

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 22, 2015**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>
Rudolph Oswald	Grace Whipple
John Honig	Syed Yusuf
Sam Korper	Miriam Kelty
Noelle Heyman	Noureen Chochan
Myrna Cooperstein	Tammy Duell
Sue Guenther	Doug Newton
Mort Faller	Revathi Vikram
Spencer Schron	
Judith Levy	<b>Liaisons</b>
Song Hutchins	Sarah Gotbaum, Elder Women’s Aging Alliance
Arva Jackson	Stephanie Moore, Housing Opportunities Commission
DaCosta Mason	Austin Heyman, Office of Community Partnerships
Isabelle Schoenfeld	Phil Smakula, Department of Recreation
Jerry Morenoff	
Paul Del Ponte	<b>Guests</b>
Barbara Mulitz	
Karen Maricheau	
David Denton	
Charles Kauffman	
Helen Abrahams	<b>Staff</b>
Stephanie Edelstein	Odile Brunetto, Director Area Agency & Aging
Amoke Alakoye	Tremayne Jones, Department of Health & Human Services

Chair, Judith Levy opened the meeting at 9:30 am.

**COA Administrative Business**

Brief Business Meeting–The COA members unanimously approved minutes from the September 17, 2015 meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report-Rudy Oswald** reported the current account balance as of October 22<sup>nd</sup> is \$1,954.00

**County Executive Summit on Aging in Montgomery County**– will take place on December 3, 2015 at the Silver Spring Civic Building located in Silver Spring Maryland. The event is by invitation only and everyone on the COA should have gotten an invite letter.

**HHS/Council Committee Priorities Presentation** –Judith Levy, Chairperson attended the meeting of representatives of MC Boards, Commissions and Committees with HHS/Council Committee Chairman, George Leventhal on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Judy presented COA’s FY17 priorities.

**Nominating Committee Report**–Myrna Cooperstein

The members of the committee Myrna Cooperstein, Tammy Duell and John Honig presented the nominations for 2016 officers. Chair, Noelle Heyman; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Isabelle Schoenfeld; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Rudolph Oswald; Secretary, Stephanie Edelstein and Treasurer, Revathi Vikram. The COA will vote for officers at the November COA meeting.

**HHS FY17 Budget Community Forum**–will take place October 26th from 6-8 pm at the Children Resource Center located at 332 W. Edmonston Drive in Rockville Maryland. The forum is held for the community to voice their opinions to the HHS Committee. Noelle Heyman will represent COA.

**September 2015 Area Aging on Agency Report – Dr. Odile Brunetto**

- The Summit on Aging
  - The Age-Friendly survey can be completed online or in paper format. The online survey has generated over 1,200 responses to date. The respondents are mostly Caucasian women and homeowners. There is an intention to reach other senior populations. The paper format is available throughout the county at senior centers and libraries. The Focus Groups with seniors continue to be conducted. Three main themes have emerged as needing greater attention in MC: transportation, housing, and communications.
  - Planning Committee for December 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit on Aging is meeting and will tighten the agenda.
  - Speakers are confirmed. An AARP representative will be there to help announce that MC will be submitting documents as part of the applications to AARP and WHO to become an age-friendly community.
  - December 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit on Aging event will have subject matter experts that will meet in workgroups in morning and afternoon sessions. Each workgroup will have a facilitator and recorder.
  - A list of accomplishments since 2008 is being drafted. There will be a videotape of highlights of top accomplishments.
  - Marcia Pruzan a COA alumnus, will be putting together the Summit on Aging report.
- Budget preparation for FY17 is under review by Office Management Budget (OMB). Each County Department must submit their FY17 budget. HHS must submit a proposed budget with reductions of \$10 million dollars less than what they now have in terms of County funds, which is about 5% percent in reductions.

- P/T Caregiver Coordinator Position has been unfrozen and interviews will begin sometime next month.

