

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES**

April 23, 2015

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>
Miriam Kelty	Tammy Duell
Isabelle Schoenfeld	Barbara Mulitz
Song Hutchins	Sue Guenther
Arva Jackson	Rudolph Oswald
Sam Korper	
Syed Yusuf	<b>Liaisons</b>
Jerry Morenoff	Phil Smakula, Department of Recreation
Charles Kauffman	Marcia Pruzan, Commission on Health
DaCosta Mason	Austin Heyman, Office of Community Partnerships
Grace Whipple	Sarah Gotbaum, Elderly Women's Aging Alliance
Paul DelPonte	Morton Davis, Montgomery County Police Department
Spencer Schron	Patricia Lesnick, Ethnic Affairs Committee
Noelle Heyman	Leslie Marks, Senior Fellow-DHCA
Myrna Cooperstein	Jack Sprague, Rockville Senior Center
Judith Levy	Gail Gunod-Green, Housing Opportunities Commission
Revathi Vikram	Stephanie Gilbert, Housing Opportunities Commission
Sally Shea	
	<b>Staff:</b>
	Odile Brunetto, Director Area Agency & Aging
	Tremayne Jones, Department of Health & Human Services

Chair, Judith Levy opened the Commission on Aging's (COA) meeting at 9:00 a.m.

**Brief Business Meeting**

The COA members unanimously approved minutes from the March meeting.

**COA Administrative Business:**

**Treasurer's Report-**\$1,833.09

It was agreed that COA will fund the COA Alumni Group meeting.

**COA Chair Report:**

- Participated in information meetings on the Age Friendly Communities Initiative. Meetings participants included MC HHS Director, Uma Ahluwalia; A&D Chief, John Kenney; AARP, Jeanne Anthony; and Associate State Director for Outreach, Maryland AARP Christie Ray. F
- Facilitated a Senior Leadership Montgomery event that was very well attended. The speakers were Rona Kramer, Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging; Uma Ahluwalia, MC HHS Director; and Linda McMillan, Legislative Aide, MC Council.
- Testified on behalf of COA at the Council Hearing on April 14, 2015. There were positive comments about COA.
- Reminded COA members that the Summer Studies deadline is May 19, 2015. Any COA member can propose a summer study.
- City of Gaithersburg 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Active Aging Expo presented by Adventist HealthCare will take place on Monday, May 4, 2015 from 9-2pm at the Activity Center located at Bohrer 506 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg Maryland. The Department of Health and Human Services will have a table at this event.
- White House Watch Party will take place on April 27, 2015 at the White Oak Senior Center located at 1700 April Lane, Silver Spring Maryland. The webcast of the Forum will start at 8:30 AM and end at about 12:30 PM. The White House Conference on Aging is hosting a series of Regional Forums to engage with older Americans, their families, caregivers, leaders in the aging field, and others on key issues affecting older Americans. The purpose of the Forums is to help provide input and ideas for the upcoming 2015 White House Conference on Aging, which will focus on four areas: ensuring retirement security; promoting healthy aging; providing long-term services and supports; and protecting older Americans from financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect. The Forums are being co-sponsored with AARP and co-planned with the Leadership of Aging Organizations, a coalition of more than 70 of the nation's leading organizations serving older adults.
- JCA Maryland will hold a free 50+ Employment Expo on Monday, June 1, 2015 from 10am-3pm. The expo will take place at Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center located at 5701 Marinelli Road, Bethesda, Maryland. For more information or accommodations please email [mgordon@AccessJCA.org](mailto:mgordon@AccessJCA.org) or call (301) 255-4209. COA will have a table at the Expo and Isabelle was seeking COA members to staff the table.

