

Commission on Aging
Public Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2014

Presentation

Sgt. Jordan Santinski, Elder/Vulnerable Adult Abuse Section, Montgomery County Police Department advised the Committee about efforts in the County to coordinate investigations of physical abuse and neglect. He noted that investigations at the police department increased from 9 in 2012 to over 100 in 2014. He also provided the following suggestions for legislative action on elder abuse issues:

- Abuse registry and background checks for caregivers
- Mandatory reporting of abuse of elderly/vulnerable adults
- Amendments to guardianship laws for expedited appointment of guardians for abuse victims
- Court appointed special advocate for abuse victims
- Emergency shelters for victims.

Legislative Breakfast

Election day is November 4 and a number of new members of the Montgomery County State Legislative Caucus will be elected. Thus, providing a Save the Date notice should be sent to all candidates for election to County state legislative positions. Invitations to the breakfast will be sent to those elected on November 4. Jack Sprague and DaCosta Mason will meet with staff at Holiday Park to set a date for the breakfast. Once date is agreed upon, Save the Date notice should be sent.

State Issues

A list of State bills that COA supported, but did not pass in the 2014 session will be reviewed at the next meeting as it looks at establishing priorities for 2015. Consideration will also be given to two recommendations from the Caregiving Summer Study as priorities for 2015 legislative session. The Committee recommended sending a letter to Secretary Lawlah requesting she advocate for an increase in the

Governor's FY '16 budget for the Group Home Subsidy Program. The Committee also recommended sending a letter to Secretary Scharfstein to advocate for an increase in funds in the Governor's FY '16 budget to address the large number of residents in need of the assessments in the Medicaid funded Community First Choice (CFC) program.

County Issues

The Committee will work with the full Commission in developing budget priorities to present to Councilmember Leventhal by early October.