### **Legislative Breakfast–DaCosta Mason and Rudy Oswald**

DaCosta discussed the annual legislative breakfast that will be held on November 12 at the Holiday Park Senior Center, Wheaton, MD. The legislative breakfast gives the Commissioners the opportunity to meet directly and speak with the MC delegation to the State Legislature about COA’s priorities at the state level. The legislative breakfast will focus on two issues: Caregiver Support and Elder Financial Abuse. The objective of caregiver support is to increase awareness of the challenges and unmet needs of family caregivers in Montgomery County and to encourage the legislators to support the CARE Act . Elder Financial Abuse is the illegal or improper taking/use of an older adult’s funds property or assets. It is one of the fastest growing crimes of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and there is a need for legislation to hold elder financial abuse as a criminal as well as a civil offense.

### **Bylaws Review–Isabelle Schoenfeld**

Isabelle thanked those who were on the Bylaws Team. The Bylaws were updated to better reflect current functioning and to move details from the Bylaws to a yet to be developed Operations Guideline document. No significant changes were made in the Bylaws except for the elimination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president position and the addition of the most recent previous COA Chairperson to the Executive Committee.

### **October 28<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders Forum–Spencer Schron and Grace Whipple**

Spence addressed the COA on the Stakeholders Forum “Family Caregiving Support.” The forum will take place on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 12pm at the Silver Spring Civic Building, Silver Spring, MD. The objective of the forum is so that the COA along with legislators, non-profit organizations, businesses and family caregivers can come together to make recommendations and explore possible solutions to assist family caregivers in MC.

### **White House Conference on Aging–Barbara Mulitz**

Barbara attended the White House Conference on Aging at the White House. The purpose of the Conference was to focus on the issues facing every American as they plan for retirement, care for older loved ones, and improve the quality of life for older Americans. The four issues that were given priority were—retirement security, long-term services and supports, elder justice, and healthy aging. To find out more information about the White House Conference, go to [whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov](http://whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov) or [aging.gov](http://aging.gov). Barbara indicated that there should be a website of best practices around the country.

### **Liaisons Reports:**

**Department of Recreation–Phil Smakula** asked for COA’s support for the new North Potomac Community Center/Senior Center that is scheduled to open in 2016. The Office Management Budget (OMB) has asked the Department of Recreation for justification for the need for a separate Director for the Senior Center part of the Community Center.

The mobile dental clinic did receive funding from the state to continue the dental program around the County for seniors. The dental clinic will operate at White Oak, Holiday Park and Gaithersburg Centers.

Department of Recreation did receive funding for a multi-lingual recreation specialist that was frozen in FY15 budget. The job listing will be advertised in October.

**Housing Opportunities Commission–Stephanie Moore** addressed the COA members about HOC currently working with Montgomery County Public Libraries in an effort to bring the library services as a pilot program to two of HOC senior sites. Holly Hall is partnering with a non-profit organization called Care for your Health that supplies free health screenings for those who are uninsured. The organization is supported by County funds.

**COA Alumni Committee–Vivien Hsueh** spoke about the work the COA alumni committee continues to do to support the COA. COA alumni are currently working with COA to help spread the word about the County Executive Summit on Aging. The intention of the Alumni group is to support COA activities but not to duplicate them. She indicated that COA alumni would like to attend the COA Holiday event.

**Other Items:**

- Judy Levy stated that she hoped new members are attending COA Committee meetings. There is a need for new Committee chairs and co-chairs.
- Noelle Heyman stated that the Health and Wellness Committee is addressing workforce development to support staffing needs in long term care facilities. The next H&W Committee meeting will discuss RN and CNA programs. Judy suggested that the committee get someone from the Board of Nursing to speak.
- Helen Abrahams will be the liaison to GROWS.
- Sarah Gotbaum stated that the Older Women’s League is conducting a meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup> on the Hebrew Home’s Safe Haven program.
- Mort Faller reported that the Board of Elections will retain the two Senior Centers for voting.
- Karen Maricheau stated that Takoma Park is making progress in building an age-friendly intergenerational community.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00pm

Respectfully Submitted  
Isabelle Schoenfeld, Secretary