## Updates:

Dr. Odile Brunetto, Director, Area Agency on Aging shared with the Commission on Aging the following:

- FY16 County Budget HHS/Committee of County Council is scheduled for April 28th
- State Budget FY15 Reduction instead of \$61,000 is now \$23,000 for senior care
- State Budget FY16 Reductions details unknown at this time depending on Governor Hogan's decision
- Two facilities closing on June 30th: Springhouse Bethesda, 23 residents still reside in the facility (21 Assisted Living Facility. 2 Respite)  
Springhouse Silver Spring, 7 residents still reside in the facility (2 Independent Living

5 Assisted Living Facility). Company refunded less than families sought and attorneys are now involved.

- Reminders of benchmarks:
  - Federal: 80th anniversary Social Security
  - 50th anniversary Medicare
  - 50th anniversary Older American Act (OAA)
- While the reauthorization of the OAA is realistic for this year, strong advocacy is needed
- Planning for 2nd Senior Summit December 2015, will get assistance from a consultant to organize event, conduct focus groups over the summer, write findings, work with County Stats on AARP survey and write proceedings from Dec. event. A meeting is scheduled with Mr. Leggett on June 1st to brief him about the plan thus far and obtain his input.
- Age Friendly Communities, HHS continues to explore with AARP. Concept of Community for all ages is also under discussion.
- FY16 County Executive Budget recommendation to downsize our SPA services from 600 to 240 persons. This information was shared with the State DHMH which informed us that DHMH needed more time to do that; up to one year and we needed to work together on a transition plan. We are trying to schedule a meeting in Baltimore
- 401 Hungerford is undergoing renovations. A&D Unit will move temporarily to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor.
- 150 episodes of Seniors Today show.
- Important dates:
  - May 6, Interfaith Works Conference at Bnai Israel Synagogue, with emphasis on poverty.
  - May 12, Villages Gathering at White Oak Community Center, RSVP to Pazit Aviv.

**Legislative Session/Council Members Visits:** DaCosta Mason and Rudy Oswald

DaCosta will submit a document that will highlight the budget meetings between the COA members and Council members. DaCosta gave an overview of three bills passed by the General Assembly that the Commission on Aging worked on during the 90-day legislative session.

**Senate Bill 297** establishes the Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long-Term Supports, which must identify policies, resources, and programs available for family caregivers; find innovative and creative means to support family caregivers; receive testimony on the needs of family caregivers; compile an inventory of the resources available to family caregivers; and evaluate and recommend action the State could take to develop, train, and retain qualified and responsive in-home care workforce. AARP Maryland to provide staff support for the Task Force.

**Senate Bill 288/House Bill 737** authorize a State's Attorney to file a petition to freeze assets of a defendant charged with exploitation of a vulnerable or elder adult if (1) the petition is filed within 60 days of the defendant being charged with the offense; (2) the alleged value of the lost or stolen property in the criminal charge is \$10,000 or more; (3) the amount of money subject to the petition does not exceed the alleged value of the lost or stolen property in the criminal charge; and (4) the State's Attorney sends a notice of intent to file the petition of each financial institution in possession of money subject to the petitioner. The bills also specify content and procedural requirements for these petitions.

**Senate Bill 868** establishes a regulatory framework for “transportation network services” that encompasses “transportation network companies” and “transportation network operators,” including licensing, criminal history records checks, and insurance requirements, among others. The Public Services Commission (PSC) must adopt various regulations to implement the framework. To the extent not otherwise covered under the new framework, transportation network companies, operators, and services subject to (1) any applicable provision of the Public Utilities Article, which govern common carriers and for-hire driving services, and (2) regulations PSC adopts for the regulation of transportation network services. Transportation network company means a company that has been issued a permit by PSC and operates in the State using a digital network to connect passengers to transportation network operators or transportation network partners for transportation network services.

**Stakeholders Forum-** Spencer Schron and Grace Whipple

Grace reported that the Stakeholders meeting will take place on October 28, 2015 from 8:30-12:30pm at the Silver Spring Civic Building located in Silver Spring, MD. The goals of the forum would be to discuss the ideal caregiving system, what are the gaps, and how the COA can advocate to get there. The Stakeholders Forum will also have information on what caregiver related legislation was introduced and hasn't passed. There is also consideration on how the results of the Stakeholder Forum can inform the work of the Senior Summit.

**COA Annual Meeting-** Myrna Cooperstein

Myrna reported that the annual meeting will take place on May 28, 2015 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the White Oak Community Center located in Silver Spring, Md. The panel will include speakers Isiah Leggett, County Executive; Rona Kramer, Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging; and panelists Jeanne Anthony, AARP; Gail Kohn, DC Age Friendly Cities Initiative; Andrew Aurand, MNCPPC; and Uma Ahluwalia, Director of Health and Humans Services. The topic of discussion will include the Senior Agenda and Age Friendly Communities. The Summer Studies for 2015 will be presented and voted on by the Commissioners at the meeting.

