CE Recommended	927,986	0.00

Senior Community Services

This program area provides funds for services that help seniors to remain independent in the community including: legal services, representative payee services, health insurance counseling, "visitor" services, grocery shopping, transportation to senior centers, subsidized employment, and socialization for seniors with visual impairments.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY11	Actual FY12	Estimated FY13	Target FY14	Target FY15
Percentage of clients receiving Representative Payee services who report adequate funds for food, medical care, and shelter.	99	93	93	93	93

FY14 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY13 Approved	2,266,119	5.93
Increase Cost: Annualization of FY13 Broker Positions in Older Adult Waiver Program	118,476	0.00
Add: Mobility Management Administrator	60,000	0.00
Enhance: The Escorted Transportation Project with the Jewish Council for Aging	55,000	0.00
Shift: Charges from DOT-Transit to HHS for Senior Transportation Services	-142,500	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	11,562	0.00
FY14 CE Recommended	2,368,657	5.93

Senior Nutrition Program

This program area provides lunches to seniors at sites around the County and provides home-delivered meals, nutrition education, and physical fitness activities. It is administered in cooperation with a variety of public, private, and nonprofit organizations.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY11	Actual FY12	Estimated FY13	Target FY14	Target FY15
Number of unduplicated customers served in the Senior Nutrition Program	5,585	5,177	4,800	4,700	4,700

FY14 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY13 Approved	2,454,030	3.00
Increase Cost: Title III Older Americans Act	158,945	0.00
Enhance: Home Delivered Meals	82,000	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	-162,663	0.00
FY14 CE Recommended	2,532,312	3.00

Service Area Administration

This program area provides leadership and direction for the administration of Aging and Disability Services.

FY14 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY13 Approved	405,337	3.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	54,315	0.00
FY14 CE Recommended	459,652	3.00

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Name	FY13 Approved		FY14 Recommended	
	Expenditures	FTEs	Expenditures	FTEs
Community Support Network for People with Disabilities	15,167,156	43.00	12,049,826	23.00
Assessment and Continuing Case Management Services	6,954,903	58.55	7,039,574	58.55
Assisted Living Services	1,934,006	7.07	1,899,098	7.07
Home Care Services	4,401,040	15.50	4,360,993	15.50
Home and Community Based Waiver Services for Older Adults	1,788,501	13.00	2,002,224	13.00
Aging and Disability Resource Unit	834,359	9.00	824,765	9.00
Ombudsman Services	655,149	5.50	654,406	5.50
Respite Care	927,986	0.00	927,986	0.00
Senior Community Services	2,266,119	5.93	2,368,657	5.93
Senior Nutrition Program	2,454,030	3.00	2,532,312	3.00
Service Area Administration	405,337	3.00	459,652	3.00
Total	37,788,586	163.55	35,119,493	143.55



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COMMISSION ON AGING

TESTIMONY
FY 14 Budget
County Council Public Hearing
Judith Welles, Chair
Commission on Aging
April 9, 2013

The Commission on Aging commends the County Council for its action to adopt the Senior Agenda. The County Executive's proposed FY 14 budget puts us on the right track for making Montgomery County a Community for a Lifetime. Yet, the gaps between needs and services for older residents remain wide and large. As older people represent the fastest growing segment of the population, time is ticking on our ability to realize this vision. Consider the real time frame. In just seven years, one-in-four people in Montgomery County will be age 60 or better.

With that timeframe in mind, we urge the Council and the County Executive to make improvements in this budget in key strategic areas. To continue to close the gap between needs and resources, there are four particular enhancements – a menu of options -- that we urge the Council to consider:

- **Funding a position for a “Village Coordinator” would help establish and strengthen neighbor to neighbor programs throughout the county, a cost effective way to meet a variety of needs** by bringing together our citizens in helping one another, particularly our senior citizens. Representatives of local villages told Commission members that social isolation was one of the biggest challenges to providing services for individuals in need. A “Village Coordinator” could help bridge this gap and support coordinated outreach efforts.
- **Funding is needed for printed materials on transportation, mental health, and safety.** Many seniors lack computer access and depend on written material for information. Older adults who are unaware of county transportation options, or health and wellness programs, and how to access them, are isolated in their homes. Printed materials at libraries, grocery stores and places of worship would inform and assist older adults in diverse communities as they seek to access county services. The Commission also recommends multi-language publications and a one-time mailing to those turning age 65 providing information on resources.
- **The mental health challenges of seniors need additional funds for the Senior Outreach Team (SORT) that aids the homebound with therapy and for care-giver support and respite care.** More than 25 percent of adults over the age of 65 live alone; isolation fuels depression. The burdens on families trying to cope with depression and anxiety or Alzheimer’s disease are formidable and the problem is growing.

- **The senior foster care program needs additional support as there has been no increase in 20 years.** This program takes care of seniors and younger adults with disabilities needing help and supervision and who have no family to turn to, and 60 percent of those served in this program are seniors. Moreover, other County programs reimburse assisted living facilities at a higher rate for the same services.

While the Commission urges these critical additions, we also are mindful of the progress that will result from the County Executives proposed budget. In particular, we are pleased that the budget includes the following, all related to elements of the Senior Agenda:

- Increased investment in affordable housing and continued funds for senior housing units in Silver Spring.
- Seniors will welcome the enhancements in transportation, particularly the public-private partnership to expand senior transportation and also restore the senior mini-trip program to the 5 senior centers. The proposed budget addresses the need for a Mobility Management System Coordinator, and we urge expansion for a full-time position for the Coordinator to provide the necessary clout to develop the system.
- Added funding for Home Delivered Meals will eliminate the waiting list; and the waiting list for needed social services to vulnerable adults also will be reduced.
- Increased funding for the Library and Recreation budgets will help address the problem of senior isolation.
- Funding for a senior citizen fire educator contractor will speak to the fire dangers faced by seniors.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Commission on Aging's position on the FY14 Budget.



COMMISSION ON AGING

Montgomery County Commission on Aging

FY14 Budget Statement

1. The Commission on Aging thanks the Council for adopting a vision for seniors in its resolution for a “Community for a Lifetime: a Senior Agenda.” This framework now needs to be implemented, and the County Executive’s FY14 budget is a step in this direction.
2. The gap between needs and resources remains immense. By the year 2020 (less than 7 years away), and since 2000, the senior population of Montgomery County will increase by 74%, with approximately one-in-four residents age 60 or better. This tremendous demographic shift requires a new priority for senior issues in order for all our residents to age with dignity and vitality.
3. The additional funds proposed in the FY 14 Budget are positive steps:
 - Increased investment in affordable housing and continued funds for senior housing units in Silver Spring.
 - Seniors will welcome the enhancements in transportation, particularly the public–private partnership to expand senior transportation and also restore the senior mini-trip program to the 5 senior centers, as well as the addition of a position for a Mobility Management System coordinator.
 - Added funding for Home Delivered Meals will eliminate the waiting list.
 - Increased funding for the Library and Recreation budgets will help address the problem of senior isolation.
 - Funding for a senior citizen fire educator contractor will speak to the fire dangers faced by seniors.
4. To continue to close the gap between needs and resources, there are 4 particular enhancements that we urge the Council to pursue:
 - Funding a position for a “Village Coordinator” would help establish and strengthen neighbor to neighbor programs throughout the county, a cost effective way to meet a variety of needs by bringing together our citizens in helping one another, particularly our senior citizens. Representatives of local villages told the Commission that social isolation was one of the biggest challenges to providing services for individuals in need. A “Village Coordinator” could help bridge this gap and support coordinated outreach efforts, and the development of new “Villages” in low/moderate income areas of the County. (\$85,755)

Department of Health and Human Services

401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 240-777-1120, FAX 240-777-1436

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

Program Manager II - job class 000832 -1.0 FTE	
Personnel Costs	77,735
Infrastructure	
OTO - Includes Computer, Furniture, Desk phone, smart phone	6,400
Ongoing OE - desk phone, smart phone	1,620
Operating Costs	8,020
Total Cost	85,755

- Funding is needed for printed materials on transportation, mental health, and safety. Many seniors lack computer access and depend on written material for information. Older adults who are unaware of county transportation options, or health and wellness programs, and how to access them, are isolated in their homes. Printed materials at libraries, grocery stores and places of worship would inform and assist older adults in diverse communities as they seek to access county services. The Commission also recommends multi-language publications and a one-time mailing to those turning age 65 providing information on resources. (\$30,000)
- **The mental health challenges of seniors need additional funds for the Senior Outreach Team (SORT) contract that aids homebound seniors with therapy and for care-giver support and respite care.** More than 25% of those 65+ live alone; isolation fuels depression. The burdens on families trying to cope with depression and anxiety or Alzheimer’s disease are formidable and the problem is growing. (respite care at \$15/hour \$90,000 to provide 6,000 hours of respite care and SORT contract to serve an additional 28 homebound seniors \$60,000).
- **The senior foster care program needs additional support as there has been no rate increase in 20 years.** This program takes care of seniors and younger adults with disabilities needing help and supervision and who have no family to turn to, and 60 percent of participants are seniors. Other County programs reimburse assisted living facilities at a higher rate for the same services. (\$310,000)

This funding would be phase one of a two-year commitment to increase Adult Foster Care subsidy rates by \$620,000. This will increase the average monthly subsidy by \$475 for 145 seniors to be equal to the rates provided in the Senior Assisted Living Group Home Subsidy Program. DHHS is having difficulty in placing individuals into assisted living group homes of 5-8 residents due to this subsidy difference.

- **Full funding for a Mobility Management System Coordinator.** While the current approach of budgeting for a contract is a very positive step in implementing a system of mobility management, we would like to see full funding of a County staff position. We believe that the stature of such a position would “have the authority” to foster closer collaboration between County-operated programs and private providers and ensure smoother coordination of all senior mobility and transportation services and programs. (an additional \$47,064).

The Mobility Management Coordinator will develop a county-wide Mobility Management System (MMS) that meets the transportation needs of low and middle-income older adults in Montgomery County. The MMS will –

- Meet individual customer needs through a wide range of transportation options and public and private transportation service providers
- Coordinate these services and providers in order to achieve a more efficient transportation service delivery.

The Administrator will be responsible for the coordination of services between 311, DOT/Transit Services, Recreation Department/Senior Programs, HHS, Regional Services Centers, nonprofit providers and taxi companies. The Administrator will convene a network of providers to identify solutions so that through collaborative efforts, innovative efforts to provide senior transportation will be developed.

Features of the County MMS will include -

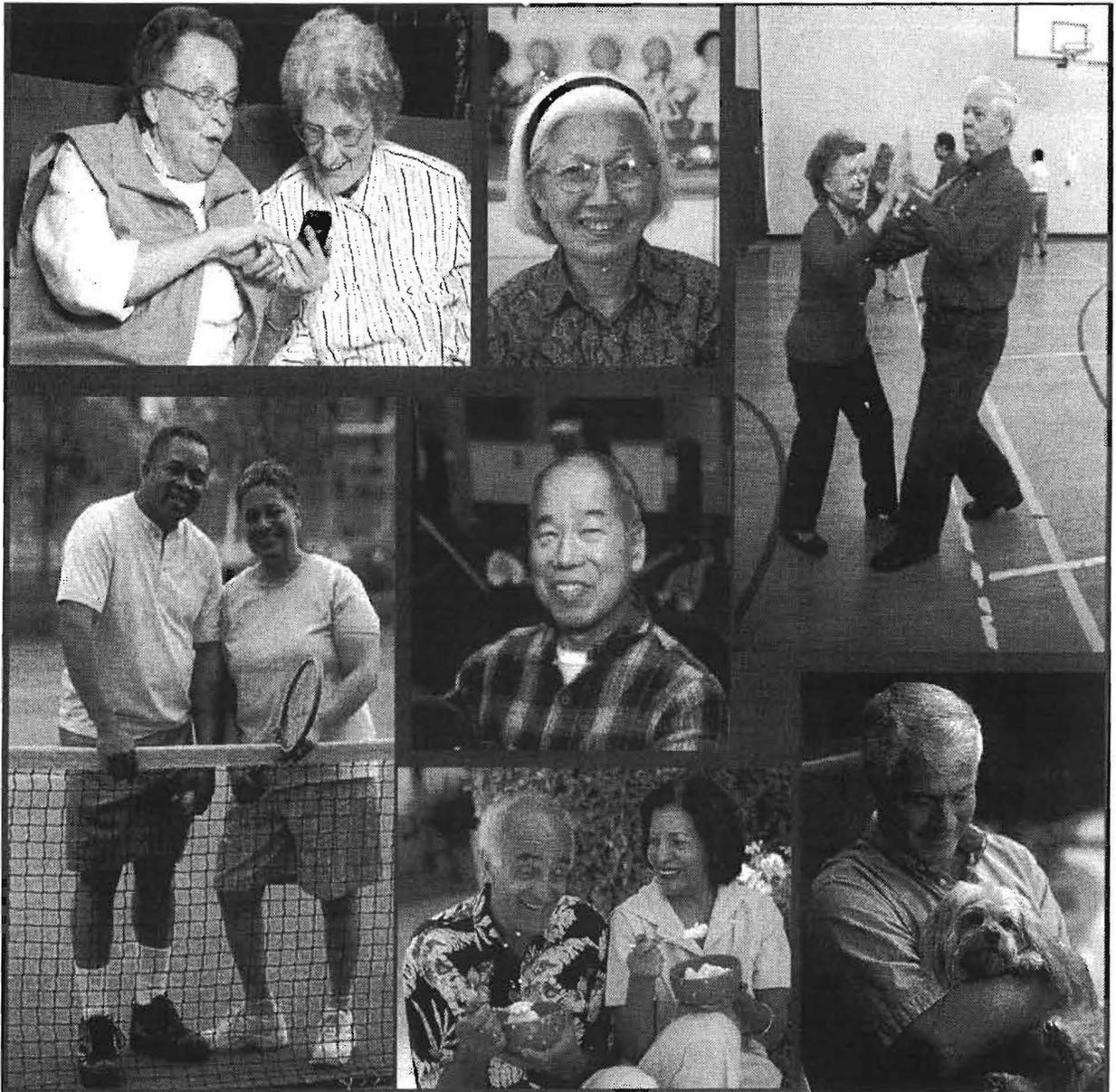
- A centralized call center
- Individualized Guidance on Transportation options
- Individualized mobility training
- A Network of multiple services to serve a wide variety of needs
- A Network of diverse public and private sectors providers
- Service coordination
- Ongoing evaluation of service needs and provision

The incumbent will develop a strategic communications plan to intensify efforts to increase awareness of existing services using both print and electronic media and will expand outreach through presentations in venues where older residents live and/or gather. The Communication plan will also include an intensive volunteer driver outreach campaign, pedestrian safety, and continuing efforts to ensure safe driving by older adults.

Manager III - job class 000112	
1.0 FTE	
Personnel Costs	99,044
Infrastructure	
OTO - Includes Computer, Furniture, Desk phone, smart phone	6,400
Ongoing OE - desk phone, smart phone	1,620
Operating Costs	8,020
Total Cost	107,064



Commission on Aging Annual Report 2012



March 2013

Table of Contents

	Page
Letter from the Chair	1
Commission Officers and Members	2
Enabling Legislation	3
Commission Membership	3
Area Agency on Aging	4
Commission on Aging Activities and Priorities	6
Senior Agenda	10
Committee Activities	18
• Aging In Place and Community	18
• Communication and Community Outreach	19
• Health and Wellness	20
• Public Policy	21
Stakeholders' Forum	23
2012 Summer Studies	25
• Transportation-Ride Share	25
• Rental Housing for Seniors	26
• Value of Contributions of Older Adults	26
To the Economy	

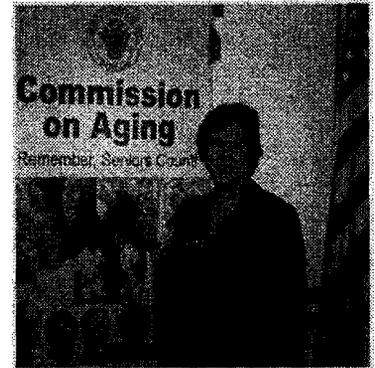
Photographs are provided courtesy of
Odile Brunetto, John Honig, and Judith Welles.

Letter from the Chair of the Commission on Aging



COMMISSION ON AGING

March 2013



Judith Welles, Chair of the
Commission on Aging

The Honorable Isaiah Leggett
The Honorable Nancy Navarro

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2012. The Report describes the activities of the Commission as an advisor to County Government and as an advocate for the interests and concerns of older adults residing in the County.

This has been another important year for the Commission in heightening awareness and achieving action on the concerns of the growing and diverse population of older adults residing in the County. A major accomplishment, with the encouragement and support of the County Executive and the County Council, has been the County's adoption of the Commission's proposal for a *Community of a Lifetime: A Senior Agenda*.

The Commission strives to support both safety net services for the frail elderly and programs to meet the interests and needs of vital older adults who want to age in their communities. Our goals are to:

- Advocate for the safety net for seniors regardless of budgetary pressures;
- Advise and monitor County government programs to increase responsiveness to the needs of seniors;
- Focus attention on the vitality and capacity of seniors to participate fully in community life;
- Advocate for transportation, affordable housing, and the range of services for seniors who choose to remain independent in their community and/or their own homes ("Aging in Place").

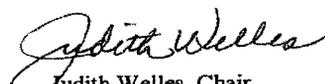
The Commission on Aging takes seriously its responsibilities including serving as the Advisory Council to the Area Agency on Aging as mandated by the Older Americans Act.

The Commission thanks County Executive Leggett for his strong leadership and committed action on behalf of the County's aging population and the County Council for the interest and support that have helped maintain programs that service older adults.

We also give sincere thanks and recognition to Uma Ahluwalia, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Gabriel Albornoz, Director of the Department of Recreation, who co-chair the Subcabinet on Senior Vital Living, for their leadership and responsiveness to the issues that the Commission raised.

Finally, the Commission expresses its respect and deep appreciation to two individuals who have provided exceptional support and wise guidance, Dr. John (Jay) Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, and Dr. Odile Brunetto, Director, Area Agency on Aging and Executive Secretary of the Commission, both of the DHHS. Like so many outstanding professionals working for the County, their contributions, invaluable to the Commission, have contributed enormously to the well-being of older adults in the County.

Sincerely,


Judith Welles, Chair

Montgomery County Commission on Aging

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Chair: Judith Welles
First Vice Chair: Tamara Duell
Second Vice Chair: Paul Del Ponte
Secretary: Judith Levy
Treasurer: Grace Whipple

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Aging in Place and Community: Elaine Kotell Binder, Grace Whipple
Communications and Community Outreach: Elizabeth Brooks-Evans, Barbara Mulitz
Health and Wellness: Myrna Cooperstein, Beth Shapiro
Public Policy: Rudolph Oswald, John C. Sprague

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES STAFF

Odile Brunetto, Aging and Disability Services
Shawn Brennan, Aging and Disability Services
Tremayne Jones, Aging and Disability Services

LIAISONS

Aging and Disability Services: John (Jay) Kenney
Department of Public Libraries: Mildred Nance
Department of Recreation: Jeff Bourne, Phil Smakula
Department of Transportation: Joy Barrow
Office of Community Partnerships: Austin Heyman
Office of Fire and Rescue: Matthew Kelleher
Commission on Health: Steve Thronson
Commission on People with Disabilities: Seth Morgan
Housing Opportunities Commission: Pazit Aviv, Gail Gunod-Green
Maryland Commission on Aging: Maria V. Jimenez
Vital Living Network: Mike Greenhut, Leslie Marks
City of Rockville Commission on Aging: Morris (Monk) Casper
Committee of Ethnic Affairs: Patricia Lesnick

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Elaine Kotell Binder	Jerry Morenoff
Frederic Burke	Barbara Mulitz
Elizabeth Brooks-Evans	Mona Negm
Myrna Cooperstein	Rudolph Oswald
Morton A. Davis	Joseph Petrizzo
Paul Del Ponte	Reuben Rosenfeld
Tamara Duell	Spencer Schron
Will Hellams	Beth Shapiro
John G. Honig	John C. Sprague
Charles Kauffman	Selma Sweetbaum
Miriam Kely	Revathi Vikram
Lance Kilpatrick	Judith Welles
Judith Levy	Grace Whipple
Leslie Y. Marks	

ENABLING LEGISLATION

The Commission on Aging, established in 1974, operated under the auspices of the County Council until August 1987, when its operation was transferred to the Executive Branch. Chapter 27, Article III of the Montgomery County Code created the Commission on Aging under the declared public policy of the County to:

- Improve conditions of the aging or elderly in the county;
- Work toward the elimination of restrictions that impede older citizens from full participation in the mainstream of community life; and
- Assist and stimulate all levels of government and the community to be more responsive to the needs of the county's older residents.

In addition, the Commission on Aging serves as the Advisory Council to the Area Agency on Aging as described in the federal Older Americans Act.

Members of the Commission are appointed by the County Executive subject to confirmation by the County Council. Under a section specifying powers and duties of the Commission, there are several provisions outlining a broad spectrum of powers. The following two subsections provide a good example of the breadth of the Commission's power:

The Commission shall have the power...

- (a) To research, assemble, analyze and disseminate pertinent data and educational materials relating to activities and programs which will assist in meeting the needs and solving the problems of the aging; to cooperate with public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals in identifying and solving the problems of the aging; and to develop and conduct, as appropriate, in cooperation with county government, other services and programs dealing with the problems and needs of the aging.
- (g) To advise and counsel the residents of the County, the County Council, the County Executive and the various departments of County, State and federal governments on matters involving the needs of the aging, and to recommend such procedures, programs or legislation as it may deem necessary and proper to promote and ensure equal rights and opportunities for all persons, regardless of their age. ■

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The Commission on Aging consists of no fewer than 18 members appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Council. Members must be county residents of whom a majority shall be age 60 and older. Members include: those who participate in or who are eligible to participate in programs under the Older Americans Act; local elected officials or their designees, individuals who are or who have been active in government, business, industry, labor, community service, religious, social services, education, the professions; and representatives of major organizations or agencies concerned with aging. ■

Sign in for Senior news at Montgomery County's
electronic newsletter subscription system at
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/eSubscription



AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA), headed by Dr. Odile Brunetto, is responsible for the provision of a continuum of home and community-based services and provides staff support to the Commission on Aging. In conjunction with community partners, the AAA is actively involved in administering County and state grant awards to contractors for public education/outreach, networking, and referrals.



Odile Brunetto with Elaine Binder and Chair Judith Welles

AAAs were established under the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1973 to respond to the needs of Americans ages 60 and older in every local community. The AAA strives to develop a range of options that allow older adults to choose the home and community-based services and living arrangements that suit them best. The AAA is part of a national network of over 670 AAAs established under the OAA to improve the quality of life for older persons by creating a network that maintains a holistic view of aging. The AAAs are mandated to "foster the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated systems to serve older individuals..."

Highlights of AAA Activities in Fiscal Year 2012:

- Staff from the Aging and Disability Services Line, (ADRU) a Maryland Access Point, answered nearly 22,000 calls to assist seniors, persons with disabilities and their families, and provide access to information and needed short- and long-term care services offered both by the County and our nonprofit partners. In addition, a part-time employee from "Independence Now," our local center for Independent Living, works two days each week with ADRU personnel.
- The AAA's Long-Term Care Ombudsman program conducted more than 3,100 visits to long term care facilities (LTC) and investigated 287 formal complaints. A cadre of 59 trained LTC ombudsman volunteers teamed up with our five staff members in 34 nursing homes and 190 assisted living facilities (ALF). Three additional, large ALF's are scheduled to open in January/February 2013, bringing an additional 168 beds to the County.
- The Public Guardianship program served 102 persons in need of protective services as determined by the courts, a 16% increase over last year.
- The Nurses Team conducted 1,687 Adult Evaluation and Review Services (AERS) evaluations, which are mandated to enable eligible persons to receive community-based long term care Medicaid-funded services. The waitlist to obtain this evaluation ranges from 40 to 80 persons.
- The Health and Wellness program successfully recruited additional volunteers to lead Bone Builders Exercise classes on bone health and falls prevention, thus increasing the number of free classes offered in the County from 11 to 15, and engaging more than 200 seniors weekly.
- Through the Montgomery County Coalition on Care at End-of Life, 253 seniors in 12 community groups participated in presentations and discussions of *Consider the Conversation*.
- The Senior Nutrition program served 5,629 clients and provided more than 380,000 meals, both in congregate sites and through home-delivered meals.
- The Older Adult Waiver Program served 560 Medicaid-eligible seniors. More than 1,700 eligible Montgomery County residents in need of this program are on the state registry.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

- The Senior Care program provided financial assistance and case management services to 293 persons. The current waiting list for this state funded service is 105.
- In partnership with the Beacon and the Gazette newspapers, several outreach efforts were conducted to inform older adults and their families about helpful services in the County.

In 2012, the AAA also:

- Supported the Maryland Department of Aging’s (MDoA) Innovations in Aging event by recruiting, and providing transportation and supervision of 245 participants.
- Supported and funded Holy Cross Hospital’s effort to deliver the Chronic Disease Self Management Program at a church, senior residence and homeless shelter.
- Worked with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging to pilot the Diabetes Care Center.
- Worked with partners to apply for and receive \$40,000 in MDoA funding to support senior center sponsored health promotion programs. Seniors now have more access to more exercise opportunities, with less waiting, at the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, an intergenerational, international garden at Long Branch Senior Center (MDoA funds were leveraged by a bank and local non-profit resulting in additional features), and primary dental care (benefiting 55 seniors) and a successful Falls Prevention Campaign was conducted in September 2012, engaging numerous partners in our County.

