

## **COMMISSION ON AGING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – APRIL 16, 2015**

**COA Members:** Judy Levy, Spencer Schron, Myrna Cooperstein, Sam Korper, Noelle Heyman, Charles Kauffman, Barbara Multz (by phone), and Isabelle Schoenfeld.

### **COA Chair's Report: Judy Levy**

- COA will have a table at the JCA Maryland 50+ Employment Expo, June 1, 2015, at the Marriott Conference Center. Isabelle mentioned that she will pass around a sign-up sheet at the next COA meeting for members to sign-up to staff the table during the day. COA will not have a table at the Gaithersburg Active Aging Expo on May 4, 2015.
- Age Friendly Cities: Judy met with Uma Ahluwalia and Jay Kenny and on the following day met with Jean Anthony, AARP and a representative of Maryland AARP; Gabe Albornoz; Uma and Jay. In these meetings, Uma expressed the thought that Montgomery County is ahead of some other jurisdictions relative to support for the older adults in the county and explored the possibility that WHO/AARP might determine that MC could skip some of the steps involved in becoming certified as an age-friendly county. In any event, MC would need to go through the application process and then a determination about eliminating some steps would be made.
- The White House Conference on Aging: A listening session is scheduled for April 27, 2015, 8:30-12, with an optional lunch, at the White Oak Community Center.
- City of Gaithersburg 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Active Aging Expo on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Aging will have a table.
- Judy reviewed the Senior Leadership Montgomery Event and the Council Budget testimony.

### **Other Reports:**

**Annual Meeting:** Myrna reported on the COA Annual Meeting - The COA Annual Meeting program will include a "working" lunch (paid for by the attendees-\$20/each). To date the panelists include Uma; Gail Kohn, Age-Friendly DC Initiative Director; Jean Arthur, AARP; and perhaps Gwen Wright, MC Planning Department Director. County Executive Ike Leggett will speak as will Rona Kramer, Secretary of Aging.

**Summer Studies:** There may be two summer studies related to Age Friendly Cities. One sponsored by AIPC and the other by the PPC. After a brief discussion of the general objectives of these possible summer studies, the conclusion was that they are premature until we know what direction Uma and other decision-makers want to go toward relative to Age-Friendly communities. Judy said that she will talk to Jay to try to get further insight on the direction. There may be another summer study from the Health and Wellness Committee on issues related to discharge planning and transitioning from the hospital to other facilities or home, i.e., gaps in wrap-around services.

Attention needs to be paid to the number of summer studies in terms of available resources since COA members will also be working on a number of activities in the

summer and fall including the Stakeholder Forum, the Legislative Breakfast, the Senior Summit.

**Senior Summit:** A need was identified to get more intel from HHS on what is being considered/planned for the Senior Summit, how can the summer studies inform the Senior Summit, and what may be COA roles and responsibilities for the Senior Summit.

**Stakeholder Forum 2015:** Spence reported that the Stakeholder Forum Team is discussing what role we would like the elected officials to have at the Forum. The goals of the forum would be to discuss the ideal caregiving system, where we are now, where would we like to be, what are the gaps, and how can we get there. We 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.

**Post-Retreat/Bylaws Team** – Have completed the work 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).

**Alumni Meeting** - Barbara Multz reported that an Alumni meeting will be held at Holiday Park and requested \$125 from the COA acct. for expenses for the meeting. A date is to be selected. The goal is primarily social but also to find out how the alumni would like to be involved in COA activities. For example, they may want to be involved in planning town hall meetings and in the senior summit. Barbara also reported that she attended a BCC Chamber group meeting and some reacted to the term -WHO Age-friendly cities in that they thought it wasn't an inclusive term.

**Misc.:**

A suggestion was made that the Public Policy Committee develop an orientation about COA and our priorities for newly elected Council members soon after elections.

Another suggestion was made that a County Council staff person be assigned to be a liaison to the COA. This role is being done by Linda McMillan for the Commission on Health and it's been very effective. Consideration should be given to noting the County Council liaison to the COA in the COA By-laws.

Respectfully submitted,  
Isabelle Schoenfeld, Secretary