**Retreat follow-up**–Isabelle Schoenfeld

Isabelle reported that work has been completed on updating the By-laws to reflect current reality. However, the next step is to edit the By-laws to remove some detailed information and insert it in a newly created guideline on COA operations (to be developed).

**Liaisons Reports**

**Commission on Health**–Marcia Pruzan reported on the working group on Oral Health was looking at Montgomery Cares request for their budget and more than half of their request has to do with Oral Health Services. Commission on Health is writing a letter in support of oral health services and Montgomery Cares is requesting money for oral health services.

**Housing Opportunities Commission**–Gail Gunod-Green introduced Stephanie Gilbert who has been hired as the new supervisor of Senior Programming at HOC as well as the liaison to the Commission on Aging. In regards to Health Partners, Suburban Hospital has expressed interest in collaborating with Waverly House to facilitate communication regarding hospitalization and

discharge planning so that the on site counselors can help the residents once they return home and assess the services that had been recommended.

**Department of Recreation**—Phil Smakula spoke about the Bar Association sponsoring Law Day. Law Day is an event that will take place on May 1<sup>st</sup> at selective senior centers in Montgomery County. This is an event where lawyers will assist seniors in filling out advance directives. On May 27, 2015 White Oak Senior Center will be one of many locations that will host the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Senior Health & Fitness Day. National Senior Health & Fitness Day is a day where 100,000 older adults will participate in activities at more than 1,000 locations throughout the United States. The common goal for this day is to help keep older Americans stay healthy and fit. National Senior Health & Fitness day is always set for the last Wednesday in May. National Senior Health & Fitness Day is the nation's largest annual health promotion event for older adults.

**Department of Police**—Morton Davis spoke to the Commission about the Department of Police collaborating with the COA sometime in the near future on keeping seniors safe.

**Vital Living Network (VLN)** will co-host with the Commission on Aging the White House Viewing Conference at White Oak Community Center on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The White House Conference on Aging is hosting a series of Regional Forums to engage with older Americans, their families, caregivers, leaders in the aging field, and others on key issues affecting older Americans. The purpose of the Forums is to help provide input and ideas for the upcoming 2015 White House Conference on Aging, which will focus on four areas: ensuring retirement security; promoting healthy aging; providing long-term services and supports; and protecting older Americans from financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect. The Forums are being co-sponsored with AARP and co-planned with the Leadership of Aging Organizations, a coalition of more than 70 of the nation's leading organizations serving older adults. For information on the White House Conference on Aging, visit: <http://www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov>.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Aging in Place**—Miriam Kelty

Miriam reported that Phil McLaughlin from Department of Transportation was invited to speak with AIPC about Ride-On. He described the three divisions of Ride-On: data collection and analysis; service planning; and scheduling and the main responsibilities of each. Ride-On enjoyed growth until 2008 when budget constraints began and continue to be a major challenge. Since that time, improvements in services have been made from redistributing service from underperforming areas to areas with greater demands. About 12-15 shifts of this nature occur annually.

Of interest to AIPC is the fact that a survey of 20% of Ride-On customers has been completed recently as part of the Federal Title VI plan requirement. (Title VI prohibits discrimination based on race and income). The survey is of people who already ride the bus and included 11,000 respondents or 20% of riders. Among those, 2/3 are daily riders, 12% of respondents are seniors, 58% are female, and 75% have incomes of \$50k or less. The Title VI plan has been submitted to the County Council for approval.

Discussion revealed that persons served by bus routes are defined as those within ½ mile of a stop. It was acknowledged that many seniors may be unable to get to a stop easily. AIPC was interested to learn that some midday and evening diversions of schedule have been made in recent years to accommodate seniors. They include diverting to Arcola Towers, Victory Forest and some other buildings with heavy senior concentration. Other issues discussed include the challenge of effective outreach to the neediest population groups, accessibility issues especially for people with mobility impairments, bus stop and sidewalk improvement programs needed, the possibility of shuttle and/or van service to accommodate seniors.