Finally, the AAA participated in the activities of the County Senior Subcabinet and the work of the established, supporting workgroups. ■

Montgomery County Neighborhood Senior Programs

<p>Bauer Drive Seniors 240-777-6922 Monday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Bauer Drive Community Center 14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville</p>
<p>Bethesda/Chevy Chase Seniors 240-777-6855 Monday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Jane E Lawton Community Center 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase</p>
<p>Clara Barton Seniors 301-229-0010 Monday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Clare Barton Community Center 7425 McArthur Blvd., Cabin John</p>
<p>Coffield Seniors 240-777-4900 Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Gwendolyn Coffield Community Center 2450 Lyttonsville Road, Silver Spring</p>
<p>East County Seniors 240-777-8093 Tuesday & Friday. 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. East County Community Center 3310 Gateshead Manor Way, Silver Spring</p>
<p>Germantown Seniors 240-777-8098 Monday & Thursday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Germantown Community Center 18905 Kingsview Road, Germantown</p>
<p>Longwood/Olney Seniors 240-777-6920 Monday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Longwood Community Center 19300 Georgia Avenue, Brookeville</p>
<p>Mid-County Seniors 240-777-6820 Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Mid-County Community Center 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring</p>
<p>Potomac Seniors 240-777-6960 Tues. 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. and Fri. 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Potomac Community Center 11315 Falls Road, Potomac</p>
<p>Praisner Seniors 240-777-4970 Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Marilyn Praisner Community Center 14906 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville</p>
<p>Ross Boddy/ Sandy Spring Seniors 240-777-8050 Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Ross Boddy Community Center 18529 Brooke Road, Silver Spring</p>

Commission Activities and Priorities

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging (COA) is working toward making our County a place where residents can live their entire lives. By the year 2020, the senior population of Montgomery County will increase by 74 percent, with approximately one-in-four residents over the age of 60. Moreover, Montgomery County has the largest share of Hispanic and Asian elderly in the state and other diverse groups of older adult residents. This dramatic demographic shift requires a new priority for senior issues.

More than 25 percent of County seniors age 65 and older, the majority of whom are women, live alone. An estimated 18 percent of seniors have a limitation in performing activities of daily living. Depending on their income level, they need different services. For some, case management, transportation, in-home assistance, dental services, congregate and home-delivered meals are essential. In addition, respite care is often needed in situations where the senior lives with a caregiver.

The Commission takes seriously its obligation to be a responsible and effective voice for older adults in the community. With a vision and goals outlined for a "Community for a Lifetime: A Senior Agenda," the Commission worked to bring focus to at least seven areas of critical importance to this population: transportation, housing, socialization and leisure, health and wellness, employment, and security and safety. (See the Senior Agenda beginning on page 10.)

The Commission on Aging's initiatives this year showed once again that it is an effective voice in advising County government and in advocating at the local, state, and federal levels for policies and programs on issues that impact the County's older adults.

Legislative Activity. The Commission's advocacy with the Maryland Legislature focused on safety, health, and housing. In January and February 2012, the Commission advocated for the successful passage of a new state law sponsored by Montgomery County Delegate Ben Kramer to protect seniors from financial abuse. Commissioner Rudolph Oswald, co-chair of COA's Public Policy Committee, testified for the Commission before the State legislature in hearings on the bill, and Public Policy co-chair and Commissioner Jack Sprague met with individual legislators to advocate for the bill. The new state law requires banks and other financial institutions to report suspected financial abuse of seniors to authorities. The Commission also supported successful legislation to extend the senior prescription drug assistance program and to establish a taskforce to study the renovation and repair needs of senior homeowners.

On November 28, the Commission held its annual Legislative Breakfast, at which 18 state senators and delegates attended. The legislators showed keen interest in the Commission's Senior Agenda for the County, a model for the state. This meet-



Commission Members at Work

Commission Activities and Priorities

ing with legislators raised a number of issues that the Commission will examine in setting its legislative agenda for 2013.

County Budget. The Commission on Aging recognizes and appreciates the efforts of the County Executive in the budget for the current year, FY 13, in responding to the needs of both the vulnerable, low-income and the more healthy, vital older adults. After several years of cutbacks to services to seniors, the current budget includes increases to services for seniors across several departments. Mr. Leggett called the enhancements a “down payment,” conveying the importance of continuing to build and fund programs to meet needs.

Eighteen Commissioners met in the spring with each County Council member to support the County Executive’s FY13 budget enhancements for seniors and to demonstrate how they relate to the priorities of the Senior Agenda.

Early in the fall, Commission committees worked to identify budget priorities for FY14, and the Commission gave early testimony. The Commission continued to urge that the County consider the overall needs of older adults and the cumulative effect of changes to programs. On October 1, Commission Chair Judith Welles spoke on budget priorities to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee of the County Council, and on October 15, Commissioner John Honig testified at the HHS Community FY Budget Forum. The Commission also submitted budget recommendations to County Executive Isiah Leggett.

The Commission selected transportation, housing, and mental health as top priority issues for seniors for both the immediate budget and for the near future. The Commission’s work during 2012 demonstrated how critical it is to identify specific actions that will address high-

priority needs of seniors. We look forward to the County’s budgeted annual action steps to move the agenda ahead.

Commission Outreach. Transportation and mobility—being able to go where they want to go, when they want to go and how they want to go—remained the single greatest challenge older adults face in their ability to remain independent. The inability to have adequate, easily accessible transportation results in fewer opportunities for socialization, physical activity and mental stimulation, all of which are essential to seniors’ ability to maintain a healthy, vital life style. The COA continued efforts to develop a comprehensive senior transportation plan based on the vision and broad goals of the Senior Agenda and were joined in this effort by a representative from the Department of Transportation, a liaison from the Commission of People with Disabilities, and private nonprofit transportation providers. Committee work included researching escorted transportation programs considered successful in other communities.

The senior population is growing more diverse. Fifty-eight percent of all Asian seniors and almost 57 percent of all Hispanic seniors in Maryland live in Montgomery County. The Commission placed priority on identifying and advising on the needs of the County’s diverse aging population, and all COA committees included diversity issues as part of their agendas.

To encourage dialogue and learn more about the needs of the County’s diverse population, the Commission researched current County data and outreach, met with relevant County staff and held discussions with national experts. The Commission hosted a Stakeholders Forum on diversity in early 2012 and identified

Commission Activities and Priorities

a panel of local diversity experts to speak at its October meeting. The Commission recommended and requested refined data on senior diversity demographics from County government. The County Executive's Subcabinet on Senior Vital Living subsequently called for existing demographic data from all departments. As a result, several County departments are developing plans to gather more demographic information, and CountyStat staff has taken responsibility for refining data on senior adult demographics. The Commission is now monitoring the development of more refined senior demographic data.

To meet the needs of a diverse group of older adults, language and cultural sensitivity, access to services, and appropriate outreach are essential. The Commission on Aging will continue to advise the County on assuring that programs and policies are inclusive of all residents and on communicating services and resources with sensitivity to language and culture.

The Commission joins other HHS-related Commissions and Boards in advocating for our local government to increase effective and regular communication and outreach to diverse communities in the County.

Commissioners met with the directors of the Department of Housing and Community Development and Park and Planning to discuss policy changes that meet the needs of older adults, particularly low income, based on positions taken by the COA. These include easing restrictions on accessory apartments, promoting residential designs that contribute to visitability and livability, and encouraging purpose-built, affordable senior housing in new developments- recommendations from the COA's Housing Taskforce. The Commission submitted testimony to the Department of Housing and Community Development on County Housing policy revisions.

The Commission continued to form liaisons with other Boards, Commissions, and stakeholder groups. Commission Chair and Second Vice Chair Paul Del Ponte met with leaders of Action in Montgomery (AIM) as that group developed its priority on senior housing. Representatives from the Commissions on Health and People with Disabilities regularly attended COA meetings. The Vital Living Network and the Rockville Commission on Aging also participated on a regular basis.

Six COA members, including the Chair, joined colleagues from across Maryland for a statewide meeting of County commissions on May 2, 2012. The Commission's Chair also testified at a public hearing of the Maryland Department on Aging in May. In addition, COA members serve on eleven County workgroups.

This year's COA summer studies highlighted housing, transportation, and employment with emphasis on the contribution of older adults to the economy. Several County Council members, County Department heads, and other County officials participated in the summer studies with Commissioners and representatives of stakeholder groups.

Two Commissioners, former Chair Elaine Binder and Leslie Marks, became Senior Fellows near the end of the year. Elaine took the next step on the Commission's focus on transportation as she began serving as a Senior Fellow on transportation to the County Council, and Leslie began serving as a Senior Fellow in the Department of Housing with emphasis on assisted living housing.

Among speakers at Commission meetings were:

- Roger Berliner, Council President
- Sandy Markwood, Executive Director, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- Carolyn Biggins, Transit Chief, Department of Transportation

Commission Activities and Priorities

- Gabriel Albornoz, Director, Department of Recreation
- Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition, a special panel of speakers representing the County's diversity included: Asian Community:

- Vivien Hsueh, CASSA (Chinese American Senior Services);
- South Asian Community: Deepa Iyer, Executive Director, SAALT (South Asian Americans Leading Together);
- African and Caribbean Communities: Daniel Koroma, Office of Community Partnerships;
- Hispanic Community: Agnes Saenz, Executive Director, Community Ministries of Rockville;
- African American Community: Arva Jackson, Chair, African American Health Program Advisory Committee.
- Hispanic Community: Agnes Saenz, Executive Director, Community Ministries of Rockville; and

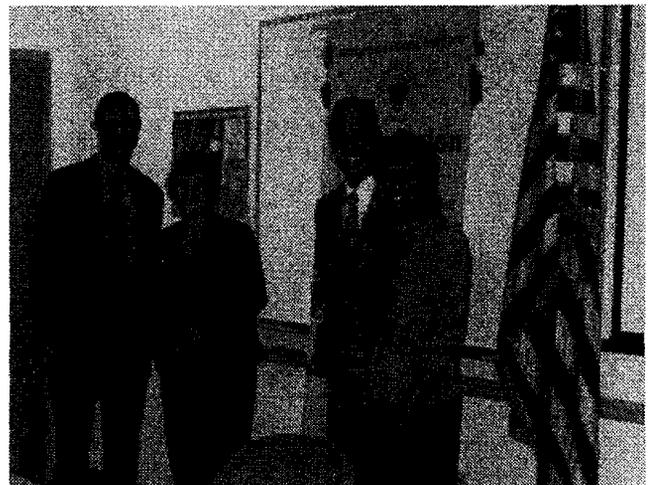
Setting the Senior Agenda. We commend the County Council for its leadership on many issues of concern to older residents. At the beginning of 2012, the start of his tenure as Council President, Roger Berliner called for a Senior Forum and convened a panel of experts on the future of aging issues. When the County Executive embraced the Commission's proposal for a Senior Agenda, Councilman George Leventhal, who chairs the Council's HHS Committee, joined him in giving remarks at the announcement. While the County has taken many steps to improve services for older residents, we continue to believe that it is important for the County to have a comprehensive agenda that sets out a direction for the future one that will help guide and ensure progress to address senior needs. The Senior Agenda, with supportive program and budgetary actions each

year, will demonstrate a commitment to that goal.

On November 1, the Commission on Aging Chair, second Vice Chair Paul Del Ponte and Public Policy Co-Chair Rudy Oswald testified in support of a resolution on the Senior Agenda to the Council's Health and Human Services Committee.

The Commission on Aging is pleased by the County Executive and County Council's receptivity to adopting our proposal and by the Council's unanimous vote on a Resolution in support of the Senior Agenda on December 4. And we are especially pleased by the view of both the County Executive and the County Council that it will be actions that really count.

Just as we plan for and build roads, highways, and the basic infrastructure of communities, we need to plan for and build the infrastructure to make Montgomery County a community for a lifetime.



Gabriel Albornoz, Judith Welles, Roger Berliner, and Uma Ahluwalia

A Community for a Lifetime: A SENIOR AGENDA

Montgomery County's demographic shift to older adults is dramatic and diverse. When we look back at what our County did at the start of the Baby Boom generation, it should provide inspiration as to how Montgomery County can again rise to this demographic challenge.

Throughout the 1950s and 60s, our County built the infrastructure to meet the needs of educating, transporting, and caring for the health of a new generation, Baby Boomers. We built housing, schools, parks, and put new buses and new routes into service—every aspect of a livable community. Just as we planned for and built an infrastructure for the beginning of the Baby Boom generation, we again need to plan and build to meet the new and different needs of our vibrant older population. "A Community for a Lifetime: A Senior Agenda" is that blueprint.

The Commission on Aging, in its advisory role to County government, saw the need for a long-term plan for successful aging in our County. The Commission developed and recommended a comprehensive Senior Agenda to set forth a vision and goals for a community for a lifetime.

The process toward a Senior Agenda began years ago. The County recognized that we needed to prepare for the burgeoning senior population and funded studies, the Towson Report and the Reingold Report in 2007.



County Executive Isiah Leggett, COA Chair Judith Welles, and Councilmember George Leventhal

County Executive Isiah Leggett convened a Senior Summit in 2008. The Commission on Aging conducted Summer Studies, beginning with a report on Aging in Place and, in subsequent years, studies on transportation, mental health, housing, and state legislation for a Community for a Lifetime.

In 2010, following a Commission retreat, we issued a Call to Action, requesting a comprehensive vision and agenda for seniors that considers the geographic, economic, and cultural diversity of successful aging. We also called for development of a comprehensive Senior Transportation and Mobility Plan and a seat on the Senior Subcabinet. The County Executive responded positively.

In 2011, as a result of the Commission's advocacy efforts, the Maryland Legislature passed and the Governor signed legislation that encourages counties to develop Communities for a Lifetime. At its annual meeting in May of that year, the Commission held a brainstorming session on the elements that would enable Montgomery County to become a Community for a Lifetime. The Commission appointed a special Task Force to begin drafting formal language for a Senior Agenda with input from all of our committees and study leaders. In September, a draft Senior Agenda was presented to the Commission and the final version was approved by the Commission in October, 2011.

A Community for a Lifetime: A SENIOR AGENDA

County Executive Leggett announced the Senior Agenda in May, 2012. Commission Chair Judith Welles joined with County Executive Leggett and Councilman George Leventhal in the announcement of the Senior Agenda, "A Community for a Lifetime."

The overarching vision of the Senior Agenda is that Montgomery County be a community for a lifetime, a place where older adults can live safe, healthy and vital lives. The Agenda addresses the concerns of all who want to age in place in their homes or in their community in Montgomery County. Within the Agenda are seven areas, each of which contains a vision statement, embracing the needs of older adults for:

- Transportation when needed;
- Affordable housing and choices of dwellings;
- Public health programs that promote physical and mental health;
- Recreational opportunities for physical and mental fitness and social interaction for vital health;
- Understandable and accessible information on County programs;
- Promoting the value of older workers; and
- Safety with both physical and financial protections.

The Commission applauds the County Executive for endorsing the Senior Agenda and demonstrating commitment to the needs of our senior population. As residents of the County and as an advisory body, we are proud that he endorsed a Senior Agenda, called for actions to carry out the vision, and sent a Resolution to the County Council to adopt.

On December 4, 2012, the County Council unanimously approved a Resolution on the Senior Agenda, providing a blueprint to guide County planning for the growing population of older adults and to encourage County departments to take appropriate budgetary actions each year. The Commission will continue to work with the County Government and the County Council in advising on actions planned for programs and services. We will be watching, because the needs of our older population, which differ from others and are not always evident, are often overlooked.

In recommending Council action on the Senior Agenda Resolution, the Commission also identified budget priorities in support of the Agenda. These include critical housing, transportation, and mental health priorities for older adults who are needy and at-risk and, also, for those of low and middle incomes whose continued independence relies on some services. The Commission's Chair presented these priorities to the County Executive, and they were under consideration as this annual report was prepared.

Aging in Place: Housing and Services. We recommend that the County restore funding to the Housing Initiative Fund and, thereby, enable more affordable housing for seniors. We also know that residents want to age in place, and this has led to the concept of "Villages," where neighbors help one another. If we develop communities where people can age with supportive services to meet their needs, we can reduce the costs of institutionalization and health care. We recommend the County establish a Coordinator to provide technical and planning assistance, especially for the development of Villages for lower income residents.

Transportation: Transportation is the uppermost concern of older residents, especially those aging in place. The Commission urges a transportation plan for seniors that coordinates all public and private options, including escorted transportation and a ride share service.

To build the infrastructure for aging, the budget should connect transportation to community centers for activities for mental and physical health. This needs to be an integral part of a transportation plan.

Health: Services that promote social connection and fitness are key to mental health. Recreation and senior centers provide these services, but to do so requires sufficient funding for senior center maintenance and staffing.

With increasing numbers of cases of the most frail and vulnerable, we need to adequately provide and increase funding for case management. County mental health services for vulnerable and needy seniors include Senior Outreach Services that has received flat funding for years despite unprecedented growth of our older population and respite care for caregivers, which has received harsh funding cuts.

Finally, in our outreach activities, the need for information is the most frequent comment we hear from older residents. We need to restore funds to print publications in multiple languages, because those over the age of 75 rely on and needed printed information.

Senior Nutrition Hotline
240-777-1100

Speak directly to a registered dietitian for reliable nutrition and diet information
 Wednesday morning
 9-11 am

Serving
 Montgomery
 County, Maryland



Visit the Senior Services Site at
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior

Montgomery Senior Site
 Caregivers
 Consumer Issues
 Employment
 Health
 Recreation & Libraries
 Safety
 Senior Housing
 Taxes & Finance
 Transportation



SENIOR AGENDA

Resolution No. 17-623
Introduced: November 27, 2012
Adopted: December 4, 2012

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: County Council

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of the Commission on Aging’s Senior Agenda

Background

1. The Commission on Aging was established in 1974 to improve conditions of older adults in the County; work toward the elimination of restrictions that impede older citizens from full participation in the mainstream of community life, and to assist and stimulate all levels of government and the community to be more responsive to the needs of the County’s older residents.
2. In 2010, the Census estimated that 119,770 seniors (aged 65 and above) live in Montgomery County. This was 12.3% of the population. The number of seniors is projected to increase to 174,290 by the year 2020, 45% increase. By the year 2040 over 21% of the population is projected to be 65 years old or older.
3. Recognizing the projected growth in the senior policy population, in 2007 the County began a strategic planning process that included a report from Towson University’s Center for Productive Aging, titled “Imagining an Aging Future for Montgomery County” and a separate study on senior outreach and communication. In 2008, The County Executive convened a Senior Summit that identified eight policy areas affecting older adults: (1) Communication and Outreach, (2) Housing and Zoning, (3) Transportation and Mobility, (4) Health and Wellness, (5) Civic and Social Engagement, (6) Home and Community Support Services, (7) Safety, and (8) Employment. The County Executive also established his Senior Subcabinet on Vital Aging to support his Senior Initiative.
4. In 2010, the Commission on Aging issued a “Call to Action” asking the County to adopt a Senior Agenda to plan over the next five years for the projected increase in adults over the age of 65. In October 2011, the Commission on Aging approved its Senior Agenda. The Agenda’s vision is that “Montgomery County will be a Community for a Lifetime — a place for older adults to live safe, healthy and vital lives.” The Agenda calls for a commitment to older adults in its policies and planning and provides a vision statement with action steps for Transportation, Housing, Socialization and Leisure, Health and Wellness, Communications, Employment, and Security and Safety.

SENIOR AGENDA

5. In May 2012, the County Executive sent a request to the County Council to approve a resolution in support of the Senior Agenda. In his memo, the County Executive says that he fully endorses the vision articulated in the Commission's Senior Agenda and the key elements identified as optimal to aging in place/community. He notes that the Senior Agenda aligns closely with the areas identified in his Senior Summit and the focus of his Senior Subcabinet on Vital Aging.
6. On November 1, 2012, the Council's Health and Human Services Committee met with the Commission on Aging to discuss its Senior Agenda and priorities for Fiscal Year 2014. The Commission told the HHS Committee that Council approval of the Senior Agenda would establish a policy around older adults that can be used as a guidepost for now and the future and would encourage County departments to take action each year. The Commission also shared that there are critical housing, transportation, and mental health priorities for older adults who are needy and at-risk and, also, for those of low and middle-incomes whose continued independence relies on some services. The Commission's FY 2014 priorities include funding for the Housing Initiative Fund to enable more affordable housing for seniors, a coordinator for "villages" (particularly for lower income residents), budget enhancements to connect transportation to community centers for activities for mental and physical health, funding for senior center maintenance and staffing increased case management, senior outreach services, and respite care. The Commission also urged that funds be approved to allow more information to be printed, as many older residents rely on printed information.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council endorses the Commission Aging's Senior Agenda (attached) as a blueprint for planning for the growth of the senior population and making "Montgomery County a Community for a Lifetime."

Requests that, as a part of developing his FY 2014 Recommended Operating Budget, the County Executive consult with the Commission on Aging on its FY 2014 priorities that were presented to the Health and Human Services Committee.

Requests that the County Executive consider the Senior Agenda's vision and action steps for transportation, housing, socialization and leisure, health and wellness, communications, employment, and safety and security as a part of his planning and budgeting process, and that in developing his Recommended 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program address accessibility of recreation programs for seniors, using libraries as a location of activities and resources for older adults, and connecting transportation to senior programs.

Request the Executive provide outcome measures for his Senior Initiative to facilitate evaluation of specific items funded in the capital and operating budgets and progress being made in achieving the vision of the Senior Agenda.

Affirms its commitment to make funding senior programs that support the vision in the Senior Agenda a priority within the resources available for FY 2014.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the County

SENIOR AGENDA

COMMITMENT TO OLDER ADULTS

- The County will have a policy against ageism including age stereotyping.
- Older adults are a valuable economic, cultural and social resource and will be included in all County planning activities at the Executive and Council levels.
- Planning related to older adults will include consideration of diversity, inclusiveness and inter-generational elements.
- Demographic data about older adults will be maintained, analyzed and incorporated into planning.
- Resource information relevant to older adults will be distributed and accessible.
- The County will have a plan to address options for aging in place and alternatives.
- The County will promote public-private partnerships that contribute to implementation of this Agenda.

**SENIOR AGENDA
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY WILL BE A
COMMUNITY FOR A
LIFETIME—A PLACE FOR
OLDER ADULTS TO LIVE
SAFE, HEALTHY
AND VITAL LIVES.**

TRANSPORTATION

Vision: Montgomery County will have public and private transportation and mobility systems that enable older adults to go where they want to go, when they want to go and how they want to get there.

- Transportation planning will include a focus on the needs of older adults as they become less able to drive.

HOUSING

Vision: *Montgomery County will promote choices of dwelling types so that as the needs and preferences of older adults change, they can age in place, downsize, choose rental or ownership or find housing with the appropriate level of supportive services without having to leave the community.*

- Affordable senior housing will be promoted and made available.
- Housing options and alternatives will be part of County planning efforts.
- Visitable and livable options will be included in County planning.
- New and existing construction and redevelopment will consider the needs of both current and prospective older residents.
- The County will assist and encourage efforts to create supportive communities such as villages, co-housing and other options.
- Redevelopment planning will encourage walkable communities.
- Planning efforts will include public-private partnerships as an option to providing housing suitable for older adults.

SOCIALIZATION AND LEISURE

Vision: *Montgomery County will encourage and support vital living of older adults by providing opportunities for physical, mental and social interaction.*

Recreation programs will facilitate socialization and other activities that integrate health and wellness.

- Affordable senior transportation will be a priority
- Planning will include in-neighborhood options to make transportation accessible and to make affordable escorted transportation available. Planning will encompass both the needs and safety of pedestrians and those who do not drive.
- Transportation planning will include a focus on the needs of older adults as they become less able to drive.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Vision: Montgomery County will expand public health and prevention programs that promote physical, mental, social and environmental health for older adults.

- Medical care for older adults will be available, accessible and affordable.

- Healthcare providers will be encouraged to accept private and public health insurance including Medicare and Medicaid.
- Direct services and educational programs to plan for serious illness and to manage chronic diseases including promotion of self-management programs will be a priority.
- Access to hearing and dental care will be available.
- Nutrition support including education and meals will be provided.
- Specialized mental health care will be available as an integral part of the health services delivery system.
- Caregiver support will be a priority.
- Services to address cognitive impairment will be available, accessible and affordable for affected older adults and their families and caregivers.

COMMUNICATION

Vision: Montgomery County will distribute and publicize recognizable, understandable, timely and accessible information on County and public resources and services for older adults.

- Information will be understandable and accessible by older adults and their caregivers in diverse ethnic population groups
- Information will clearly state who is eligible for services at no cost and who is eligible at specified costs.
- Information for older adults will be branded uniformly for consistency and recognizable identification
- The County will use and publicize multiple media to disseminate information relevant to older adults, including social media, its regularly updated website and a 24/7 information resource line.

EMPLOYMENT

Vision: Montgomery County will recognize the extent and value of the contribution of older adults to the economy.

- The County will encourage County agencies and private companies to offer employment opportunities as older adults transition to retirement.
- The County will encourage job fairs, partnerships, and forums to help older adults prepare themselves to continue in or reenter the workforce and find jobs.
- The County will provide information that promotes the value of older workers.

SECURITY AND SAFETY

Vision: Montgomery County will provide physical, financial and technological protection and safety for older adults.

