

Commission on Aging
Executive Committee Minutes
March 20, 2014

Attendees: Judy Levy, Tammy Duell, Sam Korper, Barbara Mulitz, Reuben Rosenfeld, Myrna Cooperstein, Spencer Schron, Rudy Oswald, DaCosta Mason, Miriam Kelty, Grace Whipple, Odile, Brunetto

Chair's Report: Judy Levy

Review of meeting with Mr. Leggett and representative of boards and commissions. Attended by Judy and Odile. Discussion of ethics, differences between lobbying and advocacy, "mission creep" by boards and commissions. Discussion of shortage of providers of medical and mental health services for all people, especially for seniors.

Judy was joined by Tammy, Beth Shapiro, Odile, and Shawn Brennan on a tour of the new Holy Cross up-county hospital which will have 93 beds and include an inpatient behavioral health center.

Discussion of April 24th COA meeting where there will be a panel of Southeast Asian communities. The hearing for HHS budget is the same time, so recommendation will be made to begin COA meeting at 8 AM.

Schedule of County Council meetings being setup. Talking points will be distributed to COA members.

May annual meeting will have a caregiver themed speaker.

Update – Odile Brunetto, Review of Senior Initiative items. Committee discussion took place of items listed below

Department of Recreation

- Increase operating hours at the Margaret Schweinhaut, Damascus, and Holiday Park senior centers, restoring hours and programs reduced during the recession to help meet growing demand (\$56,846).
- Extend to a full year the Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA) Senior Transportation Partnership providing flexible, fixed-route senior bus services in local neighborhoods with limited door-to-door pick up and drop off transportation services to the Long Branch, Holiday Park, Margaret Schweinhaut, White Oak, and Damascus Senior Centers (\$318,750).
- Extend to a full year Senior Mini Trips to activities and events in the Metropolitan Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC areas from each of the five Senior Centers and at each of the 55+ Active Adult Recreation Programs (\$25,210).

Department of Health and Human Services

- Add funds for a Social Worker position in the Adult Protective Services/Social Services to Adults Program to address an increase in investigations of financial exploitation cases resulting from new bank mandatory reporting requirements (\$69,324).
- Raise the Adult Foster Care Reimbursement Rate to reduce the gap between the County and State subsidy rates for senior assisted living group homes (\$105,000).

- Add funds for a Program Manager in the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, allowing the program to add volunteers and provide more long term care facility residents with protection and advocacy (\$65,385).
- Add funds for Adult Day Care subsidies to increase the number of clients able to attend an Adult Day Care program two days per week for socialization and medical supervision (\$52,500).
- Add funds for a Senior Fellow - Caregiver Support position and operating funds to coordinate outreach to seniors and persons with disabilities regarding the available services to ease the burden on caregivers (\$50,835).
- Provide in-home nurse monitoring services to more than 2,000 senior and disabled clients receiving services through the State's new Medicaid waiver program, Community First Choice Program (\$2,606,250).

Department of Transportation - Transit Services

- Reinvest Call N Ride savings from conversion to electronic cards into the program by expanding income eligibility for subsidized taxi trips for low-income persons with disabilities and seniors (\$765,000).

Department of Fire and Rescue Services

- Enhance Senior Safety Outreach to provide home safety evaluations, education, and outreach programs to address the specific needs associated with the projected growth in the County's senior citizen population (\$100,000).

Non-Departmental Account Community Grants

- Provide grants to our community partners of \$1,446,592 for 42 proposals for seniors. Community organizations augment and supplement government programs by providing services such as intergenerational programming, health and wellness initiatives, transportation (including handicap accessible vehicles), culturally and linguistically appropriate case management and legal assistance, and safety net services such as utility support and food assistance. These community organizations are critical to an effective network of services and are often able to provide these services in a more cost-effective, culturally appropriate, and flexible way than County Government. They are also able to leverage community resources that may be unavailable to County Government. For details, please see Community Grants: County Executive in the Non-Departmental Accounts section.

Public Policy Committee

April 8th, Judy Levy to testify on proposed budget before County Council

April 9th, end of State of Maryland legislative session.

PPC reviewed 100 of 2600 bills before the legislature. Five of the bills supported by COA were approved by both houses and sent to the Governor (public guardianship review board, wire transmission bill, prescription drug program extension, dental hygienist in nursing homes, and Medicare marketing bill).

Health and Wellness Committee

No meeting in March due to snow.

Stakeholders report, Spenser Schron.

Observation of community member participants.
Solution of caregivers and evaluations.
Consideration of the creation of a caregiver coordinator.
Consideration of the creation of a caregiver coalition.
Consideration of the creation of a toolkit for caregivers.
Major need for coordination of information noted.

Observation by Sam Korper. Communication issues run through all areas of COA. Should we reassess public private partnership to enhance communication on senior issues? What is out there and not being used? Is this a topic of a Summer Study?

Aging in Place Committee

Joint meeting held with Communications Committee.
March 31st, League of Women Voters program.