### **Health and Wellness**– Noelle Heyman and Arva Jackson

Noelle reported that Montgomery Hospice is a medical hospice that has been in operation since 1981, Montgomery Hospice service 2000 patients/year, 8000 contacts, nonprofit; 200-300 volunteers open and providing service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- Adult patients can refer themselves as can their physician or a family member when they have fewer than 6 months of expected life and are no longer seeking aggressive treatment.
- Patient goals help determine hospice care.
- Patients work with a team of care providers: nurse, social worker, chaplain, medical doctor, medical director and volunteers who make home visits.
- Casey House, the associated inpatient facility, has 14 beds and is staffed 24/7. Friends and family can visit at any time.
- Post-death support programs include support groups, workshops, and phone calls to the bereaved at least once every 3 months and home visits as needed.
- Montgomery Hospice also cares for pediatric patients with 6-12 months of expected life .
- Bereavement programs for families of pediatric patients continue for two years and sometimes longer.
- Montgomery Hospice is funded through private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and philanthropy.

#### Questions and Comments:

- Admissions and eligibility requirements and insurance coverage (understanding what Medicare or Medicaid pays for) is challenging.
- Hospice pays for aides to provide a few hours of care for patients at home.
- Power of Attorney can help with care coordination.
- MOLST forms are required to be offered to hospice patients.
- Medical Director can and may assume role of the patient's MD.
- Montgomery Hospice works with an ethics committee.
- Allison Sterns, Executive Director, Hospice Caring, Penny Gladwell, Founder Hospice Caring, non medical hospice since 1989, 8 staff, 400 volunteers; serves 100-125 people/year. Camp Caring for 8-12 years olds;
- Over 400 volunteers offer 4 hours each week. High retention rate. Focus on the relationship between the volunteers and their patients and families.
- Hospice Caring is not restricted by Medicare. Funding is almost fully philanthropic with a large and active donor base.
- Can serve those pursuing treatment. Err on the side of compassion.

- Hospice Caring accepts referrals from anyone, but does not have the capacity to serve those needing chronic care (Alzheimer, Parkinson).
- Volunteers attend 3 full days of training, undergo background checks and can provide transportation.
- Bereavement Services include adult loss, child loss, suicide, and parent loss. Groups are peer driven with groups supporting those younger than 50, 50-65, and 65+.
- 2 trained facilitators for each group. Each group decides its endpoint after 8 weeks of meetings. Facilitators also work with schools to help children who lost a parent, sibling or loved one through the Good Grief Club.
- Camp Caring is an overnight camp for children, a “concentrated” Good Grief Club, in operation for 14 years.
- Developing a program for teens and young adults.
- Coordinate and collaborate with Montgomery Hospice (medical hospice).
- Volunteers can provide respite 4hrs/wk.
- Multi-lingual
- Helping Hands Program for those still seeking active treatment.

The Committee identified and discussed various summer study proposals including:

- Long Term Care
- Ageism
- Death with Dignity
- Community First Choice Program
- Status of un and under insured
- Transition Care and Discharge Planning

**Communications and Community Outreach**–Nothing to report at this time

**Data Workgroup**–Sam Korper reported on upcoming changes with CountyStat

- CountyStat, Montgomery County’s performance measurement and management office, has launched its redesigned website., The site, <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/countystat/>, is designed to provide users with increased access to the County’s performance metrics and related data.

In the next few months, a *Senior Dashboard* of aging-related data will afford Commission on Aging members the capability to assess health- specific disease indicators, economic status, transportation, housing, and other measures related to the older population of the county. These measures also found on the County website *Healthy Montgomery*.

The site enables users to:

- View and download performance data for departments or initiatives
- View supporting information that relates to and provides context for County performance measures

- View presentations from past CountyStat meetings and the topics for future public meetings.
- Embed CountyStat charts, graphs, and maps into external websites

Each performance measure aligns with a County Priority Objective and the department responsible for that function. Each page features a dashboard that displays current performance; numerous charts and graphs illustrating trends; and all the raw data underpinning the site can be downloaded as “open data” for people to explore on their own.

- The *Healthy Montgomery* Evaluation Subcommittee continues to work on developing approaches to common measurement and evaluation for the Obesity and Behavioral Health initiatives, as well as considering the recently added Diabetes initiative.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am

Respectfully Submitted  
Isabelle Schoenfeld, Secretary