- The County will expand its police and fire safety programs targeted toward older adults.
- The County will educate both older adults and their caregivers about the potential for financial crimes, including telephone and computer scams.
- The County's Ombudsman Program will increase its monitoring of the safety of group homes and assisted living facilities.
- The County will work to assure legal protection from financial exploitation of older adults.



Montgomery County Council vote on Senior Agenda, December 4, 2012

"I would hold forward the Commission on Aging as an exemplar and really setting a very, very high standard for other boards and commissions to follow. I want to praise the Commission on Aging, led by its Chair Judy Welles, for taking a number of years to work throughout the community, a very demographically broad effort, to understand the needs of seniors from all backgrounds.

It is a really wide-ranging issue agenda that it researched and put forward that is just what I look for from boards and commissions, substantive policy advice. This has been just a great example of a successful effort by one of our volunteer commissions advising this body and bringing forward a document that I am very confident will have significant influence in our coming budget in 2013 and Fiscal 14 and in the years to come. We all acknowledge that the good news is our population is getting healthier, people are living longer.

We need to plan in the short-term and the long-term for the needs of seniors in all of the areas that are addressed ... This is the Senior Agenda addressing an overall commitment to the needs of older adults, addressing needs in transportation, housing, socialization and leisure, health and wellness, security and safety. Obviously we will need to put our money where our mouth is.

This statement today not only makes an important statement of priorities, but it acknowledge the help and assistance that we have gotten from this Commission. I feel really good about this. I think this is a really successful effort. It is the unanimous recommendation of the HHS Committee and I commend it to the full Council." —

Comments of Councilmember George Leventhal upon introducing a Resolution on the Senior Agenda, approved by unanimous vote of the Montgomery County Council on December 4, 2012.

COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Commission on Aging uses a committee process to develop priorities and positions on budget and legislative matters. Committee members examine issues in depth and make recommendations to the Executive Committee and the full Commission.

The COA meets in full session once each month between September and June and holds committee meetings during the month. Members serve on standing committees, special project groups, and groups that meet during the summer to study in depth key issues affecting seniors. All meetings are open to the public. In addition, the COA holds an annual state legislators' breakfast and a Stakeholder's Forum during the year to stay informed about issues of concern to seniors. The four current standing committees, their missions, and their FY2012 activities are described below.

Aging in Place and Community

The Aging in Place and Community Committee (AIPC) is charged with examining issues involving aging and the choice to remain in one's home or within one's community near family, friends, physicians, and familiar resources. Specifically, the Committee:

- Identifies issues that enable older adults to age either in their own homes or in other environments in the community and provides recommendations to the COA for advising County leaders about these issues.
- Advises COA on advocating for the development and implementation of a transportation and mobility plan that addresses the diverse transportation needs of older adults in the County.
- Monitors implementation of County housing and zoning policies so that older adults have greater choices in dwelling types.

- Recommends action to the COA on relevant issues related to Aging in Place/Community as needed and appropriate.

The AIPC's principal activity this year was to begin developing a plan for a proposed public and private transportation and mobility system. The plan will be responsive to the needs of the County's older adults based on the vision and broad goals of the Senior Agenda. In considering what might be adaptable for a Montgomery County transportation pilot, the committee researched successful escorted transportation programs around the country to learn about relevant funding, fees, driver requirements, coordination, span of service, and technology.

The Commission also supports purpose-built affordable senior housing. The AIPC met with several developers about ways to encourage area developers to include low-income housing for older adults in their building plans. In addition, committee members explored accessibility of housing and visitability to enhance social quality of life. The Committee has monitored the proposed changes in the County's housing and zoning policy and supports accessory housing as a means for older adults to age in place.

The Committee also collaborating with other committees to find ways to prevent social isolation. Senior recreation centers and libraries are very important venues for promoting socialization and for conducting important health services. Therefore, the Committee is recommending additional funding to maintain recreation centers and the needed transportation to help seniors get to these locations.

Finally, the AIPC also was instrumental in developing two Summer Studies: one on feasibility of developing a Senior Ride-Share Program in the County, and another on increasing availability

COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

and affordability of rental housing for seniors. (See Summer Study Section for a full description of the studies and resulting recommendations to the full Commission).

Communication and Community Outreach

The Communication and Community Outreach Committee:

- Identifies resources and makes recommendations for the Commission on Aging to advise the County government on communication and outreach on County programs to meet the needs of the growing and diverse population of older adults;
- Heightens awareness and visibility of the Commission on Aging and its priorities through COA projects;
- Collaborates with other Commission on Aging committees to identify communication needs of County seniors, develop communication messages, and propose communication approaches;
- Supports outreach and communication to stakeholder groups;
- Advises Commission on Aging leadership concerning outreach and communication related to advocacy, including outreach to diverse older adult communities; and
- Produces a monthly cable program for seniors, entitled, "Seniors Today."

In 2012, the Committee continued its work on ways to engage stakeholders, widening outreach to older adults in diverse communities, and providing opportunities to listed directly to the needs of seniors throughout the County.

The Committee began 2012 by reviewing County documents for clarity and uniformity. The com-

mittee continues to seek ways to improve County publications designed specifically for seniors. During the year, members of the Committee attended the Senior Subcabinet work group meetings on Communication held by the Office of Public Information. At these meetings commissioners continued to emphasize the need for County publications on senior services and resources, as well as the need for uniformity of those publications in both appearance and County branding. The Committee continued to stress the need for printed materials for seniors to assist them as they seek out County resources, as many seniors rely on printed media for information.

Throughout the year, the Commission discussed opportunities to engage stakeholders. In spring of 2012, the Committee continued its plan to reach out directly to older adults in the County by initiating a pilot project to listen to the concerns of seniors. Using a town hall format, COA commissioners visited the Gaithersburg Up-County Senior Center. At that meeting, active older adults shared their concerns, needs and suggestions for accessing County services. Additional town hall meetings are planned for 2013.

The Committee focused on the need for data collection to understand the concerns of older adults living in diverse communities. As a result of the Commission's request in a letter to County Executive Leggett, the Senior Subcabinet examined current data collection on diversity, and the County has begun to broaden its data collection on the needs of diverse communities.

The Committee recommended a Commission discussion on the diverse needs of older adults in the County. As a result of this recommendation and the Executive Committee's discussion, a workgroup was formed to plan a panel discussion on the County's diverse communities at the

COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Commission's October meeting. Panelists representing Asian, South Asian, African American, and Hispanic communities spoke at the Commission's meeting in October 2012 and provided insight into issues concerning older residents in diverse communities.

The Committee also discussed the economic value and impact of older adults in the County and supported development of a Summer Study on several aspects of the topic.

The Commission on Aging through the Communications and Outreach Committee, continues to produce the monthly cable television program, Seniors Today. With more than 100 episodes already aired, the popular and long-running cable show, is hosted by Austin Heyman. The show provides a steady source of news and information of interest to older adults residing in Montgomery County. In 2012, guests on the show discussed important legislation affecting seniors, pain management strategies, exercising with Zumba Gold, the health benefits of laughter Yoga, healthy cooking, fire prevention and safety, the implications and the rise of HIV and transmittable diseases in older adults, issues surrounding affordable housing, a job fair devoted to seniors and the Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award winners: Ruby Rubens and Tufail Ahmad.

The Commission continues its efforts to seek and recommend opportunities to introduce viewers, especially caregivers, to Seniors Today. Currently Seniors Today can be seen on Montgomery County Cable TV, the County Government Senior website, and YouTube. A direct email address has been set up to receive comments suggestions, and general feedback from viewers.

Health and Wellness

The Health and Wellness Committee mission is to:

- Focus attention on both the physical and mental health needs of seniors;
- Assess and evaluates health and wellness issues; and
- Develop and provide recommendations about health and wellness issues to the Commission for advice to County leaders.

In 2012, the Health and Wellness Committee focused primarily on the problem of social isolation among older adults, but also examined other important topics related to health and aging.

The Committee invited several speakers to address a range of relevant issues, including emergency preparation, the nursing home and assisted living ombudsman program, and training for Montgomery County Police to meet the needs of older adults. In addition, the following speakers addressed the Committee: 1) the Financial Vice President of the Maryland Hospital Association, Mike Robbins; 2) three representatives from local "Villages, which promote the concept of aging in place and community; 3) Yvonne Baskerville of the County's Adult Foster Care unit; and 4) Odile Brunetto, Director of the Area Agency on Aging. The Committee also was updated throughout the year on issues related to Healthy Montgomery, which provides data and information on more than 90 topics. Related to the health and well being of Montgomery County residents.

The Committee's research revealed that problems related to older adults social isolation occur in all types of living situations-private homes, assisted living and nursing homes-and within every community where older adults reside, including ethnic communities. A literature review showed that small neighborhood-focused efforts

COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

appeared to produce the most positive impact on addressing problems of social isolation. This finding led by Committee to recommend that the full Commission advocate for establishment of a Village/Community Coordinator position in Montgomery County.

The Committee co-chairs met with Department of Recreation Director, Gabriel Albornoz, and Phil Smakula, Recreation Supervisor, to discuss problems related to social isolation and to learn more about the Department's relevant perspective and activities.

In addition, the Committee researched the consequences of a Medicaid budget cut that became effective July 1, 2012; this cut eliminated a daily payment to nursing homes to hold the bed for a long-term care Medicaid recipient who was admitted to the hospital.

The Committee also was concerned about an increase in the use of "observation" hospital stays for patients instead of formal admissions, and the repercussions for those patients regarding eligibility for Medicare-financial rehabilitation. The Committee, in support of the Commission's Senior Agenda, also recommended County budget support for increases in funding for caregiver respite programs and for the Senior Outreach Services program, which provides mental health services for home-bound seniors.

In follow-up to the Commission's Legislative Breakfast, the Committee co-chairs, along with John Honig of the Commission's Public Policy Committee and Odile Brunetto, met with state Senator Manno's Director of Legislative Affairs, Lawanda Edwards.

The discussion covered a wide range of issues, including the Medicaid bed hold policy, Medicaid Waiver, and Medical issues in general. During the meeting, Commission members reiterated the importance of the many issues high-

lighted at the breakfast, including elder financial abuse, car title transfer following the death of an elder's spouse, and the importance of absentee voting for frail older adults.

Toward the end of the year, the Health and Wellness Committee and the Aging in Place and Community Committee met to discuss mutual concerns about social isolation. The two committees agreed that social isolation is caused by the effects of physical and social issues that arise in later years and that this topic, along with many other health and wellness concerns, should continue to be a Commission priority.

Public Policy

The Public Policy Committee:

- Examines policies, programs, and proposals of the local, state, and federal governments for their effect on the lives of County seniors;
- Recommends advocacy positions to the Commission;
- Cooperates with legislators and other government officials on design and development of policies and services to enhance the lives of County seniors; and
- Collaborates with other Commission committees on advocacy efforts.

The Public Policy Committee leads the Commission's efforts in public policy advocacy at all levels of government: County, state and federal.

State. During the 2012 state legislative session, the Public Policy Committee was active in Annapolis in support of five bills that passed and became law:

- Protection of Elder Adults from financial abuse by requiring financial institutions to report suspected abuse. The

COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Committee testified in both the Assembly and the Senate in support of this bill.

- The establishment of a task force to study the renovation and repair needs of senior homeowners. Letters were sent in support of this legislation.
- Aid to low-income seniors to help meet the costs of Medicare prescription drug policies. The Commission sent letters in support of this program.
- Reinstatement of funds for the ombudsman program monitors nursing home care. The Commission sent a letter in support, and Montgomery County was able to retain staffing.
- Funds for the UpCounty Senior Center in Gaithersburg were obtained. These funds helped to renovate the kitchen facilities. A letter was sent in support.

The COA supported some other pieces of legislation that did not pass. However, in addition to testifying and sending letters, COA meetings with legislators and their staffs were crucial in informing them of our concerns. COA members traveled to Annapolis during the legislative session to meet with state senators and delegates on legislative priorities.

The Commission is proud that it either initiated or gave major shape to these bills. The Commission appreciates the work of the delegates and senators who ushered these bills through the General Assembly.

The Public Policy Committee organized the Commission's legislative breakfast for State senators and delegates from Montgomery County. Eighteen of our legislators attended. The breakfast meeting, held in November 2012, was a valuable opportunity for the Commission and elected offi-

cial to discuss legislative initiatives relating to seniors.



Members of the COA and the non-profit Grass Roots Organization for the Well-Being of Seniors (GROWS) on the bus to Annapolis, March 2012, to advocate for legislative priorities.

County. Members of the Commission, armed with talking points for aligning budget priorities to the Senior Agenda, met with each member of the County Council. On behalf of the Commission, the Council's HHS Committee urged the Council to adopt adequate funding for essential safety-net services for seniors in the FY13 budget. Following testimony by the Commission, the Council adopted a resolution that basically incorporates the Commission's vision of the needs of seniors as enunciated in the Senior Agenda.

Federal. Led by the Public Policy Committee, the Commission sent several letters to Montgomery County's U.S. representatives and senators about federal issues, notably budget priorities. The Older Americans Act has come up for renewal, but has not yet passed. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid were under attack in various budget discussions.

Other. The Public Policy Committee held a meeting with five Senior Center directors or their representative to ascertain their needs and those of the many seniors attending their pro-

COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

grams. They also recommended consideration of new programs that should be established to serve those with special disabilities.



COA Legislative Breakfast

1. Delegate Anne Kaiser
2. Delegate Kumar Barve
3. Senator Roger Manno
4. Del. Bonnie Cullison, Del. Jennie Forehand, COA Charles Kauffman, Del. Bill Frick, COA Miriam Kelty and Beth Shapiro

FY12 Stakeholders' Forum

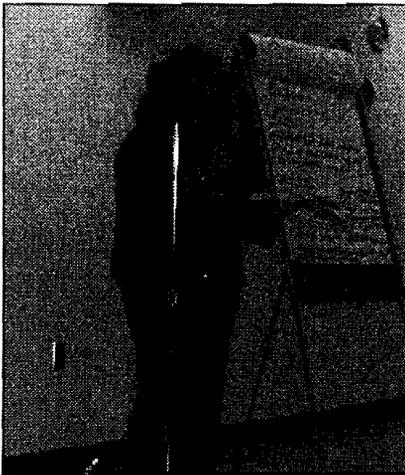
Background. The Commission on Aging (COA) reaches out to groups and organizations that provide services to or advocate for seniors in Montgomery County. The Commission refers to these groups and organizations as Stakeholders. The partnership between the COA and stakeholders results in a more unified voice to influence County decisions concerning seniors. The Commission meets with Stakeholders at least annually, and Stakeholders have the opportunity and are encouraged to attend Commission, Committee, and Summer Study meetings.

2012 Stakeholders' Forum. In February 2012 the Commission hosted a Stakeholders' Forum entitled "Needs of Seniors in Diverse Communities." Data show that Montgomery County has the largest share in the state of Asians and Hispanics aged 65 and older. Fifty-eight percent of all Asian seniors and almost 57 percent of all Hispanic seniors residing in Maryland live in Montgomery County. The goal of the Stakeholders' Forum was to identify best practices shown to reach older adults in diverse communities. To reach this goal, Stakeholders and Commission members discussed current approaches and identified unmet needs and possible solutions.



Participants at COA Annual Stakeholders' Forum, February 2012

FY12 Stakeholders' Forum



COA Vice Chair, Tamara Duell at Stakeholder's Fom, February 2012

Information provided at this Forum was to guide the Commission in advising the County Executive and the County Council.

Forty Stakeholders participated at this Forum, including providers, consumers, and advocacy groups. Breakout groups covered four discussion areas: housing, trans-

portation, socialization, and health. Discussions generated considerable insight into issues of concern, as well as a number of potential solutions. A summary of these discussions and possible solutions was shared with the attendees after the Forum.

It was clear that there are unmet needs in a County with an increasingly diverse and older population. While there are many approaches to meet the needs of a diverse older population in Montgomery County, a great deal remains to be done. Concerns raised at this Forum became a priority for the Commission moving forward. The Commission and its committees are discussing these concerns on an ongoing basis and are incorporating them as appropriate into the Commission's advice to the County Executive and County Council. Finally stakeholders also urged increased communication among the stakeholder groups and organizations in meeting the needs of seniors in Montgomery County diverse communities

Plans for 2013 Stakeholders' Forum. In October 2012, the Commission began its planning efforts for the 2013 Stakeholders' Forum. The intent is to bring together government, providers, advocates, and business leaders for a dialogue on making Montgomery County a "Community for a Lifetime," a place where older adults can live safe, healthy, and vital



Stakeholder breakout session on health led by Commissioners Beth Shapiro and John Honig

lives. The Commission's Senior Agenda, adopted by the County Executive and County Council, sets a vision and goals for a "Community for a Lifetime." The next step for COA is to consult with the County staff about the County's plans for seniors and for making the goals of the Senior Agenda a reality.

The Commission has invited a panel of key County officials to lead the discussion based on their experiences and responsibilities related to older adults in four priority areas: transportation, recreation, health/socialization, and housing. Insights into current County activities, as well as the County's future plans in these important areas, can serve as a blueprint for the Senior Agenda's infrastructure. We expect to see additional opportunities for Stakeholder participation in COA Committees, ad hoc workgroups, and possible Summer Studies to provide further input on implementing the Senior Agenda. These recommendations would form the basis for Commission advice to the County on the implementation of the Senior Agenda.

The Commission is optimistic that through past, present, and future coordinated activities with Stakeholders, older adults in Montgomery County will benefit from highlighted interest in issues affecting them. ■

FY12 Summer Studies

COA Commissioners voted on proposals for Summer Studies at the Commission's annual meeting in May based on concept papers submitted by members that identified issues for in-depth examination and discussion. In addition to Commission members, stakeholders, County government officials and County Council members participated in these open summer study meetings,

adding their insights and expertise to the sessions. Among participants this year were Council members George Leventhal, Nancy Floreen, and Marc Elrich; Steve Silverman, Director of the Department of Economic Development, and representatives of Action in Montgomery (AIM), GROWS, Renters Alliance, Vital Living Network, and Jewish Council on Aging, among others.

Transportation and Ride Share

The Aging in Place/Community Committee (APIC) conducted a Summer Study to examine a transportation option, Ride-Share, in which two or more individuals who are traveling to the same destination or on route to the destination, share the cost of a ride in a taxi, bus, car, or shuttle.

Montgomery County has many transportation options available to residents, including several that are designed to meet the needs of older adults. However, many of these options are not affordable or accessible to those in need. Ride-sharing would fill a gap in currently provided services. The Transportation Summer Study group explored ride-share programs around the country with the intent of recommending best



Participants in Summer Study Discussion Group

practices and/or models that could be included in a comprehensive and coordinated transportation plan for Montgomery County.

Ride-share has been successful in several communities. Benefits include: conservation of environment; reduced road congestion; and reduced cost to individual as

compared with solo driving. In addition, it can serve the needs of underserved groups, such as people with disabilities or those who cannot afford cars. Those who do not require escort service but may be unable to get to public routes can use it to travel upon request from door to door.

Software scheduling programs are available to coordinate ride-share services and are being used in other communities. These Web-based programs match riders with drivers and/or vehicles traveling to desired destinations at particular times. Some programs require an administrator, while others are managed by users directly.

The Committee made the following recommendations toward developing a door-to-door ride-share program in Montgomery County:

- Explore the feasibility of using drivers and vehicles that transport people to and from senior centers for door-to-door ride-share services during off hours.
- Identify groups currently providing senior transportation and promote coordinating services so that more people could be served

FY12 Summer Studies

in a cost-efficient manner.

- Develop a communication plan delineating those transportation options that already exist and advocate for coordination of these options, along with a ride-share program.

Rental Housing for Seniors

A Summer Study on rental housing for seniors resulted in the following recommendations to the Commission:

- No net loss in the affordable rental housing stock should occur in Montgomery County;
- Goals should be set for new construction of affordable rental housing over upcoming years;
- Housing Initiative Funding should be increased to \$55 million dollars by 2014. The extra dollars should be used to fund new, affordable rental housing and to maintain existing affordable housing;
- Advocacy by the Commission on Aging through its Public Policy Committee at both County and State levels for continuing the current Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC). LIHTC is the major federal funding program for low-income housing.
- Priority should be given for use of County excess land for the construction of affordable senior housing. Free land is one tool to be used in developing affordable senior housing.
- The Commission on Aging, through its Public Policy Committee, should advocate at both County and State levels for continuing the current Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC). LIHTC is the major federal funding program for low-income housing.
- The COA's Public Policy Committee should perform research and advocate for the State of Maryland to support affordable housing that is

solely dedicated for senior use.

The Summer Study made two additional recommendations for the AIPC Committee to consider over the longer term:

- 1) a study of the benefits and drawbacks of rent stabilization in Montgomery County as a tool for providing affordable rental housing for older adults, and
- 2) a study of set-aside program of new Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs) specifically for seniors in each new development that requires an MPDU set-aside.

Economic Value of Contributions of Older Adults to the Economy

The summer provided an opportunity for a well-timed study of the economic value of older adults in the County. The study explored the value of seniors on the economy, as well as the value of employing older adults. Several recommendations resulted from this study. The Commission requested a meeting in 2013 with the Department of Economic Development on promoting public-private, older adult-oriented partnerships to help provide business opportunities for older adults and to encourage business services for an age-friendly community for a lifetime.

The basic objective of this Summer Study was to help the COA achieve some of its stated 2012 Agenda goals by understanding what efforts are being made by County Government and the local business community to cater to and to take advantage of the economic value that its older adult population brings to the County and State.

FY12 Summer Studies

Specific goals of this Summer Study Program were to:

- Understand the need to identify, develop, and use appropriate statistics to explore the value of the contributions made to the economy by the older adult population and to determine how to quantify this value and learn what relevant statistics exist.
- Determine whether or not the business community and/or the government are aware of or even appreciate the value of the contributions of older adults to the economy.

Commission members Jerry Morenoff and Charles Kauffman chaired this study. Ten Commission members participated in this summer study, along with representatives from AARP, GROWS, the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of

Commerce, the Jewish Council on Aging, the Vital Living Network, and the Montgomery Business Development Corporation.

Participants also included: County Council members George Leventhal and Roger Berliner; Director of the County's Department of Economic Development Steve Silverman; and the Director of the County's Department of Health and Human Services, Uma S. Ahluwalia.

The following recommendations represent the consensus of summer study participants:

- Prepare a COA presentation that emphasizes the economic value of older adults to the community, provides data and information regarding the changing demographics and graying of the County, and encourages businesses to explore new opportunities with and for older adults. Ask the COA's Communications and Community Outreach Committee to develop a plan incorporating the

presentation for COA outreach to ethnically and geographically diverse Chambers of Commerce and other appropriate groups, such as trade associations.

- Encourage the County's Department of Economic Development to greatly expand its current outreach focus in order to promote public-private, older adult-oriented partnerships. Such partnerships will help provide business opportunities for older adults and small businesses that serve older adults and will encourage businesses to develop services for an age-friendly community for a lifetime.
- Include a public-private partnership discussion at the COA stakeholders meeting in February 2013 that at a minimum addresses business and employment opportunities for senior adults, and that views seniors as a viable target consumer market; and a viable constituent group with political, economic, and social leverage.
- Take appropriate action through the COA Public Policy Committee to help revise the Maryland health insurance regulation(s) that disincentivize small businesses from hiring older adults.

After presentation of these Summer Study recommendations to the full Commission, the Commission approved the recommendations and is now incorporating them for follow-up consideration in Commission on Aging committees. ■

LOOKING FOR SERVICES FOR SENIORS?

Visit Montgomery Senior Site for information on



- Caregiving
- Consumer Issues
- Health
- Recreation and Libraries
- Safety
- Senior Housing
- Taxes and Finance
- Transportation

Montgomery Senior Site is designed to provide information on County services in one easy-to-find place.

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/seniors

Please contact 240-777-3000 or dial 311

Email: hhsmail@montgomerycountymd.gov



Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director

Dr. John J. Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services

Dr. Odile Brunetto, Director, Area Agency on Aging

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March 2013

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Patricia Gallalee, Chair
Charlie Crawford, Vice-Chair
April 11, 2013

2

Good Evening. My name is Patricia Gallalee and I am testifying on behalf of the Commission on People with Disabilities.

We are concerned about the proposed transition of Resource Coordination funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration from the County's Community Support Network administered in Aging and Disability Services to non-profits. We were very pleased to recently hear that the Community Support Network is going to be able to continue to provide Resource Coordination to some of the persons served. It makes the most sense to use County Resource Coordinators who are not only familiar with the process, but the resources within the county, to assist transitioning youth going through this most difficult transition. We recommend that the new non-profit resource coordinators take over coordination of services for existing clients, whom basically require maintenance and supervision of existing supports. We support Inter ACC/DD's requesting for an increase of \$665,000 in the Supplement in FY14 to support the non-profits.

We are asking the Council to increase Adult Foster Care rates that include 24 hour care and supervision but have remained the same for 20 years from \$1,175 double room/\$1,375 single room to \$1650 per month. This would give Adult Foster Care providers parity with what Senior Assisted Living providers receive from the group home subsidy program. Adult Foster Care serves 60% seniors and 40% younger adults with disabilities.

We would appreciate your support of the staffing complements necessary to re-open the Gaithersburg and Olney libraries, as well as hours added to Poolesville and Long Branch libraries. Also, the increased funding for e-books will benefit readers whose disabilities make it difficult for them to get to their local branch. Libraries and librarians are unique and essential resources for people with disabilities.

