



COMMISSION ON AGING

May 25, 2025

Carrie Nieman, MD, MPH
Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery
Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health
Center on Aging and Health
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD

Dear Dr., Nieman:

We are writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA) to confirm our strong support of the study, “HEARS Maryland: Extending Capacity for Affordable, Accessible Hearing Care through Older Adult Peer Mentorship”. We are excited to work together and expand the HEARS program to Montgomery County. As you know, the Commission on Aging plays a powerful role in our older adult communities and programs like HEARS that build capacity locally for hearing care are needed and complement our existing evidence-based programs.

The CoA is authorized by the Older Americans Act, P.L. 116131, and was established by Montgomery County in 1974 to advise County government on the needs, interests, and issues of concern to its older residents, and to advocate on their behalf at the local, state and national levels. Montgomery County supports more than 150,000 older adults through their programing, support services, and senior centers. As part of their programs, there are several volunteer programs for older adults and networks, such as the 50+ Volunteer Network where we anticipate substantial interest in recruiting older adult peer mentors for this project. In executing this study, we are well positioned to leverage our community network of services and programs to aid in recruitment efforts.

Commissioner, David Engel has committed to serving on the HEARS Maryland Community Advisory Board throughout the duration of the planned study. The CoA is proud to partner with you and your research team, along with the other AAAs throughout Maryland, in successfully executing this project. We are prepared to attend all quarterly meetings and commit to providing representation on the Community Advisory Board throughout this study. We seek to support the research team through our active participation on the Community Advisory Board but also through facilitating multi-sector collaborations in Montgomery County and beyond.

Sincerely,
Linda Bergofsky, Co-Chair
Wayne Berman, Co-Chair
Montgomery County Commission on Aging

Department of Health and Human Services

401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 240-777-1120, FAX 240-777-1436
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs