



Commission on Aging
April 24, 2025
9:30 A.M.- 11:45 A.M.

Virtual via Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82378694890?pwd=YU5RaHJQTjINTSzYvZ2lObHNqY204Zz09>

Phone Call-In: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 823 7869 4890 and Passcode: 297852

Agenda

- 9:30 A.M. Welcome— Wayne Berman and Linda Bergofsky, Co-Chairs
- Roll Call
- 9:35 A.M. AAA Director, A&D Chief updates – Dr. Kimberly Johnson, Dr. Patrice McGhee
- 9:55 A.M. Liaison Reports – Recreation, JSSA, Housing Initiative Partnership, Latin Health Initiative
- 10:15 A.M. How local municipalities are serving older residents: A dialogue with Mayor Ashman (Gaithersburg), Mayor Ashton (Rockville), and Mayor Searcy (Tacoma Park) on opportunities for collaboration
- 11:00 A.M. Commission on Aging Old Business
- Approval of March CoA minutes, discuss action items
 - COA Co-Chairs Report
 - Review of calls with County Council Members and budget testimony
 - Public Forum Update
- 11:20 A.M. Committee Reports
- Aging in Community
 - Health and Wellness
 - Communications
 - Public Policy
 - Update on 2025 General Assembly
- 11:35 A.M. New Business
- Planning ahead for priority setting
 - Action Items
- 11:45 A.M. Adjourn

***NOTE:** If you need access to Sign Language Services please contact Tremayne Jones **one week prior** to the meeting at (240) 777-1262 or at Tremayne.jones@montgomerycountymd.gov

Attachments:

Minutes from March COA meeting

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

- May 1 – City of Gaithersburg Active Aging Expo, Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 S Frederick Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, 9 AM — 2 PM, Free
- May 8 – “Perspectives on Aging: Strategies for Clinicians and Caregivers”, Woodmont Country Club, 1201 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, [Register here](#).
- May 17 – Gaithersburg Book Festival, Bohrer Park, 10 AM to 6 PM, Free
- May 21 – Commission on Aging Public Forum “Revaluing Care: Building Policies, Programs, and Connections to Support Caregiving in our Community”, Bohrer Park, 9 AM to 3 PM, Free, [Register here](#).
- May 30 – Montgomery County Observes Older Americans Month, White Oak Senior Center, 1700 April Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904 (details forthcoming)
- June 17 – World Elder Abuse Day, Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906 (details forthcoming)

News You Can Use to:

Understand the Critical Aging Services Bills Passed during the General Assembly Session: Just after midnight on April 7, the 2025 Maryland General Assembly was gaveled out of session. The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) was successful in getting approval for its bill to modernize and consolidate three state-funded programs: the Senior Care program, the Senior Assisted Living Subsidy program, and the Congregate Housing Services program. This consolidation expands access to vital services by streamlining processes, reducing administrative burdens, and creating efficiencies.

The MDOA confirmed that the General Assembly rejected the proposed \$2.5 million reduction in Senior Care funding for the state's 2025 fiscal year. **As a result, there will be no cuts to Senior Care funds in the FY2025 budget.** Additionally, the General Assembly has restored Long-Term Care and Dementia Navigation program funding to its statutorily mandated level of \$2.4 million per year beginning in fiscal year 2026 and beyond.

The MDOA Senior Call-Check and Social Connections expansion bill (SB 223, HB 158) will enhance the existing Senior Call Check service, transforming it into the Senior Call-Check and Social Connections Program. Key updates include expanding the age eligibility from 65 to 60, broadening communication methods to boost program participation, and ensuring services are accessible and integrated with Telecommunications Access of Maryland (TAM). These changes aim to foster meaningful social engagement and reduce social isolation—an issue closely associated with various physical and mental health challenges. Finally, HB538/SB445 transfers responsibility for administering the US Department of Agriculture’s Commodities Supplemental Food Program from MDOA to the Department of Human Services.

Claim Property Tax Credits for Disabled Veterans: The application deadline for this tax credit program has been extended to May 1, 2025. The Property Tax Credit – Disabled Veteran provides for a tax credit against the County Property Tax of a qualified Disabled Veteran or their qualified

***NOTE:** If you need access to Sign Language Services please contact Tremayne Jones **one week prior** to the meeting at (240) 777-1262 or at Tremayne.jones@montgomerycountymd.gov

Surviving Spouse.

- The Property Tax Credit is equal to 50% of the County Tax for Veterans with a Service connected disability of 75% or more.
- The Property Tax Credit is equal to 25% of the County Tax for Veterans with a Service connected disability between 50 and 74%.
- The Disabled Veteran would not qualify for the Property Tax Credit if they qualify for a Property Tax Exemption under Section 7-208 of the Tax Property Article of the Maryland Code.

You can apply for the exemption [here](#).

Identify Emerging Trends in Dementia Prevalence: A [recent study](#) in Nature Medicine concluded that the lifetime risk of dementia after age 55 years was 42%. Assuming the rate of developing dementia is constant, the researchers projected the number of people with dementia in the US to double from 514,000 in 2020 to an estimated 1 million cases in 2060. Researchers from Duke and in Europe countered this conclusion by pointing out the age-specific prevalence of dementia has steadily declined for the past 40 years as a result of increased education levels, reduced smoking rates, and enhanced treatment for hypertension and high cholesterol. However, health disparities can and do influence access to health care, especially new drugs to address obesity and diabetes. Therefore, health policies that promote equitable access and lifestyle changes are imperative to ensure that dementia is not an inevitability of “old age”.

***NOTE:** If you need access to Sign Language Services please contact Tremayne Jones **one week prior** to the meeting at (240) 777-1262 or at Tremayne.jones@montgomerycountymd.gov