We were pleased to see that you put \$60,000 in the budget under Senior Community Services for a Mobility Management Administrator. We request that this position also include transportation coordination for people with disabilities

Last year the Commission recommended to the County Executive, County Council and its Housing Policy Committee to develop ways to produce a substantial number of homes with basic accessibility. We want to thank Council Member George Leventhal for his introduction of Bill 5-13 Property Tax Credit – Accessibility Features which will increase the supply of accessible homes by provide financial incentives to homeowners and builders who build or renovate homes to the Design for Life Montgomery Program. We also will work to support and provide advice on Bill 5-13 for the passage of financial incentives for homeowners and builders who build to meet the standards of the Design for Life Montgomery Programs.

We also want to thank Phil Andrews and all the Council members for placing a Charter Amendment on the November, 2012 ballot to establish a special hiring authority within the County merit system to recruit, select and hire persons with significant disabilities that substantially limit one or more major life activities. We were pleased that 80% of the voters supported this charter amendment in the November 2012 elections and that the County has taken a leading role amongst local jurisdictions in the hiring of people with disabilities. We also commend Joe Adler and Uma Ahluwalia and their respective staff members for their leadership in this effort. We also want to continue to be directly involved with all employment policies and procedures the impact people with disabilities.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for your work and leadership on behalf of people with disabilities.

40



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES

COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2012
"Promoting Choice and Independence"



Letter of Transmittal to: November, 2012

Honorable Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
 Honorable Roger Berliner, President, Montgomery County Council
 Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The Commission on People with Disabilities is pleased to present a summary of its activities for the past year. We continue to advise and consult with you on issues of concern to the safety and well-being of the estimated over 180,000 people with disabilities who live in the County. The Commission continues to work to improve the lives of people with disabilities who work, visit or live here. Under your leadership and with your support, the Commission is mandated to ensure that the County government complies with all Federal, State and local laws that guarantee the rights of people with disabilities, particularly the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Supreme Court's 1999 Olmstead Decision which upheld the "integration mandate" of the Americans with Disabilities Act requiring public agencies to provide services "in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities."

This year the Commission was proud of the work done to promote the well-being of people with disabilities. We were especially pleased on November 6, 2012 with the voters 4:1 support of Question A which will allow for a special hiring authority, like the federal government has for persons with severe disabilities/disabled veterans. We believe that we are the first jurisdiction in the country to have such a special hiring authority. The Commission wishes to thank the County Executive Leggett and the entire County Council their strong support for cutting edge efforts to increase opportunity and inclusion for people with disabilities. We were also pleased with the "**Respect the Space**" Parking Campaign that will result in increased enforcement of disability parking spaces. From efforts to comply with the Olmstead Decision, design of the new Silver Spring Library, Design for Life Montgomery housing accessibility, Ride On Bus, MetroAccess to accessibility on the fixed route transportation system, we have taken positions and given advice on how best to ensure greatest access.

We wish to recognize and give our personal thanks to all Commissioners, the many community members, and the agency staff who participate in our meetings for their commitment and dedication in promoting the civil rights and independence of people with disabilities. We would like to acknowledge DHHS Director Uma Ahluwalia for continuing to meet with the Boards, Commissions, and Committees to keep us informed of important health and human services issues; Jay Kenney, Ph.D., Chief, Aging & Disability Services, Betsy Luecking, Disability Policy Specialist, and Carly Clem, OSC, for their outstanding support in providing the Commission with the resources needed to carry out our mission. This report is the result of our combined efforts.

It has been a pleasure to work with you and members of the Commission during our term of service. We are confident that you will continue to support the Commission's efforts to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Our meetings are open to the public, and we invite you to join us for any meeting.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Gallalee
 Patricia Gallalee
 Chair



Charlie Crawford
 Charlie Crawford
 Vice Chair

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd • www.facebook.com/MCCPWD

MEMBERSHIP LIST

2011 - 2012

VOTING MEMBERS

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Sean Blake	Tim Markwood
Charles Crawford	Seth Morgan
Patricia Gallalee	Jonathan Pfeffer
Janet Graves-Wright	Marcie Povitsky
Hilary Kaplan	Diana Stewart
Megan Larson	Jennifer Wolfsheimer
Mark Loberg	

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Susan Hartung
Nelson Migdal
Francesca Pellegrino

PRIVATE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Kathy Bridgeman, *St. Luke's House*
Jeremy Buzzell, *U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security*
Ted Gutman, Esq., *U.S. Dept. of Agriculture*
Richard Kienzle, *College Living Experience*
Mark Maxin, *Special Olympics*
Catherine Mello, *The Rock Creek Foundation*
Marie (Lu) Merrick, *Post High School at Ivymount School*
Daphne Pallozzi, *Ardmore Enterprises*
Stephen Riley, *Potomac Community Resources*

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

PUBLIC AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Charlie Butler, *Department of Recreation*
Francie Gilman, *Disability Resource Center, Department of Public Libraries*
Nancy Greene, *ADA Compliance Officer, Department of Health and Human Services*
Stacy Jackson, *Call 'N' Ride Program, Department of Transportation*
Kathy Kolan, *Transition Services, Montgomery County Public Schools*
Christopher Moy, *ADA Compliance, Montgomery College*
Susan Smith, *Housing Opportunities Commission*
Darlene Taper, *School Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services*
Angela Washington, Esq., *Equal Employment & Diversity, Office of Human Resources*

STAFF

Betsy Luecking, *Disability Policy Specialist*
Carly Clem, *Office Services Coordinator*
John (Jay) Kenney, Ph.D., *Chief, Aging and Disability Services*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Membership List	2
Commission Presentations for 2011 - 2012	3
Montgomery County Voters Pass Special Hiring Authority & Overview of Hiring for People with Disabilities, Disabled Veterans and Veterans	4 - 5
Washington Post Editorial Board Article "Vote for Montgomery County's Question A"	6
Montgomery Council Approves Ballot Language For Proposed Charter Amendment To Expand County Hiring For People With Physical, Cognitive Disabilities	7
Maryland and Montgomery County Showcase Technological Enhancement For Disability Parking Enforcement	8 - 9
Leggett Announces "Respect the Space" Campaign	10 - 11
Accessible Parking	12
Installation of Accessible Parking Spaces	13
Commission 2011 - 2012 Goals	14
FY13 Operating Budget Priorities Testimony	15 - 16
Who Has A Disability In Montgomery County, MD? An Overview	17 - 18
Montgomery County Public Schools Special Education	19
Publications Provided By The Commission	20
About the Commission	21
How To Contact Your County Elected Officials	22

COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2011 - 2012

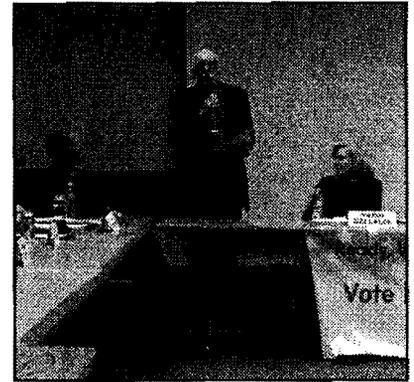
- October, 2011:** **Project Civic Access and Montgomery County Government - Update on How the Commission Will Be Involved in the County's Establishment of an ADA Compliance Workgroup - Nancy Greene, ADA Compliance Manager, Department of General Services**
-
- December, 2011:** **Review of Goals Established at November Retreat**
-
- January, 2012:** **The Honorable Phil Andrews, Councilmember, Montgomery County Council**
-
- March, 2012:** **Accessibility Rating Pilot Project - Cathy Raggio, Secretary, Maryland Department of Disabilities; Delegate Bonnie Cullison; Anne Blackfield, Director, Maryland Technology Assistance Program; and Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, Department of Health & Human Services Potomac Community Resources, Inc. - Stephen Riley (Commissioner), Executive Director, Potomac Community Resources**
-
- April, 2012:** **Marcie Roth, Director, Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, U.S. Department of Homeland Security / Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**
-
- May, 2012:** **My Mental Health Day Campaign - Autumn Orme, Communications and Development Coordinator, Mental Health Association of Montgomery County (MHA)**
-
- June, 2012:** **Accessible Voting - Margaret Jurgensen, Director, Montgomery County Board of Elections**
-
- September, 2012:** **Update from Permitting Services on Design for Life Montgomery and Respect the Space Disability Parking Space Enforcement - Diane Schwartz Jones, Director, Department of Permitting Services**
-
- October, 2012:** **Question A and the November 6, 2012 Ballot - The Honorable Phil Andrews, Councilmember, Montgomery County Council**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VOTERS PASS SPECIAL HIRING AUTHORITY & OVERVIEW OF HIRING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, DISABLED VETERANS AND VETERANS

November, 2012 - The Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities has been working on having a special hiring authority to promote the hiring of people with disabilities similar to the federal government for over 20 years and the voters of the County gave the go ahead for this initiative during the November 6, 2012 Presidential Election.

For those of you who knew Kermit Mohn, Chairman, 1991 - 1994, he along with Howard Jacobson, Esq., then commissioner, were instrumental in the early 90's in advocating and advising the County on this issue. The Commission was advised back then by the county attorney that it would need to go on the ballot for the voters to make it happen.

Over the past several years the Commission has been fortunate to have County Executive Ike Leggett's support as well as that of the entire County Council to have a question put on the November 6, 2012 ballot so that voters could allow for a change in the merit system to allow for this special hiring authority. The Commission celebrated the November 6, 2012 passage of Question A on November 14, 2012 at its regular meeting. Montgomery County Councilmember Phil Andrews who introduced the bill to have it on the ballot along with Joe Adler, Director, Office of Human Resources, have both been instrumental in having this initiative come to fruition because of their strong support of people with disabilities/ disabled veterans and they joined us at the meeting. The Commission thanks all the commissioners who have worked to educate the public on this issue and to especially commend Trish Gallalee, Chairperson and Mark Maxin, Commissioner and former chairperson, for their expertise and for their articulate and compelling presentations to the council and executive branch on this issue.



Joe Adler, Director, Office of Human Resources, was among the speakers on November 14 as well as Councilmember Phil Andrews (far left) to celebrate the passage of Question A. Also pictured is Trish Gallalee, Chair of the Commission on People with Disabilities (right).

Overview of Programs Increase Employment of Hiring for People with Disabilities, Disabled Veterans and Veterans

The Office of Human Resources has been working closely with the Commission on People with Disabilities with the goal of increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The County Government is an equal opportunity employer, committed to workforce diversity.

1. Montgomery County Government provides priority consideration known as the **Hiring Preference** for initial appointment to a County Merit System position for veterans with a disability, veterans without a disability and for persons with a disability. For more information and to claim a hiring preference, please refer to the Careers webpage on [Hiring Preference](#). Since the hiring preference was implemented in 2010, the following have been hired into merit positions: 7 individuals with disabilities, 1 disabled veteran and 27 veterans.
2. The **Customized Employment Public Intern Project** was created based on the County's knowledge that people with significant disabilities often have difficulty accessing County government positions. As an employer, Montgomery County recognizes that there are many job candidates with significant disabilities who have much to offer but have difficulty competing for traditional jobs within the government. To go above and beyond what other County and State agencies have done, Montgomery County has established an initiative to create flexible work opportunities for individuals to fulfill the work requirements of County departments. All County departments will have the opportunity to work with a customized employment career specialist to identify and create part-time position descriptions based on the department's need. Individuals with significant disabilities will be matched to work tasks based on their interests, skills and competencies. The hope is that the public interns will gain job experience and training to be able to compete for merit positions within the County, as well as at other places of employment. For more information, please contact Marie Parker at mparker@montgomeryworks.com or 240-283-1574.
3. The **Montgomery County QUEST Intern Partnership** was launched in October 2009 with the Maryland Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). The Quest Intern partnership is designed to provide opportunities for individuals to serve as volunteer interns in County Departments and help them obtain job skills by working on a special project(s). The goal for this initiative was to achieve a minimum of ten (10) QUEST Internship placements to be enrolled at any given time. Participating departments identify internship projects suitable for QUEST Intern placements and submit the project(s) for consideration by the DORS QUEST Intern Coordinator. DORS representatives work with county department staff to recruit, identify, and recommend qualified individuals for the approved department projects. The DORS Coordinator recommends qualified intern candidates for consideration and selection by department staff. Department staff interview internship candidates and

OVERVIEW OF HIRING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, DISABLED VETERANS AND VETERANS CONTINUED

select individuals to work in the department for a three month or six-month period. The QUEST internship placements do not impact departmental fiscal requirements, since DORS handles all the pre-intern placement arrangements and provides the intern stipends. DORS provides QUEST Interns with a stipend for the duration of their service plus help interns gain job experience needed to help them achieve their goal of obtaining gainful employment after completing the intern placement with Montgomery County. For more information, contact Jody, Boone, Division of Rehabilitation Services at jboone@dors.state.md.us or 410-554-9451.

4. The **Montgomery County Project Search Program** was launched by County Executive Leggett in September 2012. It is an intern program to provide opportunities for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. County Executive Isiah Leggett joined officials from the Ivy Mount School and SEEC, an adult rehabilitation provider, to launch Project Search Montgomery, a one-year transition program designed for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Interns are in their last year of high school or are recent graduates. Twelve interns will work in the Departments of Finance, General Services, Permitting Services, Public Libraries, Recreation and Transportation, along with the Office of Human Resources and the Office of the County Executive.

Accordingly, as it relates to employment opportunities, the County will provide reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities, in accordance with the law. Applicants requiring a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the Office of Human Resources and request a Human Resources Specialist at 240-777-0311 (Voice) or 240-777-5126 (TTY) for assistance and guidance. You may also request a reasonable accommodation for the selection process via email to Special.Accommodations@montgomerycountymd.gov. Individual determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made in accordance with all applicable laws.

On the November 6, 2012 Presidential Ballot

Montgomery County Question A: Merit System – Hiring Individuals with Disabilities

Ballot Question: Amend Section 401 of the County Charter to allow the County to operate a program within the merit system to recruit and select qualified individuals with severe physical and mental disabilities on a noncompetitive basis.

Background: The unemployment and underemployment rate of individuals with disabilities is as high as 70%. In Montgomery County, 40% of individuals with disabilities work, 43% are unemployed, and 31% of working age adults (age 18 - 64) with disabilities are unemployed. In Montgomery County, for age 21+, the disabled are three times more likely to be below the Federal Poverty Level (11.4% vs. 3.6%). The employment rate for people with disabilities in Montgomery County is at an all-time low. Educating all government managers as to how to work with this sector of the population (disabled veterans and people with disabilities) to maximize the contributions of this often marginalized community has been challenging. In 2010, the Council passed legislation that gives veterans and people with significant non-cognitive disabilities preference when applying for an entry position in county government, thereby expanding opportunities for people with disabilities in the county government. The Charter Commission had some concerns about the costs of a schedule A-type authority at the time and agreed to set up a subcommittee to investigate further. On July 31st, 2012 the County Council voted unanimously to put the Charter amendment on the ballot.

Reasons to Support:

- People with disabilities face discrimination daily and are often perceived to be unable to perform with or without reasonable accommodations.
- The Charter amendment would reduce the high unemployment and underemployment rate for people with disabilities. Montgomery County has taken a number of important steps to expand opportunities and be a model employer.
- Employing such individuals with disabilities in paying jobs will reduce their reliance on government services.
- Those who are hired must still satisfy the job qualifications, but the Charter amendment would help mitigate the general discrimination against people with disabilities.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that state and local governments provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities.

WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL BOARD ARTICLE "VOTE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S QUESTION A"

Published: November 2nd, 2012

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT has long given people with severe disabilities a helping hand in employment by allowing managers to streamline hiring procedures for disabled applicants who qualify for an open job. Now Montgomery County is asking voters to revise the county charter to follow the federal model. It's a sensible move to help a group that includes wounded veterans and whose unemployment rate is higher than the national average. County voters should vote for Question A on Tuesday's ballot.

In general, state and local governments have spotty records when it comes to hiring people who are disabled, even those who meet the basic qualifications for jobs. That's a shame, and it reflects antiquated attitudes.

Plenty of public-sector (and private-sector) jobs can be done by people who are blind, deaf or paraplegic or have autism or Asperger syndrome. Likewise, many people with psychiatric disabilities can perform well in the workplace.

Opponents, including some conservatives, regard hiring preferences for disabled people as akin to race-based affirmative action; in both cases, the result may be that a more qualified applicant is denied employment. But there is a broad and compelling societal interest in helping disadvantaged groups that suffer from prejudice based on ignorance and misperceptions. All the more so in the case of veterans, including those who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, who return home with severe combat-related disabilities, be they physical or mental.

Last year, the unemployment rate for those with disabilities was 15 percent, nearly twice the national average. Even as unemployment eased for people without a disability from 2010 to 2011, it remained stuck for disabled people. Similarly, underemployment is a more severe problem for disabled people, a third of whom work part time, compared with 20 percent of those who are not disabled.

Montgomery County's interest in hiring disabled workers is especially strong given that the gateway for so many injured veterans returning to the United States from foreign wars is Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. Those veterans, and others with serious disabilities, deserve a fair shot at local employment if they seek it. The county's charter amendment would help.

MONTGOMERY COUNCIL APPROVES BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO EXPAND COUNTY HIRING FOR PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL, COGNITIVE DISABILITIES

ROCKVILLE, Md., July 31, 2012 - Montgomery County Council today unanimously approved ballot language for a proposed County Charter Amendment that will be on the November ballot that, if approved by voters, would enable establishment of a program within the County merit system to recruit, select and hire directly into certain County jobs persons with significant physical or cognitive disabilities that substantially limit one or more major life activities.

Councilmember Phil Andrews, the chief sponsor of the ballot amendment, in a memo to his fellow Councilmembers earlier this year, noted that the County has already taken a number of important steps to expand opportunities for people with disabilities, including the 2010 legislation the Council approved to provide a hiring preference to veterans and people with disabilities who are applying for an initial position in County Government and are among the highest rated group of applicants. The County also established a Customized Employment Public Intern Project in its Health and Human Services Department that provides opportunities for people with significant cognitive and developmental disabilities. However, those positions must be limited to two years or less.

In addition, under the merit system of the County Government as currently defined in the County Charter, the County cannot hire qualified people with significant disabilities directly into certain positions - unlike the Federal Government under its Schedule A (Special Hiring Authority).

"The unemployment rate for people with disabilities far exceeds the general unemployment rate," said Councilmember Andrews. "If employed, many people with severe disabilities could help support themselves financially. This would help them directly, and would help taxpayers too by reducing dependence on government services. In order for the County to significantly expand opportunities to bring qualified people with severe disabilities directly into County Government jobs, the County's Charter (Constitution) must be amended to provide that authority. The Council's vote today to place the measure on the November ballot is a crucial step forward to advancing employment opportunities for people with disabilities."

The Charter Amendment is strongly supported by County Executive Isiah Leggett and the County's Commission on People with Disabilities.

The issue will appear on November ballots as follows:

Question A Charter amendment by act of County Council Merit System –

Hiring Individuals with Disabilities

Amend Section 401 of the County Charter to allow the County to operate a program within the merit system to recruit and select qualified individuals with severe physical or mental disabilities on a noncompetitive basis.

FOR

AGAINST



Aaron Kaufman, one of the area's strongest advocates to help people with disabilities, was among the speakers on June 21 as Councilmembers Phil Andrews (second from left) and Craig Rice (right) joined County Executive Isiah Leggett and Trish Gallalee, chair of the County's Commission on People with Disabilities, to urge the County Council to place a Charter Amendment on the November ballot to establish "a special hiring authority within the County merit system to recruit, select and hire persons with significant physical or cognitive disabilities." The County's Charter Review Commission held a public hearing on June 28 on issues that residents believe should be changed in the Charter.

MARYLAND AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHOWCASE TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT FOR DISABILITY PARKING ENFORCEMENT



Montgomery County, Maryland

News Release 10/18/2012

MVA Administrator John Kuo joined Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger to announce changes to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's (MVA) vehicle registration database to provide law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Maryland with information regarding disability parking privileges. With this state-wide expansion of informational access, Maryland law enforcement agencies have a new, state-of-the-art tool against the illegal use of disability parking placards.

"One of the primary concerns brought to my attention by members of the County's Commission on People with Disabilities was the abuse of disability parking placards," said County Executive Isiah Leggett. "I really appreciate that the work of the MVA with our police department to make better enforcement against that abuse possible"

"For those who don't respect disability parking laws, the message is clear. You will be caught and fined. Disabled parking placards should only be used by those who need them," said Kuo. "Hopefully, this enforcement will make abusers think twice about taking something that doesn't belong to them – a placard which allows its rightful owner a necessary, more convenient parking space."

The Deputy Secretary for the Maryland Department of Disabilities George Failla, Jr., read a proclamation from Governor Martin O'Malley honoring the October observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month and Maryland Disability Awareness and History Month. The Chairperson of Montgomery County's Commission on People with Disabilities Trish Gallalee shared her personal experiences and concerns about disabled parking space and placard abuses.

"There are ten violations listed in our Transportation Articles that deal with disabled parking placard abuse," said Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger. "Fines range from \$70 to \$140 with up to 12 points on your license...and offenders can be charged with multiple violations for the same incident of abuse."

In November of 2011, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett announced a new County-wide initiative entitled, "Respect the Space," which was designed to raise awareness about the proper use of accessible parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities. The initiative was suggested by the County's Commission on People with Disabilities. The members were concerned about non-disabled people parking in reserved accessible spaces and the abuse of disability parking placards.

The County increased its enforcement of illegal parking in accessible spaces, but needed the assistance of the MVA to better enforce placard abuses. Special Assistant Michael Subin and the Director of the Montgomery County Traffic Division Captain Thomas Didone met with investigators at the MVA including Inspector John Harkins to build a partnership between the agencies that would allow members of law enforcement direct access to the MVA's internet database of those legally registered for disabled parking placards and plates. The MVA worked diligently to make that a reality.

Beginning in August of 2012, law enforcement officers across Maryland have been able to access the MVA's database. That in turn allows them to stop offenses when fraud, theft and the abuse of disabled parking privileges occur. With that information, law enforcement can access the vehicle records and determine to whom a disabled parking privilege belongs. Included in the information is the photo of the person to whom disabled parking access has been granted.

MARYLAND AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHOWCASE TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT FOR DISABILITY PARKING ENFORCEMENT CONTINUED

The MVA is also working to train local police officers across the state on how to conduct enforcement operations on disabled parking abuses. Disabled parking spaces are reserved for individuals with disabilities who have a disabled parking license plate or placard issued with the universal wheelchair symbol, by the MVA. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and Maryland Disability Awareness and History Month. The MVA and Montgomery County officials want to raise awareness on the proper use of disability placards. The illegal use of disability parking placards infringes upon the rights of citizens with disabilities and now immediately becomes an enforceable violation.

For more information about how to obtain a disability parking placard and guidelines for its legal use, click on www.mva.Maryland.gov and look under "Vehicle Services" - Disability Placards. For more information about the Respect the Space initiative, go to the County's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov and click on the Respect the Space icon on the homepage.



Respect the Space Press Conference - October 18th, 2012. The County Executive joined the Administrator of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), the Police Chief, and members of the County's Commission on People with Disabilities to announce changes to the MVA's vehicle registration database that now allows members of law enforcement access to information regarding disability parking placard registration. This change will enable greater enforcement of disability parking placard abuse. Pictured left to right: County Executive Isiah Leggett, Commission member Tim Markwood, Deputy Secretary of Maryland's Department of Disabilities George Fallia, Jr., Commission member Seth Morgan, seated Commission Chairperson Trish Gallalee, MVA Administrator John Kuo, Lieutenant Nancy Hudson and Police Chief Tom Manger.



Tim Markwood, Commissioner, Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities, volunteered to serve in a scenario for the media of how the disability parking placard enforcement would be conducted.

LEGGETT ANNOUNCES "RESPECT THE SPACE" CAMPAIGN



Montgomery County, Maryland

News Release 11/21/2011

Leggett Announces "Respect the Space" Campaign: To prevent the abuse of parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities and to prevent the illegal use of accessible placards and plates

With the start of the busiest shopping season of the year, County Executive Isiah Leggett introduced a new education and enforcement initiative, "Respect the Space," to raise awareness about the proper use of accessible parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities.

"During the holiday season, parking lots fill to capacity, making close-in accessible spaces particularly tempting," said Leggett. "But I urge everyone to think very carefully about who those spaces are intended for -- whether it is an injured veteran, a senior citizen with impaired mobility or a person with a permanent physical disability. We all need to respect the space and help ensure that reserved parking spaces are available for those who truly need them."

The Respect the Space initiative is a cooperative effort involving the Montgomery County Police Department, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Permitting Services, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), and the County's Commission on People with Disabilities.



Pictured left to right are: disabled Army veteran Sergeant Ryan Major, the County Executive, Chairperson of the Commission on People with Disabilities Trish Gallalee, Police Chief Tom Manger, and MVA Administrator John Kuo.

Joining Leggett and providing remarks were County Council Vice President Roger Berliner, Administrator for the MVA and Governor Martin O'Malley's Highway Safety Representative John Kuo, Police Chief J. Thomas Manger, member of the County's Commission on People with Disabilities Dr. Seth Morgan, disabled Army Veteran Sergeant Ryan Major, and the Chairperson for the County's Commission on People with Disabilities Trish Gallalee.

County Council Vice President Roger Berliner said, "Respecting accessible spaces is our responsibility year-round, but especially during the busy holiday shopping season. We must all do our part to ensure that the disabled members of our community -- veterans, seniors, the permanently disabled -- have these spaces available to them."

The campaign's five-point program includes:

1. An education campaign to inform the public about the serious problem of disabled parking space violations and abuse.
2. A comprehensive survey, conducted by volunteers, of parking lots and garages in the County, including County-owned and operated parking lots, to confirm their compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-mandated space and signage standards.
3. Notification to parking lot owners who aren't in compliance with mandated standards.
4. More aggressive enforcement of those space and signage requirements by the County's Office of Permitting Services.
5. Stepped up enforcement by Montgomery County Police in partnership with the MVA of the proper and legal use of parking placards, disabled license plates and accessible spaces.

50

LEGGETT ANNOUNCES "RESPECT THE SPACE" CAMPAIGN CONTINUED

MVA Administrator John Kuo said, "Seven years ago, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration played a leading role in a taskforce that looked at abuses in Maryland's disabled parking system. We are in full cooperation with Montgomery County's efforts to identify and enforce the proper and legal use of parking placards and disabled license plates."

Those who need one must apply for a disable license plate or placard from the MVA. Some basic facts are:

- Those who need an accessible space must apply for and receive a certified placard or plates from the MVA. Without the placard or plate, it is illegal to park in a reserved space, despite one's disability.
- Vehicles with accessible plates can only use reserved spaces when transporting the person with the certified disability.
- For those with accessible placards and plates, always have the medical certification card available as law enforcement officers and their inspectors have the right to ask to see it.
- Accessible tags and placards must be renewed, even for those with a permanent disability.
- If the need for accessible parking has ended, the placard or plates must immediately be turned in to the MVA.
- Temporary placards are available for periods of three weeks to six months.

Information about how to apply for disabled parking placards and permits, as well as laws and requirements regulating them can be found on the MVA website: www.mva.maryland.gov.

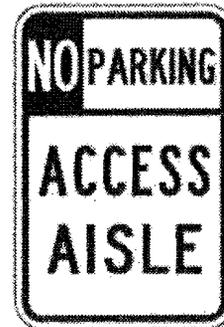
Montgomery County Police Chief Tom Manger outlined the kinds of enforcement that his officers will be conducting. The Chief said, "I am encouraging our officers to issue citations to all vehicles that do not have disabled placards or plates and are parked in accessible spaces. If anyone sees a vehicle without an accessible placard or plate in an accessible space, call the police non-emergency number, 301-279-8000 to report it."

A growing concern about the problems of accessible parking abuse was brought to the County Executive's attention by Dr. Seth Morgan, a member of the County's Commission on People with Disabilities. "Parking illegally for even a minute in a disabled-designated spot causes harm. I want to tell everyone that accessible parking misuse is not a benign, 'victimless' crime; the victims are too numerous to count," said Dr. Morgan. Members of the County's commissions on Veteran's Affairs, Aging, and Health also supported the efforts. Members of those commissions are volunteering to conduct surveys of parking lots for space and signage conformance.

Residents should be aware that people may have "invisible" disabilities – something that is not obvious – but still be fully entitled to park in reserved spaces if they have been certified by the MVA and have an accessible placard or plate.

To find out more information about the Respect the Space initiative, go to the County's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov and click on the Respect the Space icon on the homepage.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING



Did You Know...?

- ✓ Disability Tags or Placards are required to be displayed properly. Placards must be hung on the inside rearview mirror. If the vehicle does not have an inside mirror, or the inside mirror is not visible from the rear, you may display the placard on top of the dashboard on the driver's side. Please make sure the placard side displayed shows the expiration date of the disability placard. You must remove hanging placards from rearview mirror while your vehicle is in motion.
- ✓ Only the individual whose name is on the registration may park in the accessible space.
- ✓ You must always have your copy of the white MVA Disability Parking Certification card in your possession whenever you use the placard or plates. This certification must be presented to law enforcement upon request.
- ✓ The fine for illegally parking in an accessible space is up to \$250.00.
- ✓ The striped area adjacent to and between accessible spaces is there so that wheelchair lifts may load or unload passengers. When you park in a striped area "just for a minute" a lift cannot be used.

Please respect accessible parking laws and regulations.

INSTALLATION OF ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES

Both the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and the Maryland Accessibility Code cover:

Minimum Number of Accessible Parking Spaces

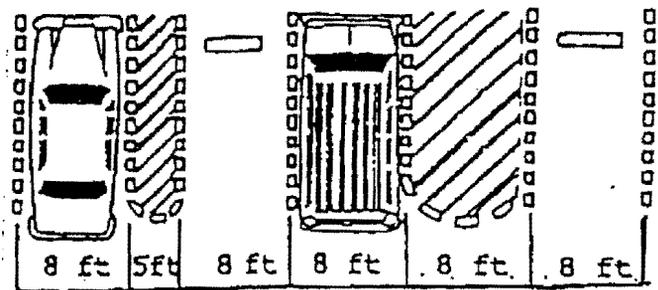
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Total Number of Parking Spaces Provided (per lot)	Total Minimum Number of Accessible Parking Spaces (60" & 96" aisles)	Van Accessible Parking spaces with min. 96" wide access aisle	Accessible Parking Spaces with min. 60" wide access aisle
	Column A		
1 to 25	1	1	0
26 to 50	2	1	1
51 to 75	3	1	2
76 to 100	4	1	3
101 to 150	5	2	3
151 to 200	6	2	4
201 to 300	7	2	5
301 to 400	8	2	6
401 to 500	9	3	6
501 to 1,000	2% of total parking provided in each lot	1/4 of Column A*	3/4 of Column A**
1,001 and over	20 plus 1 for each over 1,000	1/4 of Column A*	3/4 of Column A**

*one out of every 4 accessible space **3 out of every 4 accessible parking spaces

Access Aisles

- Access Aisles adjacent to accessible parking spaces must be 60 inches wide – 96 inches wide for van space Maryland Code requires "No parking in Access Aisle".
- Accessible spaces must be located on the shortest accessible route to an accessible entrance.



- Maryland law requires signs mounted on a pole (7 ft) or building wall (6–10ft.)
- Accessible signage **MUST NOT** be covered up by vehicles or snow. Don't paint the symbol on the ground.

COMMISSION 2011 - 2012 GOALS

Over-arching goal: Note that any goal that involves legislation will require a motion and vote by entire commission. Any budget or support services will be included under every goal.

To address the needs of County residents with disabilities by partnering with the disability community and County agencies responsible for designated programs to identify and prioritize needs, develop effective budget advocacy, formulate strategic means of addressing those needs, monitor the progress of those prioritized strategies, in areas such as, but not limited to; 1) ADA Compliance 2) Housing, 3) Employment, and 4) Transportation.

1. ADA Compliance Workgroup - Work with the ADA Compliance Manager to develop strategies to meet the County's requirements in the terms and conditions for the Settlement Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) as part of DOJ's Project Civic Access review. Under the terms of the new DOJ agreement, the County has agreed to the following:

- A. Providing additional training to all staff on the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
- B. Assessing over 240 additional County facilities for ADA compliance (in addition to the 100 already assessed by DOJ) and developing a transition plan to ensure that any ADA improvements are made;
- C. Improving the accessibility of our web site through a redesign of the site, the use of a compliance tool, and additional staff training;
- D. Assessing all County policies, programs and services to ensure accessibility; and
- E. Working collaboratively with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Montgomery County Public Schools to ensure the accessibility of facilities used by the public through the Community Use of Public Facilities.

2. Housing - Promote policies and programs that provide access to housing for people with disabilities. Develop, support and promote full inclusion of people with disabilities as they seek access to all housing opportunities in Montgomery County. This will include, but not be limited to:

- A. Ensure that housing organizations provide community education and referral for people with disabilities who are in danger of foreclosure or other crisis situations.
- B. Advocate for incentives to builders and homeowners to increase the stock of homes that meet the criteria of Design for Life (DFL) Montgomery.
- C. Advocate for housing renovation and rehabilitation funds.
- D. Partner with the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission and Inter-Agency Fair Housing workgroup to research all issues related to fair housing and homelessness for people with disabilities.

3. Employment - Increase employment of people with disabilities by promoting opportunities for the employment, training, placement, retention and advancement of individuals with a broad range of disabilities within the County Government and its contractors. This will include, but not be limited to:

- A. Partner with the Office of Human Resources to implement the legislation to increase the representation of people with disabilities at all levels of government through the hiring preference and other programs.
- B. Monitor and be an advocate for customized internship employment opportunities and Quest Internship program.
- C. Provide funding support for workforce development training programs/initiatives focused on people with disabilities.
- D. Partner with employers, community organizations, etc to communicate, advocate, (maybe even provide workshops focused on dispelling myths, etc.) and support the state on "Think Beyond the Label", etc. We need to develop a strong voice and platform to support this initiative.
- E. Better understand the statistics on the numbers of people in Montgomery with Disabilities and hiring rates.

4. Transportation - Promote all publicly funded transportation to be safe, accessible, affordable and reliable for persons with disabilities. This will include, but not be limited to:

- A. Work with all relevant parties to insure that MetroAccess Paratransit service is available, reliable, on-time, affordable, and transparent in its policies and communications to users, and
- B. Encourage the development of a comprehensive and uniform standard of affording disability parking and insuring that those who take advantage of such affordance are in fact qualified to do so,
- C. Partner with the County transportation officials and disabled users of public transportation to insure compliance with all applicable standards of operations and performance under the Americans with disabilities Act,
- D. Advocate for a pedestrian infrastructure that is accessible, safe, and maintained.

FY13 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES TESTIMONY

Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities FY13 Budget Priorities Before the Montgomery County Council April 12, 2012

Patricia Gallalee, Chair | Charles Crawford, Vice-Chair

My name is Patricia Gallalee, and I am Chairperson of the Commission on People with Disabilities. Thank you for the opportunity to share our priorities with you. The Commission's primary work has been in the areas of accessible housing, increasing employment opportunities and a safe, reliable transportation system. We request that the Council provide policy direction or funding for the following:

Accessible Housing: The Commission recommends to you and the County Council and its Housing Policy Committee to develop ways to produce a substantial number of homes with basic accessibility. The County needs homes that are both affordable and accessible. We see that the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) is investing \$1.5 M from the Housing Initiative Fund in addition to previously appropriated funds for affordable housing to develop a senior independent living facility adjoining the new Silver Spring Library. Using public money and including requirements for modifying homes to make them accessible also needs to be addressed. The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) administers the Single Family Home Improvement Loan Program, but available funds or grants are limited to people with very low incomes. The Housing Initiative Fund (HIF), also administered by DHCA, promotes a broad range of housing opportunities in the County to alleviate difficulties experienced by many low and moderate income households in obtaining and maintaining housing at affordable costs. HIF funding can, and has been used to: fund new construction; preserve existing homes; support new rental construction; finance the substantial rehabilitation of rental housing; support the preservation or development of senior, family, or special needs housing by nonprofit or for profit sponsors; and support the preservation or development of single-family, town house and apartment buildings.

We would ask you to consider requiring that any new housing using HIF funds meet the basic accessibility features of the County's Design for Life Montgomery program. This would mean a no-step entry; 32" interior doors; 36" exterior entries; and hallways and a useable powder room. We recommend that the County adopt basic accessibility design standards in any home it builds, renovates or regulates such as Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDU's) and Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) housing. We also recommend that HOC do an inventory of accessible housing and develop a tool to match available accessible units with people who need them.

The Design for Life Montgomery Workgroup has been meeting with builders from the Maryland National Capital Building Industry Association and discussing the option of an incentive program for builders who construct accessible homes or developments. Incentives could include reduced permitting fees and/or tax credits. The State of Virginia now offers a \$5,000 tax credit to entice builders to outfit homes with features that make housing more accessible. It was suggested that tax credits be offered to the buyer as well.

Employment: There is a high unemployment rate of people with disabilities. We request support for a County Special Hiring authority to establish a program to aid in hiring qualified disabled veterans and people with disabilities and thus, make an exception to the merit system. The Commission made a presentation to the Charter Commission on January 11, 2012 and they are currently considering this issue to be placed on the November ballot. We also recommend that the County reinstitute AP1-10 supported employment contracts that go to non-profits that employ people with disabilities to do work for the county. We thank you for the hiring preference for veterans and persons with disabilities that was passed by the Council and became effective in May, 2010. Since then, 10 veterans, 5 people with disabilities and one veteran with a disability have been hired. We are pleased to learn that 2 of the persons were interns in the Customized Employment program.

(continued on page 16)

FY13 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES TESTIMONY CONTINUED

Transportation: While we applaud the reduction of fees for the second Call 'N' Ride coupon book, it is essential that MetroAccess be fully maintained and improved. The State has the contract for Metro Access but we believe the County must take some responsibility to ensure that safe and satisfactory service be provided to those residents of Montgomery County who are so dependent on this service. Personally, I am very concerned about the safety of persons using Metro Access given some of the incidents with the drivers. There is a strong connection between the availability of a reliable transportation system to the ability of persons with disabilities being able to get to and from work so their dependency on other financial assistance is diminished. We are pleased that this budget makes needed strategic investments by increasing resources for Police by providing additional patrol officers and investigative positions to target crime "hot spots" in each district. We are hopeful that these additional patrol officers will be of help in combating the illegal use of disability parking placards and strengthen the County Executive's "Respect the Space" Disability Parking Campaign.

In addition, we recommend the following:

- Given that the County will be given additional funding through the Developmental Disabilities Administration, we support InterACC-DD's request for additional supplemental funding for expansion. However, we know that the needs of the community continue to grow and that this money will only go so far.
- We are pleased to see the restoration of the Home Care Chore Services Program targeted to low income frail elderly and people with disabilities who need help with light cleaning, vacuuming, laundry, and/or meal preparation in order to remain in their own homes and in the community. This funding will purchase service for approximately 21 clients with two hours of Chore Services per week for a year. (\$50,000).
- We are pleased that this budget also restores operating hours for libraries and increases the budget for reading materials – both print and electronic. Libraries are a vital resource to residents who have disabilities, particularly in terms of employment readiness and employment opportunities. Libraries not only provide job skills and literacy training, but also offer employment and volunteer opportunities (work experience) for people with disabilities.

We again thank you for this opportunity to partner with you as you consider your budgetary planning for the coming fiscal year.

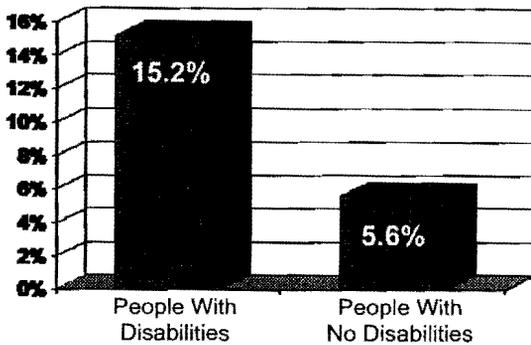
WHO HAS A DISABILITY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD? AN OVERVIEW

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, estimates that there are approximately **74,661 persons living in Montgomery County, Maryland with a disability**. According to a 2011 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 12.1% of Americans self-reported as having a disability. These figures excluded individuals who reside in nursing homes or other institutions. The Census Bureau defines disability as a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.

Social Security Recipients (SSI)	
As of December, 2011, there are 13,253 people receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in Montgomery County. Of those individuals, 7,613 or 57.4% have a disability. That is an increase of 332 recipients with a disability from 2010.	
People under 18	1,243
People 18 - 64	5,161
People 65 or older	6,849
Total	13,253
Social Security Insurance recipients also receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	3,393
Total Amount of Payments	\$6,752,000

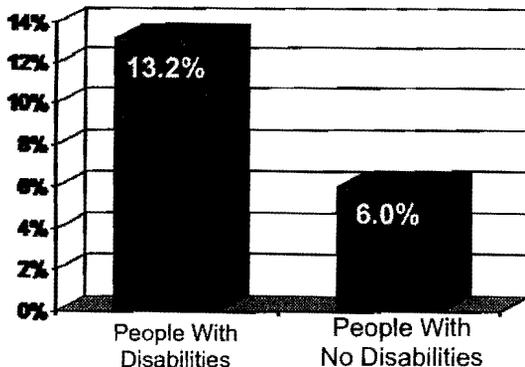
Source: Social Security Administration, 2011

Unemployment Status - Montgomery County, MD Population 18 to 64 Years In The Labor Force



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

Poverty Status - Montgomery County, MD Population 18 to 64 Years In The Labor Force



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

2011 Disability Characteristics - Montgomery County	
Total Population With A Disability	74,661
Subject	Total
Population under 5 years	64,742
With a disability	279
With a hearing difficulty	187
With a vision difficulty	92
Population 5 to 17 years	170,128
With a disability	5,093
With a hearing difficulty	284
With a vision difficulty	359
With a cognitive difficulty	3,700
With an ambulatory difficulty	725
With a self-care difficulty	1,229
Population 18 to 64 years	624,873
With a disability	32,124
With a hearing difficulty	5,960
With a vision difficulty	4,797
With a cognitive difficulty	13,564
With an ambulatory difficulty	13,536
With a self-care difficulty	4,032
With an independent living difficulty	10,722
Population 65 years and over	120,626
With a disability	37,165
With a hearing difficulty	13,838
With a vision difficulty	6,831
With a cognitive difficulty	8,138
With an ambulatory difficulty	23,022
With a self-care difficulty	9,347
With an independent living difficulty	18,239

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

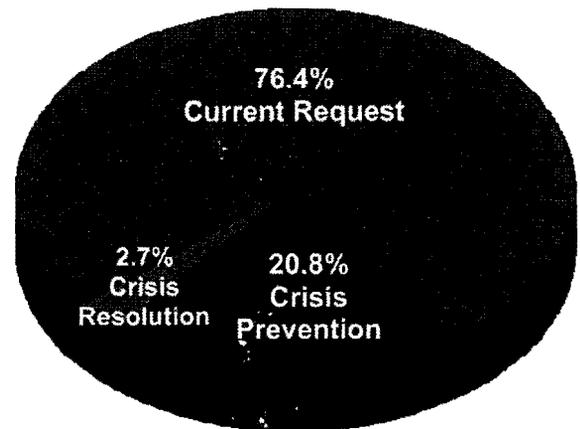
WHO HAS A DISABILITY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD? AN OVERVIEW

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Community Services Waiting List

Thousands of children and adults with developmental disabilities, such as Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy and autism are waiting for community services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). As of July, 2011, there are **6,538** individuals in Maryland waiting for one of three basic services (residential, day and support services). Of those individuals, **729 (or 13.5%) live in Montgomery County**. The DDA funds services for people based on their priority category which should reflect the person's current needs.

- First served are people in the Crisis Resolution category. **(20 in Montgomery County)**
- Second are people in the Crisis Prevention category. **(152 in Montgomery County)**
- Third are people in the Current Request category. **(557 in Montgomery County)**

Source: Developmental Disabilities Administration Data as of July, 2011



Montgomery County - Waiting List by Priority Category

Developmental Disabilities Services: How Maryland Rates

Maryland ranks **11th** in terms of spending on developmental disabilities services. The state has **improved 22 places** since 2007. Maryland closed a state institution and reduced the population at state institutions by 60%. The state also began participating in NCI and added a Medicaid Buy-in Program to support individuals as they go to work, increase their productivity and raise their incomes. Just nine states have **at least one-third (33%) of individuals with ID/DD working in competitive employment**, which best recognize and support work as key to a meaningful life. These states include Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, **Maryland**, Michigan, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington.

Source: United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Report "The Case for Inclusion 2012"

Community Support Network

The Community Support Network (CSN) is a unit within the Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services that provides services and supports to children and adults with developmental disabilities ages 3 years through adulthood. CSN provides individuals with supports that enable them to fully participate in all aspects of community life by assisting them in making choices and securing natural supports and services. In addition, CSN provides community education through quarterly newsletters, educational seminars and resource fairs. To learn more about their programs and services, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ddcsn.

Montgomery County Infants & Toddlers Program

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services administers the Infant and Toddlers Program, which provides early intervention services to families with children, birth to 3 years old, who have or are at risk of having developmental delays. Early intervention services include physical, occupational, and/or speech therapy provided through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Total Served in FY10: 3,952

Total Served in FY11: 4,098

Source: County Executive's FY13 Recommended Operating Budget - Children, Youth, and Family Services

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION

Number of Montgomery County Public School Students with Disabilities Ages 3 - 21 Receiving Special Education Services

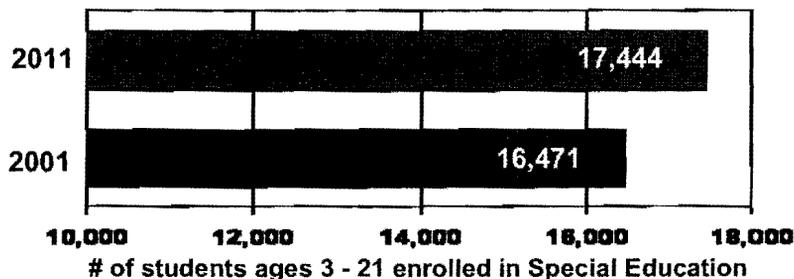
As of October 28th, 2011, there were **17,444** students with disabilities enrolled in Special Education. This population makes up **11.9%** of the County's total school enrollment of 146,459 students.

Disability Type	# of Students 2010	# of Students 2011	% Between 2010 and 2011
Autism	1,642	1,727	+ 5.2%
Deaf	103	106	+ 2.9%
Deaf-Blind	2	2	0% - N/A
Developmental Delay (Ages 3 - 9)	1,726	2,096	+ 21.4%
Developmental Delay (Extended IFSP)	143	296	+ 106.9%
Emotional Disability	663	649	- 2.1%
Hearing Impairment	150	159	+ 6.0%
Intellectual Disability	655	631	- 3.6%
Multiple Disabilities	257	276	+ 7.4%
Orthopedic Impairment	57	62	+ 8.7%
Other Health Impairment	2,831	2,814	- 0.6%
Specific Learning Disability	5,649	5,601	- 0.8%
Speech and Language Impairment	3,345	2,948	- 11.8%
Traumatic Brain Injury	26	24	- 7.7%
Visual Impairment	58	53	- 8.6%
Total	17,307	17,444	

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2011

Montgomery County School Enrollment - Special Education Ages 3 to 21

Special Education enrollment has increased by **973** students over the last ten years.



Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2011

Students with Disabilities By Race Compared with General Education Students By Race - Ages 3 to 21

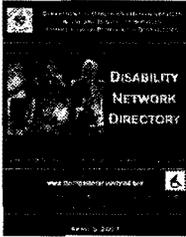
SWD = Students with Disabilities / GE = General Education

	Grand Total	American Indian/ Alaskan Native		Asian		African American		White		Hispanic	
		Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
SWD	17,444	32	0.2%	1,235	7.2%	4,439	25.9%	5,729	33.4%	5,075	29.6%
GE	146,459	255	0.2%	20,983	14.3%	31,096	21.2%	49,430	33.8%	38,086	26.0%

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Date 10/2011

PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION

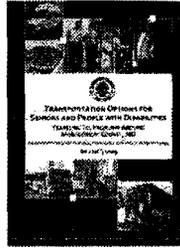
Publications Provided by the Commission on People with Disabilities



DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY:

A directory of provider agencies, businesses and advocacy organizations that offer local, state and national resources for people with disabilities. The Disability Network Directory is available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: A comprehensive listing of public, private and non-profit transportation in the Washington Metropolitan Region, State of Maryland and beyond. This guide was compiled to assist County residents to better coordinate their transportation needs. Download a copy of the guide on our Commission's website.



To request alternative formats of these publications, please call 240-777-1252 (V), MD Relay 711, or e-mail Carly.Clem@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Stay Alert!

You are encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts from **Alert Montgomery**.

Let Montgomery County contact you using the Roam Secure Alert Network during a major crisis, emergency, or severe weather alert. Alert Montgomery can deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on all of your devices at once:

- e-mail account
- cell phone
- text page
- Blackberry
- wireless PDA
- XM Radio Channel 215
- Facebook: Add "Montgomery County MD Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security" in friends
- Text MONTGOMERY to 411922

<https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>



Montgomery County encourages all residents to put together a plan for emergencies. The County has emergency response plans in place for dealing with emergencies from snow storms to terrorist attacks.

However, each person is strongly encouraged to develop their own personal plan. Montgomery County has developed the Plan 9 Guide for residents. It is a simple guide to nine essential items to help residents shelter in-place during emergencies.

We also encourage people to request a File of Life that allows you to fill out your medical history and rescue personnel are trained to look for this File on your refrigerator. To request a File of Life, call the Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Resource Unit: 240-777-3000 (V), 240-777-2545 (TTY), or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/homelandsecurity/index.asp.



Collect these **nine essential items** to help you shelter-in-place in the event of an emergency.



1. Water: *One gallon per person per day for three days. Replace the water every 6 months.*



2. Food: *Non-perishables such as canned or packaged food. Enough to last 3 to 5 days per person.*



3. Clothes: *One change of clothes and footwear per person. Consider packing blankets, rain-gear, and outerwear in case of severe weather.*



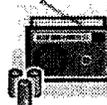
4. Medications: *Three days worth of prescription medications. Be sure to mark the expiration dates and change as needed.*



5. Flashlight: *A bright flashlight and extra batteries. Do not use candles as they are fire hazards.*



6. Can Opener: *Manual can opener in case there's no electric power. Buying foods with pull-open cans is also helpful.*



7. Radio: *Battery-powered radio and extra batteries. Crank operated or solar powered radios are also helpful.*



8. Hygiene Items: Basics like soap, toilet paper and a toothbrush. Moist toiles are useful.



9. First Aid: Basics like antiseptic, gloves, bandages, and non-prescription medicines. Many stores have pre-made kits.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

HISTORY

The Commission on People with Disabilities was established by County legislation in 1978 to advise the County Executive and County Council on the coordination and development of the County's policies affecting residents with disabilities.

MISSION

The Commission provides advice, counsel, and recommendations to the Government of Montgomery County, Maryland in general, the County Executive, and the County Council in particular. Its responsibilities involve those matters influencing the provision of services, County policies and procedures, development and implementation of state and federal laws, and any other issues affecting the lives, rights, and welfare of the people it represents. The Commission operates in belief that people with disabilities have the right to the same opportunities in life as people without disabilities; and that this right can best be ensured by a commitment to enhancing the image, status, and quality of life of all children and adults with disabilities.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission on People with Disabilities is composed of 25 voting members who serve in a volunteer capacity. Members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

The Commission includes:

- ▶ 13 people with disabilities,
- ▶ 3 parents of people with disabilities, and
- ▶ 9 representatives of public and private service providing agencies

The Commission also includes ex-officio members that are appointed to represent the Departments of Health and Human Services, Transportation, Recreation, Libraries, Office of Human Resources, and the Human Rights Commission. There are also members who represent Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Housing Opportunities Commission.



Like us on Facebook! [Facebook.com/MCCPWD](https://www.facebook.com/MCCPWD)



Sign up for eSubscribe to receive emails about disability information and resources:

<https://ext01.montgomerycountymd.gov/entps1p/esubpublic/newssubscriber.do>

MEETINGS

All Commission and Committee meetings are open to the public. The Commission welcomes visitors to join us as we serve the County and its residents. Meetings are subject to change without advance notice. Please call to confirm day and time of meetings and to request any special accommodations. As possible, we adjust meeting dates in order to accommodate days of major religious observances. You can view the Commission meeting minutes online at:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2012 - 2013

Full Commission Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month,
except for July and August
101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium
Rockville, MD 20850
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting

3rd Wednesday of the month
401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850
1st Floor Tan Conference Room
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Workgroups

Meet, as needed, at differing locations.

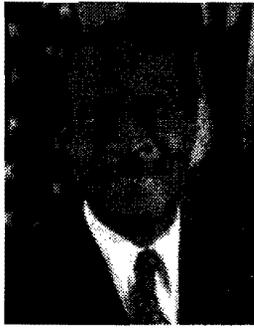
COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Commission operates through a structure that is re-evaluated annually to respond to changing needs. The Steering Committee is responsible for planning and directing the activities of the Commission and for overseeing the activities of the committees.

The work of the Commission is done by Commission members and interested persons from the community. In addition, coordinators are assigned to take lead responsibility for public relations and legislation. The Nominating and Selection Committees, required for administration purposes, were also established.

Be an advocate!!! The Commission encourages that all residents with disabilities and their families communicate with their elected officials about their needs for programs and services. The following pages include contact information for you to use in contacting your elected officials.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**County Executive
Isiah Leggett**

The **County Executive** can be reached at:

Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-0311 (V)
240-773-3556 (TTY)
ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Council

The **County Council** can be reached at:

Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-7900 (V)
240-777-7914 (TTY)
240-777-7888 (FAX)
county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Seated, left to right: President Roger Berliner, Valerie Ervin, Nancy Floreen and George Leventhal.
Standing: Hans Riemer, Craig Rice, Marc Elrich, Vice-President Nancy Navarro and Phil Andrews.

Isiah Leggett, County Executive

Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director

John J. Kenney, Ph.D., Chief

**Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services, Commission on People with Disabilities**

401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor

Rockville, Maryland 20850

240-777-1246 (V) ♦ via MD Relay at 711

**Language translation and alternative formats of this report are available upon request.
For additional information on the Commission, please call the telephone numbers or write to the
address listed above or e-mail via the contact information listed below.**

*Montgomery County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in
employment or in the admission or access to its programs or services.*

2011 - 2012 ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED BY:

Betsy Luecking, *Disability Policy Specialist*
betsy.luecking@montgomerycountymd.gov

Carly Clem, *Office Services Coordinator*
carly.clem@montgomerycountymd.gov

3

LMC

COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
Testimony on the FY 14 Operating Budget before the County Council

April 9, 2013 draft
Jerry Godwin, Chair
Dan Bullis, Vice Chair

Good evening, my name is Jerry Godwin and I am speaking on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs.

- We thank George Leventhal and the Council for your support and advocacy for homeless veterans and their families living in the County. Over the past three years we have advocated for the County to obtain 65 Veterans Administration Supported Housing Program (VASH) vouchers for the County's homeless veterans and their families. The voucher is based on the family size of the recipient. A one bedroom voucher is around \$1310, a three bedroom goes up to around \$1750. If the age of the recipient is around 35 and he/she lives another 40 years always using the voucher, it adds up to a lot of money. A 50 year old single male who lives for another 20 years in a one bedroom are probably closest to 'average' for those who have gotten housed to date. That would be around \$315,000 of value assuming the veteran has no co-pay (he pays 30% of his income which the average co-pay is around \$200/month). If the same calculation was done for families using age 50 for the veteran, the average worth is \$450K+ over a lifetime assuming a 2-3 bedroom unit. In reality, the families are also younger; the veteran is younger, so the voucher would extend over more years, resulting in a number greater than \$450K. We thank Congressman Van Hollen and the County Executive for their advocacy in working with us to obtain these valuable and needed vouchers and intend to advocate for additional vouchers until the day we end homelessness amongst our fellow veterans.

We ask your support on the following priorities:

- The Commission will continue to press the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs for a full-time Veterans Benefits Officer (VBO) as the Maryland Legislature has mandated and will encourage the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA Medical Center to provide more outreach and funding for services to Montgomery County veterans and their families.
- Due to the advocacy of the Commission and Congressman Van Hollen's Office DCVAMC is currently considering a Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in the County that would provide Primary and Mental Health Care for veterans. They are in the planning stages of finding a site for the CBOC that would best serve the veterans population in the county.
- We will consider different means of communication including improvements to our website, use of social media such as Facebook, and opinion/editorial pieces approved by the Commission to local newspapers. We will increase awareness of the Commission and the needs of veterans through satellite meetings whereby the Commission gathers for its monthly meetings at different locations in the County to generate broader interest in the Commission's activities and available resources and information.
- We will work with the County to increase its outreach to veterans regarding programs and services that they are eligible for. Our county's veterans are local citizens as well, and can/should be using the services afforded to *all* residents. We ask that you ensure that all intake forms ask if the person has ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces so that staff can also refer them to a Veterans Benefits Officer.
- One of the Commission's duties is to assist in planning appropriate public acknowledgement of the contributions made by veterans and assist in planning commemoration activities recognizing the contributions of veterans. We continue to plan and hold recognition events such as Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Thank you for your involvement in these events that honor our veterans.

- We look forward to the dedication of the POW/MIA flag that will take place on September 12, 2013. We are most grateful that the County Executive has agreed to fly the POW/MIA flag in the lobby of his office and at certain county Facilities, including the future Veterans' Plaza at the Executive Office building. We hope that the County Council will do this too.
- Our next Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran event will be on April 22 and Max Cleland will be our guest speaker. We hope that you can join us at this event where we will be honoring Vietnam Era veterans. The Commission will continue to explore ways to publically recognize the service of veterans and their families from other wars as well such as Korea, the first Gulf War and our current fight in Afghanistan.
- We ask that the Council allocate funds to install a flat screen TV (or another form of equal recognition) in the Rockville Memorial Library and Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza that lists the names of our fellow Montgomery County residents killed in action after giving the full measure of service and devotion to our Nation.
- Our Commissioners worked with the District of Columbia Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (DCVAMC) to provide outreach services to veterans Monday through Wednesday. DCVAMC Homeless Outreach Staff and Veteran's Justice Outreach Staff are available to assist veterans by making referrals and connect veterans who are eligible for VA services with the VA healthcare system.
- Our Commissioners will continue to work with CSX to improve the accessibility of the new Silver Spring Vet Center Building (2900 Linden Lane, Silver Spring, MD). There is currently a railroad crossing nearby the building that will make it impossible for veterans with wheelchairs to cross the tracks and gain access to the building. That work has already begun and is expected to be completed in early May. . We are also working with Comcast to bring internet service to the building in which the Vet Center will be housed.

Advocacy Agenda

- Our Commissioners continue to work with the Commission on People with Disabilities to advocate for more employment opportunities for veterans. We sincerely thank you for your support in establishing the Hiring Preference for initial appointment to a County Merit System position for veterans with a disability, veterans without a disability, and for persons with a disability.
- Your Commission is available to advise the County Executive and County Council on issues of importance to veterans. We can testify before hearings, meet with the County Executive and staff, and provide written analysis of proposed rules, regulations or legislation. There is a vast wealth of experience on the Commission of the priorities, fears and needs of veterans and their families from World War II to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- As Commissioners, we continually educate ourselves on cutting edge, innovative services for veterans. We have a responsibility to share that knowledge with our fellow veterans and our County's leadership.

MAKE MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND THE MOST VETERAN FRIENDLY COUNTY IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES AND BENEFITS



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

★ ANNUAL REPORT 2012 ★

"Veterans Helping Veterans"

Letter of Transmittal: November, 2012

The Honorable Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
The Honorable Roger Berliner President, Montgomery County Council
Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The Commission on Veterans Affairs is pleased to present a summary of its activities for the past year. We continue to advise and consult with you on issues of concern to the estimated 50,000 veterans, and their families, who live in the County. Under your leadership and with your support, the Commission is mandated to research, assemble, analyze and disseminate information that will assist in meeting the needs of veterans and their families. The Commissioners bring knowledge and expertise to the County by providing valuable input and advice on issues affecting our veterans.

We have focused on identifying veterans and their family members, on recognition of active military and veterans and particularly those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. We thank you for your leadership to recognize and honor those at the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event 2012. We are working to end homelessness amongst veterans and thank you and Congressman Chris Van Hollen for your efforts to obtain, for the third year, 15 Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers bringing the total to 65. The new hiring preference for disabled veterans and veterans brings hope and promise for employment opportunities for veterans. We were pleased on November 6, 2012 with the voters 80% support of Question A which will allow for a special hiring authority, like the federal government has for persons with severe disabilities/disabled veterans. We were also pleased with the **"Respect the Space"** Parking Campaign that will result in increased enforcement of disability parking spaces.

In order to provide greater health care access to veterans, we hope to have your support in working to establish the medical services of a Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in the County operated by the Veterans Administration (VA). We are currently exploring the establishment of a Veterans Court replicated after the Veterans Treatment Court program in Buffalo, NY, which was designed to keep non-violent offenders out of jail. We recently learned from the VA that nationwide 9% of all incarcerated inmates are veterans.

We wish to recognize and give our personal thanks to all Commissioners, the many community members, and the agency staff who participate in our meetings for their commitment and dedication. We would like to acknowledge DHHS Director Uma Ahluwalia for her role in meeting with the Boards, Commissions and Committees to keep us informed of important health and human services issues, and Betsy Luecking, Staff Liaison, and Carly Clem, OSC, for their outstanding support in providing the Commission with the resources needed to carry out our mission. This report is the result of our combined efforts.

It has been a pleasure to work with you and members of the Commission during our term of service. We are confident that you will continue to support the Commission's efforts to enhance the lives of our veterans. Our meetings are open to the public, and we invite you to join us for any meeting.

Sincerely,



Bill Gray

Bill Gray
Chair



Jerry Godwin

Jerry Godwin
Vice-Chair



MEMBERSHIP LIST

2011 - 2012

VETERANS REPRESENTATIVES

Carl Bedell, American Legion / Military Officers Association of America
 Rich Fales, Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Bill Gray, Vietnam Veterans of America
 J. Mauri Hamilton, PhD, Disabled American Veterans
 Roland R. Kauffman, Vietnam Veterans of America
 Vinod Kris Kumaroo, American Legion/Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Elizabeth (Jane) McCarthy, American Legion
 John Mendez, Veteran

GENERAL PUBLIC MEMBERS

Sharon Hodge
 Lorrie Knight-Major
 Jacqueline Hunt Ogg
 Lisa Stern

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Jerry S. Godwin, Dept. of Economic Development
 Richard M. Schiffauer, Dept. of Health & Human Services
 Michael L. Subin, Office of the County Executive
 Montgomery College

NON-VOTING CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Ann Humphrey, Office of Congresssman Chris Van Hollen

STAFF

Betsy Luecking, *Staff Liaison*
 Carly Clem, *Office Services Coordinator*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Membership List	2
HUD, VA Provide Permanent Housing and Support to More Than 180 Homeless Vets in Maryland	3
Veterans Administration Supported Housing (VASH) Request	4
Montgomery County Voters Pass Special Hiring Authority & Overview of Hiring for People with Disabilities, Disabled Veterans, and Veterans	5 - 6
Washington Post Editorial Board Article "Vote For Montgomery County's Question A"	7
Leggett Announces "Respect the Space" Campaign	8 - 9
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans 3rd Annual Reunion	10
Veterans Day 2011 Program & Celebration	11
Projected Number of Veterans in Montgomery County, Maryland	12
Veterans Stymied By VA Backlog	13
FY12 Key Issues of Concern to County Veterans	14
FY13 Operating Budget Testimony	15
About The Commission	16
Connect With The Commission	17
Commission Presentations for 2011 - 2012	17
How To Contact Your County Elected Officials	18

HUD, VA PROVIDE PERMANENT HOUSING AND SUPPORT TO MORE THAN 180 HOMELESS VETS IN MARYLAND

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Press Release - March 28, 2012

Latest estimate shows national veterans homelessness fell by nearly 12 percent

WASHINGTON - U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced today that HUD will provide more than \$1,614,832 to six different housing authorities to supply permanent housing and case management for more than 180 homeless veterans in the state.

The permanent supportive housing assistance announced today is provided through HUD's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH), a program administered by HUD, VA, and local housing agencies across the country.

"It's a national disgrace that one out of every six men and women in our shelters once wore a uniform to serve our country," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "But we know that by providing housing assistance and case management services, we can significantly reduce the number of veterans living on our streets. Working together, HUD, VA and local housing agencies are making real progress toward ending veteran homelessness once and for all."

"Under the leadership of President Obama, we have made significant progress in the fight to end homelessness among veterans, but more work remains," said VA Secretary Shinseki. "The partnership between the federal government and community agencies across the country has strengthened all of our efforts to honor our veterans and keep us on track to prevent and eliminate veteran homelessness by 2015."

This funding to local housing agencies is part of the Obama Administration's commitment to end Veteran and long-term chronic homelessness by 2015. Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness serves as a roadmap for how the federal government will work with state and local agreements to confront the root causes of homelessness, especially among former servicemen and women.

"These grants are reducing the number of homeless veterans in Maryland, and one day we will see this travesty end," said HUD Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent. "These vouchers put us one step closer to reaching that goal."

The grants announced today are part of \$75 million appropriate for Fiscal Year 2012 to support the housing needs of approximately 10,500 homeless veterans. VA Medical Centers (VAMC) provide supportive services and case management to eligible homeless veterans.

Recipient	Partnering VA Medical Facility	# of Vouchers Awarded	1 Year Budget Authority for Vouchers Awarded
Housing Authority of Baltimore City	VA MD HCS (Baltimore)	75	\$684,687
Housing Opprt Com of Montgomery County	Washington, DC VAMC	15	\$169,502
Housing Authority of Prince Georges County	Washington, DC VAMC	25	\$282,944
Cecil County Housing Agency	Perry Point VAMC	25	\$157,694
Baltimore County Housing Authority	VA MD HCS (Baltimore)	25	\$201,335
MD Dept. of Housing & Community Development	VA MD HCS / Pokomoke City OPC	15	\$118,669

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTED HOUSING (VASH) REQUEST

COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

20 January, 2012

Honorable Isiah Leggett
County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD

Dear Mr. Leggett,

On behalf of the Commission on Veterans Affairs, I am writing to request your assistance to have the County request from the Veterans Administration Supported Housing Program (VASH), the national program for providing Section 8 permanent housing assistance to veterans, to give at least 25 vouchers directly to the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission. For each of the last two years, we have been pleased that your requests for the 25 vouchers have been fulfilled and that from last year 25 people are now in the process of renting units and being permanently housed.

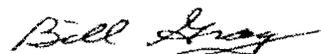
The HUD-VASH program combines a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher with case management and clinical services provided by the VA. Evaluation of the HUD-VASH program has found that recipients increase days housed, employment, income, and social networks. The HUD-VASH program has demonstrated decreases in the number of days recipients spend homeless or in institutions and reductions in the use of alcohol.

It is our understating that the VA Medical Center has over 35 names of veterans in need of housing in the County today. The VA Medical Center locates and prepares the needed documentation for a homeless veteran to enter the VASH program. They then notify the appropriate area HOC/Housing Authority which arranges an interview/intake with the veteran. In 2010 and 2011, through the County's HOC's streamlined system of assigning a key point person, from the time of application to issuing a voucher, the total elapsed time was as little as two days and averaged less than one week. We have heard nothing but superlatives in the way everyone at HOC has assisted these veterans and your professionalism and kindness in working with this special population is remembered and not forgotten.

At any rate, the vouchers for this year are being "divided up" early, in March. If Montgomery County is going to get some directly, this request needs to be made right away. Most homeless veterans are staying in County provided shelters, rehab programs, transitional housing or local hotels in the case of homeless families.

We appreciate any support that you can provide to this effort. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

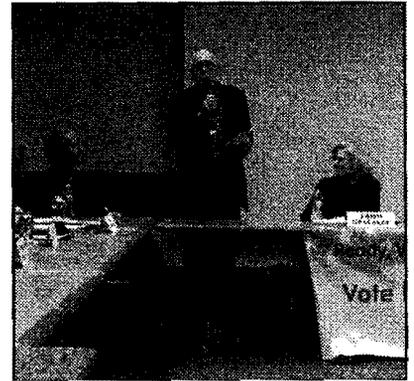


Bill Gray, Chair

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VOTERS PASS SPECIAL HIRING AUTHORITY & OVERVIEW OF HIRING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, DISABLED VETERANS AND VETERANS

November, 2012 - The Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities and the Commission on Veterans Affairs has been working on having a special hiring authority to promote the hiring of people with disabilities similar to the federal government and the voters of the County gave the go ahead for this initiative during the November 6, 2012 Presidential Election.

Over the past several years the Commission has been fortunate to have County Executive Ike Leggett's support as well as that of the entire County Council to have a question put on the November 6, 2012 ballot so that voters could allow for a change in the merit system to allow for this special hiring authority. Montgomery County Councilmember Phil Andrews who introduced the bill to have it on the ballot along with Joe Adler, Director, Office of Human Resources, have both been instrumental in having this initiative come to fruition because of their strong support of people with disabilities/disabled veterans.



Joe Adler, Director, Office of Human Resources, was among the speakers on November 14 as well as Councilmember Phil Andrews (far left) to celebrate the passage of Question A. Also pictured is Trish Gallalee, Chair of the Commission on People with Disabilities (right).

1. **Montgomery County Government** provides priority consideration known as the **Hiring Preference** for initial appointment to a County Merit System position for veterans with a disability, veterans without a disability and for persons with a disability. For more information and to claim a hiring preference, please refer to the Careers webpage on [Hiring Preference](#). Since the hiring preference was implemented in 2010, the following have been hired into merit positions: 7 individuals with disabilities, 1 disabled veteran and 27 veterans.
2. The **Customized Employment Public Intern Project** was created based on the County's knowledge that people with significant disabilities often have difficulty accessing County government positions. As an employer, Montgomery County recognizes that there are many job candidates with significant disabilities who have much to offer but have difficulty competing for traditional jobs within the government. To go above and beyond what other County and State agencies have done, Montgomery County has established an initiative to create flexible work opportunities for individuals to fulfill the work requirements of County departments. All County departments will have the opportunity to work with a customized employment career specialist to identify and create part-time position descriptions based on the department's need. Individuals with significant disabilities will be matched to work tasks based on their interests, skills and competencies. The hope is that the public interns will gain job experience and training to be able to compete for merit positions within the County, as well as at other places of employment. For more information, please contact Marie Parker at mparker@montgomeryworks.com or 240-283-1574.
3. The **Montgomery County QUEST Intern Partnership** was launched in October 2009 with the Maryland Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). The Quest Intern partnership is designed to provide opportunities for individuals to serve as volunteer interns in County Departments and help them obtain job skills by working on a special project(s). The goal for this initiative was to achieve a minimum of ten (10) QUEST Internship placements to be enrolled at any given time. Participating departments identify internship projects suitable for QUEST Intern placements and submit the project(s) for consideration by the DORS QUEST Intern Coordinator. DORS representatives work with county department staff to recruit, identify, and recommend qualified individuals for the approved department projects. The DORS Coordinator recommends qualified intern candidates for consideration and selection by department staff. Department staff interview internship candidates and select individuals to work in the department for a three month or six-month period. The QUEST internship placements do not impact departmental fiscal requirements, since DORS handles all the pre-intern placement arrangements and provides the intern stipends. DORS provides QUEST Interns with a stipend for the duration of their service plus help interns gain job experience needed to help them achieve their goal of obtaining gainful employment after completing the intern placement with Montgomery County. For more information contact Jody Boon, Division of Rehabilitation Services at jboonc@dors.state.md.us or 410-554-9451.

(continued on page 6)

OVERVIEW OF HIRING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, DISABLED VETERANS AND VETERANS CONTINUED

4. The **Montgomery County Project Search Program** was launched by County Executive Leggett in September 2012. It is an intern program to provide opportunities for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. County Executive Isiah Leggett joined officials from the Ivymount School and SEEC, an adult rehabilitation provider, to launch Project Search Montgomery, a one-year transition program designed for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Interns are in their last year of high school or are recent graduates. Twelve interns will work in the Departments of Finance, General Services, Permitting Services, Public Libraries, Recreation and Transportation, along with the Office of Human Resources and the Office of the County Executive.

Accordingly, as it relates to employment opportunities, the County will provide reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities, in accordance with the law. Applicants requiring a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the Office of Human Resources and request a Human Resources Specialist at 240-777-0311 (Voice) or 240-777-5126 (TTY) for assistance and guidance. You may also request a reasonable accommodation for the selection process via email to Special.Accommodations@montgomerycountymd.gov. Individual determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made in accordance with all applicable laws.

On the November 6, 2012 Presidential Ballot

Montgomery County Question A: Merit System – Hiring Individuals with Disabilities

Ballot Question: Amend Section 401 of the County Charter to allow the County to operate a program within the merit system to recruit and select qualified individuals with severe physical and mental disabilities on a noncompetitive basis.

Background: The unemployment and underemployment rate of individuals with disabilities is as high as 70%. In Montgomery County, 40% of individuals with disabilities work, 43% are unemployed, and 31% of working age adults (age 18 - 64) with disabilities are unemployed. In Montgomery County, for age 21+, the disabled are three times more likely to be below the Federal Poverty Level (11.4% vs. 3.6%). The employment rate for people with disabilities in Montgomery County is at an all-time low. Educating all government managers as to how to work with this sector of the population (disabled veterans and people with disabilities) to maximize the contributions of this often marginalized community has been challenging. In 2010, the Council passed legislation that gives veterans and people with significant non-cognitive disabilities preference when applying for an entry position in county government, thereby expanding opportunities for people with disabilities in the county government. The Charter Commission had some concerns about the costs of a schedule A-type authority at the time and agreed to set up a subcommittee to investigate further. On July 31st, 2012 the County Council voted unanimously to put the Charter amendment on the ballot.

Reasons to Support:

- People with disabilities face discrimination daily and are often perceived to be unable to perform with or without reasonable accommodations.
- The Charter amendment would reduce the high unemployment and underemployment rate for people with disabilities. Montgomery County has taken a number of important steps to expand opportunities and be a model employer.
- Employing such individuals with disabilities in paying jobs will reduce their reliance on government services.
- Those who are hired must still satisfy the job qualifications, but the Charter amendment would help mitigate the general discrimination against people with disabilities.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that state and local governments provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities.

WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL BOARD ARTICLE "VOTE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S QUESTION A"

Published: November 2nd, 2012

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT has long given people with severe disabilities a helping hand in employment by allowing managers to streamline hiring procedures for disabled applicants who qualify for an open job. Now Montgomery County is asking voters to revise the county charter to follow the federal model. It's a sensible move to help a group that includes wounded veterans and whose unemployment rate is higher than the national average. County voters should vote for Question A on Tuesday's ballot.

In general, state and local governments have spotty records when it comes to hiring people who are disabled, even those who meet the basic qualifications for jobs. That's a shame, and it reflects antiquated attitudes.

Plenty of public-sector (and private-sector) jobs can be done by people who are blind, deaf or paraplegic or have autism or Asperger syndrome. Likewise, many people with psychiatric disabilities can perform well in the workplace.

Opponents, including some conservatives, regard hiring preferences for disabled people as akin to race-based affirmative action; in both cases, the result may be that a more qualified applicant is denied employment. But there is a broad and compelling societal interest in helping disadvantaged groups that suffer from prejudice based on ignorance and misperceptions. All the more so in the case of veterans, including those who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, who return home with severe combat-related disabilities, be they physical or mental.

Last year, the unemployment rate for those with disabilities was 15 percent, nearly twice the national average. Even as unemployment eased for people without a disability from 2010 to 2011, it remained stuck for disabled people. Similarly, underemployment is a more severe problem for disabled people, a third of whom work part time, compared with 20 percent of those who are not disabled.

Montgomery County's interest in hiring disabled workers is especially strong given that the gateway for so many injured veterans returning to the United States from foreign wars is Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. Those veterans, and others with serious disabilities, deserve a fair shot at local employment if they seek it. The county's charter amendment would help.

LEGGETT ANNOUNCES "RESPECT THE SPACE" CAMPAIGN



Montgomery County, Maryland

News Release 11/21/2011

Leggett Announces "Respect the Space" Campaign: To prevent the abuse of parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities and to prevent the illegal use of accessible placards and plates

With the start of the busiest shopping season of the year, County Executive Isiah Leggett introduced a new education and enforcement initiative, "Respect the Space," to raise awareness about the proper use of accessible parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities.

"During the holiday season, parking lots fill to capacity, making close-in accessible spaces particularly tempting," said Leggett. "But I urge everyone to think very carefully about who those spaces are intended for -- whether it is an injured veteran, a senior citizen with impaired mobility or a person with a permanent physical disability. We all need to respect the space and help ensure that reserved parking spaces are available for those who truly need them."

The Respect the Space initiative is a cooperative effort involving the Montgomery County Police Department, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Permitting Services, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), and the County's Commission on People with Disabilities.



Pictured left to right are: disabled Army veteran Sergeant Ryan Major, the County Executive, Chairperson of the Commission on People with Disabilities Trish Gallalee, Police Chief Tom Manger, and MVA Administrator John Kuo.

Joining Leggett and providing remarks were County Council Vice President Roger Berliner, Administrator for the MVA and Governor Martin O'Malley's Highway Safety Representative John Kuo, Police Chief J. Thomas Manger, member of the County's Commission on People with Disabilities Dr. Seth Morgan, disabled Army Veteran Sergeant Ryan Major, and the Chairperson for the County's Commission on People with Disabilities Trish Gallalee.

County Council Vice President Roger Berliner said, "Respecting accessible spaces is our responsibility year-round, but especially during the busy holiday shopping season. We must all do our part to ensure that the disabled members of our community -- veterans, seniors, the permanently disabled -- have these spaces available to them."

The campaign's five-point program includes:

1. An education campaign to inform the public about the serious problem of disabled parking space violations and abuse.
2. A comprehensive survey, conducted by volunteers, of parking lots and garages in the County, including County-owned and operated parking lots, to confirm their compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-mandated space and signage standards.
3. Notification to parking lot owners who aren't in compliance with mandated standards.
4. More aggressive enforcement of those space and signage requirements by the County's Office of Permitting Services.
5. Stepped up enforcement by Montgomery County Police in partnership with the MVA of the proper and legal use of parking placards, disabled license plates and accessible spaces.

LEGGETT ANNOUNCES "RESPECT THE SPACE" CAMPAIGN CONTINUED

MVA Administrator John Kuo said, "Seven years ago, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration played a leading role in a taskforce that looked at abuses in Maryland's disabled parking system. We are in full cooperation with Montgomery County's efforts to identify and enforce the proper and legal use of parking placards and disabled license plates."

Those who need one must apply for a disable license plate or placard from the MVA. Some basic facts are:

- Those who need an accessible space must apply for and receive a certified placard or plates from the MVA. Without the placard or plate, it is illegal to park in a reserved space, despite one's disability.
- Vehicles with accessible plates can only use reserved spaces when transporting the person with the certified disability.
- For those with accessible placards and plates, always have the medical certification card available as law enforcement officers and their inspectors have the right to ask to see it.
- Accessible tags and placards must be renewed, even for those with a permanent disability.
- If the need for accessible parking has ended, the placard or plates must immediately be turned in to the MVA.
- Temporary placards are available for periods of three weeks to six months.

Information about how to apply for disabled parking placards and permits, as well as laws and requirements regulating them can be found on the MVA website: www.mva.maryland.gov.

Montgomery County Police Chief Tom Manger outlined the kinds of enforcement that his officers will be conducting. The Chief said, "I am encouraging our officers to issue citations to all vehicles that do not have disabled placards or plates and are parked in accessible spaces. If anyone sees a vehicle without an accessible placard or plate in an accessible space, call the police non-emergency number, 301-279-8000 to report it."

A growing concern about the problems of accessible parking abuse was brought to the County Executive's attention by Dr. Seth Morgan, a member of the County's Commission on People with Disabilities. "Parking illegally for even a minute in a disabled-designated spot causes harm. I want to tell everyone that accessible parking misuse is not a benign, 'victimless' crime; the victims are too numerous to count," said Dr. Morgan. Members of the County's Commissions on Veteran's Affairs, Aging, and Health also supported the efforts. Members of those commissions are volunteering to conduct surveys of parking lots for space and signage conformance.

Residents should be aware that people may have "invisible" disabilities – something that is not obvious – but still be fully entitled to park in reserved spaces if they have been certified by the MVA and have an accessible placard or plate.

To find out more information about the Respect the Space initiative, go to the County's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov and click on the Respect the Space icon on the homepage.

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS 3rd ANNUAL REUNION

County Executive Isiah Leggett presented a Proclamation of Appreciation to Bill Gray, Chair of the Commission on Veterans Affairs, during the Third Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion held at the Silver Spring Civic Building. The event included a panel discussion on health care for veterans and a presentation of memorial photos. In addition to the Vietnam Veterans pictured, Montgomery County is home to approximately 50,000 veterans.



Commissioner Carl Bedell moderated a panel discussion on *Agent Orange, Health Care and VA Benefits: What You and Your Family Need To Know*.

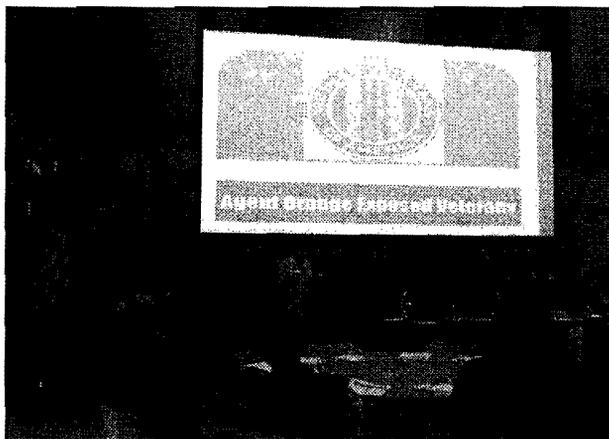
Topics and Presenters:

Agent Orange, Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report, and VA Services — Michelle Kennedy Prisco, MSN, ANP-C, Nurse Practitioner and Environmental Exposure Clinician, War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center.

Transgenerational Issues of Children and Grandchildren — Alan Oates, Chair, Agent Orange/Dioxin and Other Toxic Exposures Committee, Vietnam Veterans of America, U.S. Army, 5th Battalion, 6th Mechanized Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, 1968-1969.

The VA Claims Process — Jim Vale, Esq., Director, Veterans Benefits Program, Vietnam Veterans of America. Licensed member of the Washington State Bar and an accredited Veterans Service Officer Representative by the VA Office of General Counsel. Served in the U.S. Navy from 1989-1994 as an Aviation Electronics Technician. Legally blinded veteran and graduate of both the VA Blind Rehabilitation Program and the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Completed MBA, MAS, MPA, MAS, EDS & JD degrees after military service. Presented "Rating Blinded Veterans Claims" training at the National Organization of Veterans Advocates (NOVA) Fall 2009 Seminar.

The VA Appeals Process — Lauren Kologe, Esq., Deputy Director, Veterans Benefits Program, Vietnam Veterans of America. Licensed member of the Maryland State Bar. She is an accredited Veterans Services Officer Representative by the VA Office of General Counsel and admitted to practice before the U.S. CAVC. She is the co-author of the Sep./Oct. 2011 article, "So you think you might have a claim for PTSD?" in the *VVA The Veteran*.



Speakers from left to right: Alan Oates, Chair, Agent Orange/Dioxin and Other Toxic Exposures Committee, Vietnam Veterans of America, Moderator and Commissioner Carl Bedell, Michelle Kennedy Prisco, MSN BC-ANP Washington DC VA Medical Center, Jim Vale, Esq., Director, Veterans Benefits Program, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Lauren Kologe, Esq., Deputy Director, Veterans Benefits Program, Vietnam Veterans of America.

VETERANS DAY 2011 PROGRAM & CELEBRATION



Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (Center) presented a Proclamation to the Chair of the Commission on Veterans Affairs during the Veterans Day Program and Celebration held at the Silver Spring Civic Center on November 11th, 2011. Pictured (left to right): Montgomery County Councilmember Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Councilmember George Leventhal, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Commissioner Jane McCarthy, Commissioner Mike Subin, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, Chair of the Commission on Veterans Affairs Bill Gray, and Vice-Chair of the Commission on Veterans Affairs Jerry Godwin.

The ceremony included the dedication of artwork entitled "Tribute to Our Veterans" created by noted Frederick County sculptor Antonio Tobias (Toby) Mendez. The clay sculpture, cast in bronze, includes panels featuring historic images of honor guards from the five branches of the armed forces, with one panel honoring the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery. Other panels include Ft. McHenry, the Maryland 29th Infantry insignia, the Battle of Burnside Bridge at Antietam, the Silver Spring train station and images of troops heading to service. The glass work that rests on the bronze includes more than two dozen letters written by veterans from the American Revolution to modern times. The glass also includes images of the two former Silver Spring armories and other photos related to veteran history.



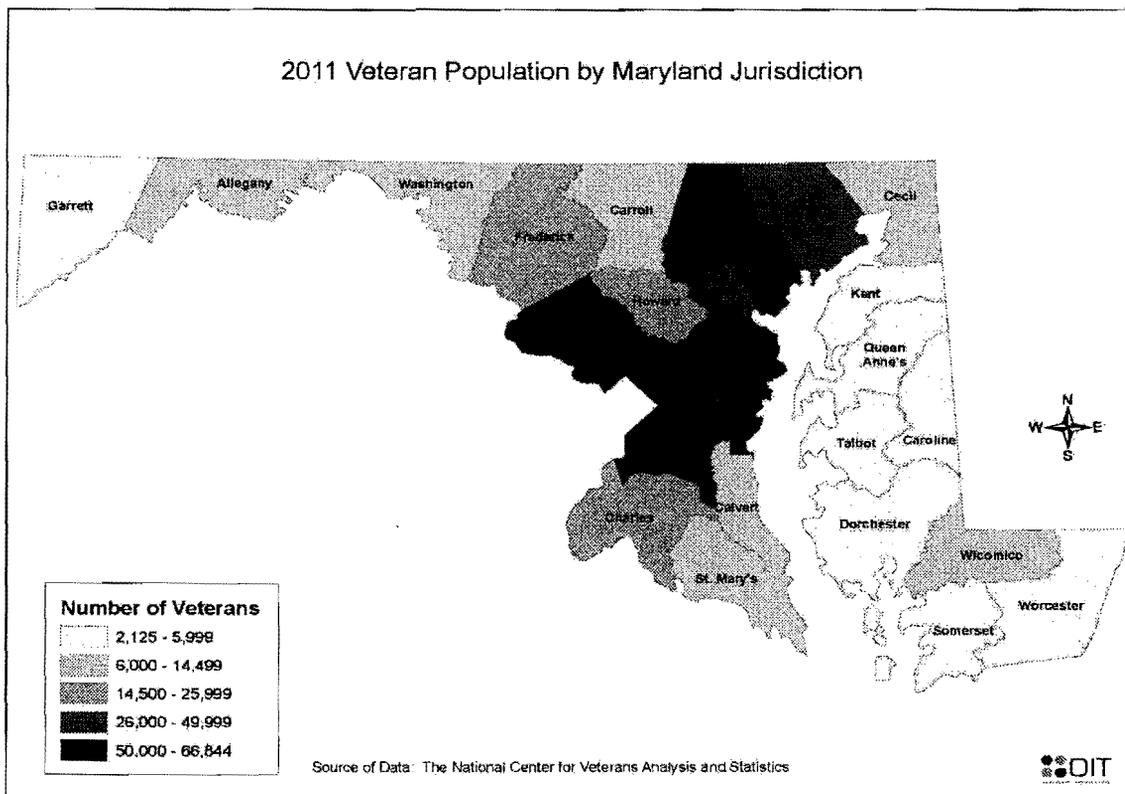
PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, estimates that there are approximately **48,759 veterans living in Montgomery County, Maryland**. According to a 2011 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 9% of Americans self-reported as being a veteran. The Census Bureau defines as veteran as men and women who have served (even for a short time), but are not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4 to 6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps. All other civilians are classified as nonveterans.

Veteran Population of Montgomery County, MD - 2011

Subject	Veterans	Total County Population
Civilian Population 18 years and over	48,759 (6.4%)	750,910
Period of Service	Veterans	% of 48,759
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) veterans	6,972	14.3%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001) veterans	9,312	19.1%
Vietnam era veterans	17,163	35.2%
Korean War veterans	4,242	8.7%
World War II veterans	6,826	14.0%
Gender	Veterans	% of 48,759
Male	43,151	88.5%
Female	5,608	11.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

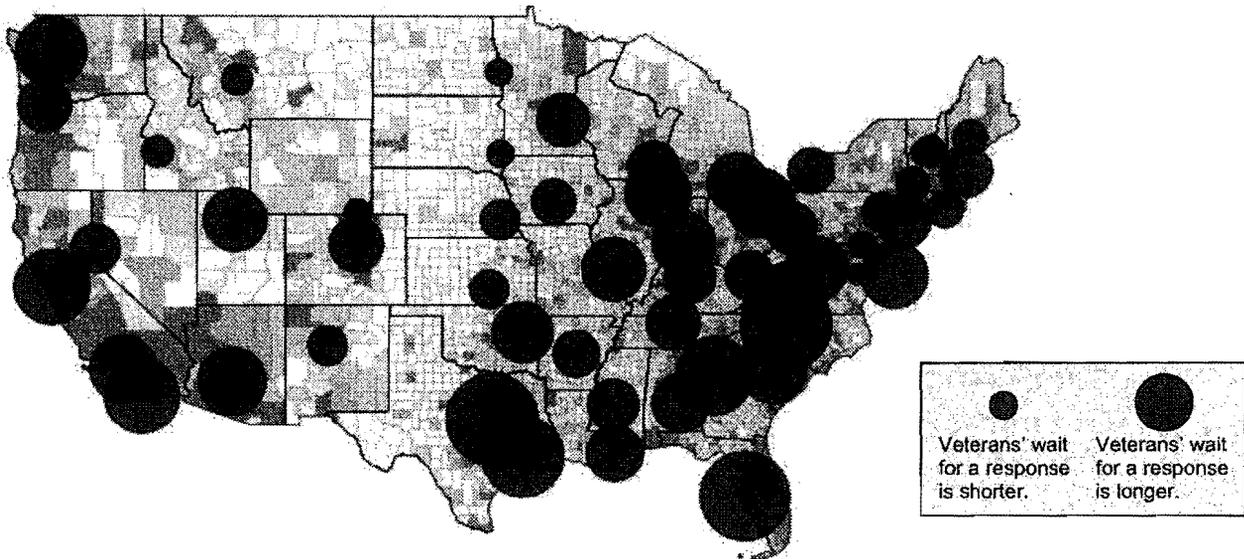


VETERANS STYMIED BY VA BACKLOG

A national analysis by the Center for Investigative Reporting has found that nearly 825,000 veterans nationwide are stymied by a bureaucratic backlog that has delayed payments for war-related disabilities. President Barack Obama pledged in August 2009 to cut the backlog, and his administration has increased spending on staff and operations. Still, the wait times lengthen. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pays veterans \$123 to \$2,673 a month, tax-free, for injuries and illnesses sustained in military service. A map of where in the country the backlogs are greatest is on the [Center for Investigative Reporting website](#). The website is updated on a weekly basis.

The VA Baltimore Regional Office is ranked the third worst VA Regional Office out of 58 offices throughout the country based on the average number of days a veteran waits for a response to his or her claims.

- **19,120 veterans await a response to claims** of a disease, injury or illness suffered in the military (as of 10/01/2012).
- **Disability claims grew 31.7%** in the last 1.4 years. While they wait, veterans often cannot access health care from the agency or receive disability compensation.
- **343 days** is the average number of days that a veteran waits for the government to respond to his or her claims (as of 08/2012). That is an **increase of 32.7%** in the prior 1.3 years.
- **1,413 days** is the average wait time for veterans who appeal a claim (as of 05/2012). That is an **increase of 3.2%** in the prior 1.1 years.
- **82.4%** of veterans are waiting 125 days or more for a response from the VA (as of 10/01/2012).
- It will take **850 days** for the VA to respond to all veterans, if no new claims are field (22 claims / day as of 08/2012).



Source: Center for Investigative Reporting

FY12 KEY ISSUES OF CONCERN TO COUNTY VETERANS

COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS Meeting with County Executive Isiah Leggett February 23, 2012

Key Issues of Concern to County Veterans

1. Issue of Concern: There is a great need to provide more coordinated outreach to better assist Veterans in learning about and applying for the benefits they are entitled to from serving in the U.S. military. Veterans who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam are too often unaware of their VA benefits related to issues including, but not limited to: agent orange, general health care, attendant care, and nursing home/supportive housing assistance for themselves and their spouses.

Proposed solution: We recommend that the County request that the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) provide a full time service officer in Montgomery County. This position would allow more veterans to access more benefits, which often translates into more income for the County. Currently, the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has a veteran services officer at MontgomeryWorks in Wheaton Plaza on the first and third Friday of the month. The Commission has been in contact with the MDVA and plans are in the works to increase that MDVA representative to 3 days per week. We remain hopeful that this position will be granted full-time status in order to provide our Veterans and their families a level of consistency and reliability in service.

2. Issue of Concern: There is a need in the county to provide more consistent community education to veterans on the benefits for which they may be eligible. Though this education is needed for those Veterans who have not been in the service for some time, this need is also true for our Post 9/11 Veterans.

Proposed solution: We would like to see a modified version of the Transition Assistance Planning (TAP) Course, traditionally offered to Service Members prior to separation, offered to the county's Veterans on a yearly or semi-annual basis. Whereas the TAP Program is a relatively new program within the Departments of Defense and Labor, many service members never received this information or were not required to participate in these briefings. We request your support in both providing a yearly or semi-annual training and having Montgomery Public Television film these briefings so they can be made available on-demand.

FY13 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY

COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Testimony before the Montgomery County Council on the FY13 Operating Budget

April 10, 2012

Bill Gray, Chair – Jerry Godwin, Vice-Chair

Good evening, my name is Bill Gray and I am speaking on behalf of the Commission on Veterans Affairs. We appreciate the opportunity to share with you some of our top priorities for the upcoming year. Before using County dollars, we recommend that you set in place practices to take advantage of any and all federally funded programs by the Department of Veterans Affairs or other federal and state programs. For this to happen all agencies and contracted out services need to ask the intake question "Have you or an immediate family member ever served in the U.S. Armed forces, National Guard or Reserves? Then workers should refer these veterans to the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), Veterans Service Officer located in Wheaton.

We also recommend that the County provide a more coordinated outreach to better assist Veterans in learning about and applying for the benefits they are entitled to from serving in the U.S. military. 70% of veterans never use any VA benefits at all. This is partially because they don't know how to go about getting them or don't even know about them. Veterans who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam are too often unaware of their VA benefits related to issues including, but not limited to: agent orange, general health care, attendant care, and nursing home/supportive housing assistance for themselves and their spouses. Though this education is needed for those Veterans who have not been in the service for some time, this need is also true for our Post 9/11 Veterans.

We recommend that the County request that the MDVA provide a full time service officer in the County. This position would allow more veterans to access more benefits, which often translates into more income for the County. Currently, the MDVA has a veteran services officer at MontgomeryWorks in Wheaton Plaza on the first and third Friday of the month. The Commission has been in contact with the MDVA and plans are in the works to increase that MDVA representative to 3 days per week. We remain hopeful that this position will be granted full-time status in order to provide our Veterans and their families a level of consistency and reliability in service.

Veterans too often come back from war with problems that lead them into crime. We request that Council to ensure funding for the Criminal Justice Mental Health Pilot program that Raymond Crowel, in HHS, is working on. That would automatically involve dealing with the mental health issues of veterans involved in the criminal justice system.

We request that Council require all departments to apply for federal grants/seek out partnerships with the private and non-profit sector which would benefit Veterans, their spouses and children. Ideally, it will bring money and/or jobs to Montgomery County.

We were pleased this year that Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) was awarded 15 HUD VASH vouchers for homeless veterans and their families in Montgomery County. These vouchers are provided from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) combined with case management services by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. Please let us know how we can be of assistance.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

HISTORY

The Commission on Veterans Affairs was established by County legislation in 2008 to advise the County Executive and County Council on the coordination and development of the County's policies affecting veterans and their families.

MISSION

The Commission's responsibilities are to research, assemble, analyze and disseminate information and educational materials relating to activities and programs that will assist in meeting the needs of veterans and their families; institute and conduct educational and other programs, meetings, and conferences to promote the rights and opportunities for veterans; advise the Executive and the Council on the status of programs and services in the State and County related to the needs of veterans and their families; and assist in planning appropriate public acknowledgement of the contributions made by veterans, and assist in planning.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission on Veterans Affairs is composed of sixteen voting members and one non-voting who serve in a volunteer capacity. Members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

The Commission includes:

- 8 Veterans
- 4 General Public
- 4 Ex-Officio Members
- 1 Non-Voting Congressional Representative

MEETINGS

All Commission and Committee meetings are open to the public. The Commission welcomes visitors to join us as we serve the County and its residents. Meetings are subject to change without advance notice. Please call to confirm day and time of meetings and to request any special accommodations. As possible, we adjust meeting dates in order to accommodate days of major religious observances. You can view the Commission meeting agendas and meeting summary minutes online at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2012 - 2013

Full Commission Meeting

3rd Tuesday of the month, September to June
Summer recess during July and August
401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850
1st Floor Tan Conference Room
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Workgroups meet, as needed, at differing locations.



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COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2011 - 2012

November, 2011: **Serving Together: Troops, Veterans Family Care Project** – Jessica McNurlen, Project Director

December, 2011: **MontgomeryWorks Veteran Services** – Bob Pelletier, GCDF, Veterans Services

January, 2012: **Tribute to Gregory V. Hamilton, U.S. Navy, Vietnam Veteran**

The Use of EEG Biofeedback for the Treatment of PTSD and TBI – Mary Lee Esty, LCSW-C, Ph.D., BCB, BCN

February, 2012: **Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)** – Joy Flood, Director of Housing Resources, Housing Opportunities Commission, and Ken Barnum, Homeless Veterans Outreach Social Worker, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC)

March, 2012: **Agent Orange and Its Effect On Those Who Have Been Exposed To It** – Tom Berger, Executive Director, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Health Council

April, 2012: **The Montgomery College Veterans' Project** – Zach Zimmerman, former Marine and a Macklin Scholar at Montgomery College

May, 2012: **Wounded Warriors to Work Project** – LaMont Nowlin, Navy Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Wounded Warrior Project Alumni; Brian Nichols, Manager, Warriors to Work; and Daniel Freeland, Brigade Adjutant/(MAP) Manager, Uniformed Services University (USU) Military Personnel Office

June, 2012: **Homeless Veterans and Housing** – The Honorable George Leventhal, Councilmember, Montgomery County Council

September, 2012: **Update** – Ed Chow, Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

October, 2012: **Update on Veteran Service Providers** – Bob Simpson, VP, Military Veterans Operations, Easter Seals, Greater Washington-Baltimore Region; Jessica McNurlen, Project Director, Greater-Washington Baltimore Region; Jessica McNurlen, Project Director, Serving Together, Mental Health Association; and Wayne Miller, LMSW, Readjustment Counseling Services, Vet Center, Bethesda

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**County Executive
Isiah Leggett**

The **County Executive** can be reached at:

Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-0311 (V)
240-773-3556 (TTY)
ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Council

The **County Council** can be reached at:

Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-7900 (V)
240-777-7914 (TTY)
240-777-7888 (FAX)
county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

*Seated, left to right: President Roger Berliner, Valerie Ervin, Nancy Floreen and George Leventhal.
Standing: Hans Riemer, Craig Rice, Marc Elrich, Vice President Nancy Navarro and Phil Andrews.*

**Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
401 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-777-1246 (V) or via MD Relay 711**

**Language translation and alternative formats of this report are available upon request.
For additional information on the Commission, please call the telephone numbers or write to the
address listed above or e-mail via the contact information listed below.**



2011 - 2012 Annual Report Prepared By:

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Montgomery County InterACC/DD

(Jubilee Assn) 10408 Montgomery Ave. Kensington, Md. 20895

Voice 301-949-8628, Fax 301-949-4628

Co-Chairs; Tim Wiens (twiens@Jubileemd.org) & Karen Lee (klee@seeconline.org)

Testimony before the Montgomery County Council
In Consideration of the FY14 Operating Budget

- Inter ACC/DD is requesting an increase of \$665,000 in the DD Supplement in FY14.
- \$350,000 of this is to pay for our growth in services in FY14. We expect that our State funded services will increase by \$4.7 million in FY14 representing approximately 145 new individuals at a County supplement of \$2,400 per person on average. If we do not receive this supplement for these new services we need to either pay staff working with these new individuals less or we need to take money from existing services and give it to these new services.
- \$315,000 would be for a 4% cost of living adjustment for the existing supplement. We want to be able to give our employees cost of living increases and 4% would allow us to do so and begin to catch up with some of the lost earning power they have experienced over the last several years.
- The DD Supplement/Match is designed to pay a better wage for our direct service employees. The direct service wage rate included in our State funding rates is \$9.13. We have agreed that all service providers should be required to pay at least \$1 an hour more than that. We are working with DHHS to verify that all services providers are paying an average wage of at least \$10.13 an hour. We expect to have those results and share them with you by the end of April.

Tim Wiens, Executive Director
Jubilee Association of Maryland and
Co-Chair Inter ACC/DD

Abilities Network/EFMR, The Arc of Montgomery County, CALMRA, CHI Centers, Community Support Services, Inc., Compass Inc., Full Citizenship, CSAAC, Head Injury Rehab and Referral, Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, J.P. Kennedy Institute, Jubilee Assn., MedSource, R.O.I, SEEC, TransCen, The Rock Creek Foundation, Treatment and Learning Centers and other providers and government agencies serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

17
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Testimony by Maxine Hamilton
Requesting Increased Funding to the DD Supplement Match for FY14
April 10, 2013

Good afternoon. My name is Maxine Hamilton and I'd like to begin by thanking the Council for their continued support of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Montgomery County.

Almost 50 years ago, I enrolled my son Graham in one of The Arc Montgomery County's programs to help children who were showing signs of developmental delay. Staff at Children's Hospital referred us to what was then called the MARC nursery, and because this was a cooperative nursery school, I was given a chance to become acquainted with the world of disabilities. This was at a time when parents of such kids were beginning to refuse to relegate their children (and the adults they became) to the fringes of society, to the shadows, even to "institutions" where they could be conveniently forgotten.

Since then, we have made wonderful progress in our country in helping people with disabilities rejoin the mainstream of community life. We have closed institutions, developed community vocational and residential programs, and offer a free and equal public education for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. And finally Maryland has begun to step to the forefront in this effort.

But we have never really faced up to the fact that quality programs cost money. As a board member for The Arc Montgomery County, I was staggered to learn that Maryland currently reimburses community providers only \$9.13 an hour (adding up to an annual salary of less than \$19,000 a year) and provides no funding for additional benefits like health care, vacation, retirement, etc. which any competitive employer must offer, nor funding to offset the cost of transporting consumers to and from community appointments and activities.

To further illustrate this dilemma, a recent effort in the General Assembly to require the state to contract only with employers who paid a living wage put DD providers into a quandary. These providers would be delighted to pay a living wage to their hard-working employees, but at the current rate of reimbursement, this is impossible. There

is simply no way they could make up the 27% difference in wages between what is reimbursed and the living wage, PLUS benefits, for hundreds of employees.

Historically, the DD supplement match has made it possible for The Arc to pay an average of \$12 an hour for entry-level direct service positions, and to offer some benefits to staff. Even so, the true expense for direct care employees in this field is approximately \$17 an hour.

This is why I urge the County Council to increase the DD supplement by \$665,000 for FY14. This increase will allow community providers to give an overdue cost of living adjustment to their direct service employees and support growth by approximately 145 individuals. This is another step in the right direction. The quality of life for real people in our community depends on your support of this request.

Thank you.

Maxine Hamilton
Silver Spring, MD

**Testimony before the Montgomery County Council
By Timothy Hill
Community Living Assistant, CHI Centers
Member of the SEIU Local 500 Bargaining Team
April 10, 2013**

President Navarro, Vice President Rice, and Members of the County Council:

Good Evening. My name is Tim Hill. I am a Community Living Assistant with CHI Centers, a community based residential and occupational program providing services to those with developmental disabilities. I am also proud to serve on the negotiation team for my union, Service Employees International Union Local 500. I am speaking tonight not only for my colleagues at CHI, but also on behalf of employees at CSAAC who are represented by Local 500, as well.

I am here tonight to urge you to increase the funding by \$665,000, to the supplemental match that makes it possible for direct care individuals like my colleagues and myself to receive compensation slightly above the rates provided to our agency by DDA.

Those of us who provide these services to our clients aren't doing it to get rich. We have chosen to work in this field because of an abiding commitment we feel to our clients and the difference we know we can make in their lives. The supplement has made it possible for me to make a little over \$10 per hour. This is not a livable wage.

But without this supplement, our wages would fall to as little as \$9.30 an hour.

Programs such as CHI Centers are woefully underfunded by the state. We know that responsibility for adequate funding for community based programs rests with the Governor and State Legislature. But in the great tradition of our County's commitment to ensuring excellent services to the most vulnerable in our communities, we need you to keep providing this supplement.

We are working through our union on a strategy to collaborate with other SEIU Local 500 represented programs to fight for the state funding that is so long overdue.

With funding staying flat for all these years, and more clients coming into the system, the supplement you provide has been diluted. In fact, we estimate that it would take a 22% increase, just to restore the value of the funding to the level it was at in 2004. Our ask is well below that figure.

We know we are coming out of challenging economic times. Having the relationships that I've developed with my clients have meant the world to me. I know I'm not alone in saying how very much I want to stay in my field. Approving an improvement to the supplement is a small but important step toward our achieving a liveable wage and to continue to provide our clients services.

On behalf of my fellow CHI and CSAAC employees, and our union, SEIU Local 500, I am urging you to not only continue to provide the supplement, but to improve upon it.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

gba

C•H•I Centers Inc.

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Supporting people with disabilities since 1948

Harold Blank, D.D.S.
President

Alan Lovell, Ph.D
Chief Executive Officer

TESTIMONY BY CHI CENTERS, INC.
Supporting people with developmental
disabilities since 1948
April 10, 2013

Alan C. Lovell
Chief Executive Officer

My name is Alan Lovell, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of CHI Centers, supporting people with developmental disabilities. I am present to support the County Executive's budget as it has funding to support our County's most vulnerable citizens.

Programs for individuals with disabilities are eroding across our community. There continues to be a large waiting list for services, especially for Montgomery County citizens with developmental disabilities. This waiting list is exacerbated because our family support system is no longer able to care for their relatives with developmental disabilities.

In addition, our state-wide and local economy does not have the sufficient base of support to provide both needed services and to support the additional medical and behavioral services that have been identified as necessary to continue the community-based services that are essential to the population we serve.

One of the most important areas of need for individuals with disabilities is employment. Our county must continue to not only provide employment along with the Montgomery County Public Schools, but to encourage and even provide incentives for the private sector to employ individuals with disabilities. As you may know, they are the most under-employed population in our community.

A second important area of need, especially for people with disabilities, is transportation. As we build more transportation services, individuals with disabilities must be considered to allow them opportunities for community integration and work options.

10501 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20903-1122
Tel 301-445-3350 Fax 301-439-8117 TDD 301-439-5366
www.CHICenters.org Email Info@CHICenters.org

The Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission (CARF)
United Way Agency #8059
Combined Federal Campaign #27098

87

Finally, as you deliberate the fiscal year 2014 Montgomery County budget, recognize that the non-profit community is not able to benefit from support from foundations, businesses and other funding sources that have cut back on their support. The cost of living factor has not been factored into increased funding, but our costs for housing transportation, food and other costs continue to increase.

These are difficult times for each of us and as you deliberate the fiscal year 2014 budget, CHI Centers and its constituents ask that you know that in order for our agency and our sister agencies to provide quality services, we need your support.

Testimony before the County Council
Susan Ingram, Executive Director, Community Support Services
April 10, 2013

My name is Susan Ingram, Executive Director of Community Support Services, a nonprofit that provides residential, educational, employment, recreational, and community support services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. We need your support to increase the matching funds from the county so that new individuals entering the system, through crisis resolution or as they age out of school, also receive a supplement from the county. The county DD supplement enables providers to pay support staff a better wage than that provided through state rates.

I want to tell you a story that illustrates how important the partnership between the county, the state and private providers is to the health and safety of our most vulnerable citizens. Last week, my staff got a call from the county's Adult Protective Services. They had been notified by Shady Grove Hospital that a man had been admitted to the ICU, suffering from a heart attack. He told the hospital that his wife was at home and needed care, and that he had a son with autism, who would be arriving home after school. A social worker with APS came to our school to see David and talk about what could be done. The APS staff said they had no placements for him that were appropriate, and David is unable to stay alone safely and care for himself. My first call was to Shawn Lattanzio, Aging and Disability Services, as the county provides case management for all individuals on the DDA waiting list. David is a transitioning youth this year, and will age out of school services in June. She was therefore familiar with him, and able to be in contact immediately with DDA, talk to APS workers about the situation, and was able to access respite care services. CSS provided support staff and respite housing services and contacted family members in another state to help. APS workers had the mother taken to the hospital as she was unable to care for herself, had bed sores, was emaciated, and had medical needs that had not been attended to. The house was beyond description, a health hazard is the quickest way to describe the scene found by APS workers. CSS staff assisted David to collect some personal items, but there wasn't much to collect that was useable; a request to our community brought in donations of clothing, and David happily moved into a licensed house with trained support staff and age appropriate peers. The father had bypass surgery on Monday. The crisis was handled to each person's benefit in a single afternoon and follow up services continue. Outcomes are positive; everyone is receiving the care and support they need thanks to a coordinated effort in which the county is a key player.

The proposed county budget includes the match/supplement at the same level of funding as FY 13, not allowing for expansion of new people like David into the system, and not including any cost of living adjustment. The percentage of the match to state funds has dropped steadily for the past ten years, from 10% to 7%. Transitioning youth with intensive needs had a difficult time this year finding providers able to support them; as the percent of match decreases, it is becoming too difficult to make up the inadequate rate from the state. It would take a 22% increase to return to precession levels of supplemental funding.

CSS is being asked to develop new services for 20 individuals between now and July 1 for a total annualized amount from the state of 1.6 million. CSS needs a match from the county of \$117,000 to increase support staff wages above the \$9.13 in the state rate and to provide the quality of service needed by these twenty new individuals. It is estimated that in Montgomery County a total of 145 new individuals are eligible for and need DDA funded services in FY 14 for a total annualized amount of \$4.7 million of state funds. These Montgomery County residents need a total increase in the county supplement of \$350,000, on average \$2400 per person, to maintain the same level of supplement as for existing individuals. Additionally, we are asking for a cost of living adjustment of \$315,000(4%) for a total increase to the FY 14 supplement of \$665,000. With county support, we will be able to continue to meet the needs of new Montgomery County residents entering the service delivery system.

JJSM

Good Afternoon Montgomery County Council. My Name is J J S Moses. I speak on behalf of the Metropolitan Assisted Living Group Home Association. I want to thank you for the opportunity extended to me to share a few thoughts on what we as Group Home Providers are facing in this day and age in the financial realm just to make ends meet. Every effort is made to assist our senior citizen live a purposeful, productive and fulfilling life. In Montgomery County there are about one hundred and fifty six Assisted Living Small Group homes. Small Group Homes are Homes licensed for sixteen and less resident occupancy. There are in the neighborhood of 400 residents who live in these homes. They fall in different programs the county offers, such as

- 1. Group Home Subsidy Residents
- 2. Foster Care Subsidy Residents
- 3. Waiver Programs Residents
- 4. Project Home Residents

We have reached a stage in the history of our nation when we are going to be flooded by the Tsunami of baby boomers who are going to knock at our door steps seeking for a place to live. Many may have to be turned down due to the lack of funds. The demand for the Small Group Homes are on the rise due to the fact that

1. The longevity of man is far greater than what it used to be. A few years back if one lived for three score and ten we would ^{look} upon him with amazement and ask him what was the secret of his long life. Today 80 plus years is almost the norm. Thanks to the medical science and the Care Providers who care for our seniors with Love, compassion and kindness. May I add kindness cannot be paid back.

2. Our Soldiers are returning from Iraq an Afghanistan

3. Homelessness is on the rise

4. The patients stay ⁱⁿ hospitals and nursing homes (medical institutions) are shortened.

Mission: To empower MALGHA home owners and operators to live up to the standards, ideals and principles for which MALGHA stands which ultimately supports to promote the healing of the mind, body and spirit.

Vision: Champion opportunities and programs to assist home owners and operators to exceed the monitoring agency regulations and policies.

Goal: To create a working climate with all the monitoring agencies. And build a platform to bridge the existing gap between the monitoring agencies and the group homes for a healthy relationship. The ultimate goal is make MALGHA an international organization to advocate for the Assisted Living Group Homes globally as an excellent resource for Care Providers who enhance the quality of life of the seniors worldwide.

MISSION 11: This Mission of Metropolitan Assisted Living Group Home Association is to advocate communication and application of outstanding services to promote health, education and human welfare.

VISION 11: *The Metropolitan Assisted Living Group Home Association Aspires to excel effective, influential and valuable organization, serving as*

- a. *Uniting organization for all assisted Living Providers.*
- b. *Primary resources for all assisted Living agencies.*
- c. *Promoting training of Assisted Living Providers and staff.*
- d. *Leading advocate for Assisted Living Agencies and Group Homes.*
- e. *Sharing of information between policy makers and the public to improve policy and Assisted Living programs.*
- f. *Effective force to promote individual rights, health, wellbeing and dignity.*

Metropolitan Assisted Living Group Home Association commits to its vision through a mission based upon the following values.

- a. *Continuous pursuit of excellence*
- b. *Outstanding service to its members and society.*
- c. *Diversity and inclusion*
- d. *Establishment of high standards of ethics, conduct, training and achievement*
- e. *Increasing and disseminating professional knowledge through meetings, seminars professional contacts. Reports, discussion, and publications*

Someone asked Helen Keller "What is worse than being Blind" She promptly responded by saying "Having Sight and no Vision"

Quoting the Holy write (the Holy Bible) "where is no vision People perish"

MALGHA (Metropolitan Assisted Living Group Home Association) has visions to assist the seniors of our county who have given their blood sweat and tears to make us be what we are today and yet when they have reached their golden years in their lives we are handicapped or unable to care for them to reach their potential due to the financial shortage. However though we have not received any ^{financial} raise for these many years (13 years). we have not compromised the services to these our mentors, pundits and gurus. On a similar note

The state and the county have put in place and are continuing to put in place rules and Regulations, policies, procedures, protocols that has placed such a strong burden, demand, strain and excruciating pain on a few homes owners that they have decided to shut or close their homes. I can see this trend widely spreading. Before this decrease of shutting down or closing down the homes become too contagious. I would strongly suggest, recommend and appeal to the county council to make funds available to meet the growing demands for the Small Group Homes and compensate the Care providers fairly and appropriately.

We as Small Group Home Providers have not received a rate increase in the last 13 years or so. We are presently reimbursed \$ 1175.00 per month per resident for a double occupancy room. If you divide \$1175 by 30 (the number of days in a month) we get \$39.16. This is what we get paid for the whole day. If we divide 39.16 by 24 (number of hours in a day) we get \$1.63.

That is rate of pay we get per hour for everything, which includes, staffing, boarding, lodging, housekeeping, medication supervision, entertainment, activities etc, etc just to mention a few. We make every effort that these our fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts, grandfathers and grandmothers who gave their all

*Have their privacy,
Have quality of life and
Live a life with dignity.*

Last year I wanted to go out of town. Not finding anyone to care for my pet dog while I was gone, I took my dog to the kennel to care for it while I was gone on my trip. The cost of houseing my dog for one day was costing me in the neighborhood of \$35.00 . The reimbursement we get per resident per day is \$39.16

*The cost of living from the year 2000 till now has gone up by about 300 percent. We as Care Providers have not received **ANY** raise for these many years.*

In the following pages I have broken down the cost of providing care for one resident to live for one month in an Assisted Living Group Home based on eight resident occupancy. It is my request on behalf of the Group Home Care Providers (MALGHA) that the County give us a fair consideration and make funding available. Thank you so very kindly for your kind consideration. I would like to draw your attention to an article that was published in the Washington Times yesterday April 10, 2013. I shall not take the time to read it as time is of essence. (copy enclosed) but just to quote one section of the article

"The Various Social Security Reforms being discussed include making people work longer before they are eligible for retirement benefits, making workers pay more into the system and of course doling out less benefits"

MALGHA would like to requests a rate increase, based on the cost analysis noted below.

1. The County License is \$60 per bed per year; for 8 beds it is \$480.
2. In comparison, the State License which used to be \$200 has gone up to \$300 for every two years. The County License is double that of the State License.
3. We are prosing with the license fee received by the County the following 4 items listed below should be included as part of this fee collected.

License

County License fee	\$60.00
State License Fee	\$19.00
Septic & sewer fee	\$14.00
Fire Marshal fee	\$27.00
Sprinkler & smoke detector	\$50.00

4. Administrative Cost

Payroll / Accountant	\$75.00
CEO salary, Lawyer fee	\$313.00
Advertising costs (advertisement, Business cards, etc)	\$313.00

5. The cost of mandatory training

80 Hour course	\$19.00
20 Hours course	\$18.00
Medication Technician course	\$43.00
Medication Technician Renewal course	\$22.00
CPR & First Aid course	\$22.00

5. Cost Of Living

The cost of living has gone up by 300 to 400 percent

Mortgage	\$562.00
Grocery	\$50.00
Gas	\$40.00
Water	\$40.00
Electricity	\$45.00

7. Communication

Phone	\$50.00
Cable	\$20.00
Stationary (Printer, Inc, Paper, stamps etc.)	\$40.00
8. Vehicle cost \$25,000 with financing for 5 yrs =	\$32,000
Vehicles are expected by the licensing agency	\$67.00
9. Insurance	
MUIF	\$92.00
Tax withholding	\$125.00
Liability Insurance	\$65.00
Workman's comp	\$25.00
Health Insurance	\$65.00
Auto insurance	\$40.00
10. Delegating Registered Nurse	\$75.00
11. Pharmacy Review (9 or more meds)	\$75.00
12. Activities	\$50.00
13. Activities Supplies	\$25.00
14. Maintenance	
(Stove, washer, dryer, steam cleaning, beds, etc)	\$100.00

15. Engineers

- a. Exterminators \$40.00
- b. Landscaping
(lawn moving, leave raking, snow removal) \$50.00

All the above items have been rounded up to the closest dollar.

The total cost is for per resident per month.

TOTAL COST \$2631.00

For all these past years the Small Group Home owners receive \$1, 175 per resident coming from the Subsidy Program or Foster Care Program. We ask that you consider our monthly costs and provide a fair and reasonable raise from the current monthly fee of \$1,175.

We will be delighted and honored to discuss this issue and a few other concerns in reference to operating the Assisted Living Small Group Homes in Montgomery County..

Thank You for your kind consideration

Yours Sincerely,

Social Security 'reform': This is another stickup

Having plunged America trillions of dollars deeper into debt with little to show for it, President Obama reportedly has found agreement with congressional Republicans on something: Social Security "reform."

The U.S. is so desperate for any hint of financial sanity out of politicians in Washington that we innocent taxpayers are understandably quick to embrace the slightest move toward stanching the river of red ink that our children and grandchildren will be yoked with paying off for decades.

The various Social Security "reforms" being discussed include making people work longer before they are eligible for retirement benefits, making workers pay more into the system and, of course, doling out less benefits.

Only in Washington with this crowd of criminals would such a "reform" offer us a glimmer of hope.

Let's review how we got here.

Some 70 years ago, politicians in Washington decided that they needed to take charge of our retirement savings. They levied a mandatory payroll tax to establish a Social



Security fund that would pay workers after they retired. This was to keep old people from the indignity of eating cat food.

This worked just fine for about 30 years. In fact, it was so financially successful that politicians — closely related to common bank robbers — decided that they wanted a more hands-on approach to spending all of this free money flowing in. So, in 1968, President Johnson and Congress jointly started raiding your retirement account.

No longer would workers' payroll taxes be spent only on retirements. Instead, politicians could spend your retirement savings on all their more pressing priorities such as political favors, boondoggles and government buildings. Never mind that if an evil Wall Street tycoon did this, he would go directly to jail.

So here we are, another 40 years of

reckless spending later. The amount of money coming in from payroll taxes is now eclipsed by the amount that goes out in payments to retirees. This Ponzi scheme is, shall we say, underwater, and the sanest people involved are calling for Social Security "reform."

This would be like if you had a bank and robbers walked in every day for 40 years and stole everything customers had deposited. Then, after 40 years, people come in to withdraw their money only to find that all their deposits for the past 40 years have vanished. The only money left to be withdrawn is that which was deposited that day.

Stunned, broke and perplexed, you walk out onto the sidewalk and standing there is one of the bank robbers. He is holding a picket sign calling for "bank withdrawal reform" and talking about how people should start depositing more money and how they just need to learn to withdraw less.

What is really scary is that this guy standing on the street is the most honest of the bunch. At least he says he has given up his days as a bank robber.

So it is today with the Social Security

reformers in the Republican Party. Still, it is worth asking, "Well, how about federal government reform? Or thieving politician reform? Or, stop stealing our money reform?"

Although it is a wee bit apparent that Mr. Obama suddenly realizes that Social Security is faltering as a federal government Ponzi scheme, there is no evidence that he is ready to give up the big-spending, high-rolling ways of a bank robber. On the contrary: A stunning report from The Hill newspaper last week suggests he aims to take the thieving to yet another level.

According to a "senior administration official," Mr. Obama wants to go after the private retirement accounts of people he deems have saved too much for their retirements. Some taxpayers, the official fumed, have accumulated "many millions of dollars in these accounts, substantially more than is needed to fund reasonable levels of retirement saving."

No, really, Mr. Obama, you politicians have done quite enough already, thank you. Maybe it is time you move to Cyprus. You would fit in perfectly over there.

• Charles Hurt can be reached at charleshurt@live.com.

POLITICS

McConnell furious at 'Watergate-style' tape

st. (9/6) discussed how to derail Judd

but the McConnell camp is treating the



4/10/13

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Ladies & Gentlemen,

My name is Albertha Coley, I came to add my voice because I am a very small business owner - An Assisted living Residence. 5 beds.

There are all types & size of business in this county, and we all serve a purpose.

One might say - you are not making any money so why do you stay in business - I am not making any money at all in my business. I give to the limited elderly, my heart. I give them the best of me, or all of me.

I am here to say that the ^(county) government need to care a little bit more about us - the small group home owner. We are abused - to put it strongly. We need monies put in the budget to help us. To help us how - 1. Increase the reimbursement amounts paid to us for taking care of the County's subsidized wards. We have more responsibilities than a lot of families have for their loved ones. Providing quality care is not cheap. Out of what is given us, we have to turn around and give it back for all kinds of inspection & license fees.

Please, raise the bar a little for the Small group home owners by allocating more in the budget for us.

(97)

MSM

Testimony of Martha Haddad
Supporting Respite Services of Montgomery County
April 11, 2013

I am very pleased to receive respite care for my autistic son who's 9 years old with low functioning capabilities. Respite Services of Montgomery County has helped me so much by giving me time to spend with my 5 year old daughter. It is very difficult as a single mother to juggle 2 children alone, especially when one has autism. Having a special needs child is very difficult and demanding, because they require 24/7 care. It is mentally and physically exhausting.

Respite care gives me a break from the stress of raising an autistic child, and lets me spend time with my daughter. We can do activities together without worrying about my son, at least for just a little while. Please keep funding Respite Services so parents like me can have a mental and physical break from daily caregiving which would otherwise be overwhelming. Thank you.

Martha Haddad
812 Johnson Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20904

WGA

My name is Melinda Jabbie. I speak to you today as the President of GROWS, the Grassroots Organization for the Well-being of Seniors in Montgomery County, representing over 200 senior service providers and those we serve. On behalf of GROWS and the seniors of Montgomery County, I ask that you support the senior initiative, as put forth in county executive's budget. I would also like to impress upon you the importance of a village coordinator's position, which is not included in the executive's budget.

The Commission on Aging has testified before you yesterday about the gap between the increase in need and the existing levels of funding for various programs. The coming decade brings with it a unique combination of increased demand for services but also an increased number of active, vibrant, civic minded older adults. GROWS believes that the county should invest in creating a sustainable infrastructure for successful aging and harness the volunteerism spirit of older adults to support that very segment of the population.

Specifically, GROWS strongly supports the additional funds for transportation services that are funneled through the departments of transportation, recreation and HHS. It is heartening to see the impact of effective advocacy since transportation is a top priority for seniors. We think that the mobility management program should have full funding, as Elaine Binder has identified fragmentation as a primary concern. We will monitor the impact of this program in this coming year.

GROWS also supports the additional funding for home-delivered meals. Seniors who cannot cook independently should not be placed on a waitlist. This is truly a basic need the county must meet.

I would like to explain why GROWS is advocating for a village coordinator. GROWS strongly believes in public private partnerships as a viable mechanism to leverage government resources. A village coordinator is an excellent example for county facilitation of grassroots initiatives. Villages prevent seniors from needing county services by resorting to informal neighborhood networks of support. They help people age in place, which is what they want. By supporting local groups with just one full time employee, the county can potentially leverage thousand of volunteer hours all across the county.

One final comment involves communications. Last year, GROWS requested that the county considers a plan to publicize its wonderful programs and services. We continue to see this as an important mechanism to reach out to isolated seniors and ask that Public Information Office be granted a small amount of funds to print and mail a simple information card with essential gateway phone numbers for senior services. Older adults still depend heavily on printed media and most do not know the full extent of the county services.

The budget is tight and funds are limited. But let's plan today for tomorrow. Let's not be penny wise and dollar foolish. We must keep our aging residents vital and functionally independent as much and for as long as possible.

Thank you.

(99)