



Aging in Community Committee Minutes

July 8, 2025

9:30-11:30 am.

Attending:

CoA: Joyce Dubow, Laurie Pross, Linda Bergofsky, Mary Sweeney, Mona Greiser, Marsha Weber, Candy Schimming, Vernell DeWitty, Elizabeth Boyd, Marcia Pruzan, Albert Woodward, Wayne Berman, Betsy Carrier

Staff: Pazit Aviv

Guest: Janine Tuisini, Kuo Hui Wang

Minutes:

Minutes from the June 10th meeting were approved.

This was a combined meeting of the AIC and Health and Wellness Committee.

- Welcome and Introduction
- Review and Approval of June 10, 2025, minutes.

At this meeting, attendees discussed the 2027 budget priorities from the perspective of the Aging in Community Committee. answering these questions for each priority:

- Should the CoA continue to pursue the priorities stated for 2026, or should these be regarded as new priorities?
- For each 2026 priority, why does it remain important? Is it attainable?
- How does this priority support COA?
- What new priorities should we focus on?

FY27 Priority	Proposing Committee	Current status – what progress has been made?	Should the COA continue to be a priority? If so, why is it still important? Is it achievable? How does this priority support COA and A&D missions? What changes should be considered?
1) Funding request of \$180,000 to support crucial initiatives that will enhance older adults' access to safe, affordable, and appealing housing in Montgomery County.	Aging in Community	Other County-initiated activities are being pursued by the County that reduce the need for this priority currently.	No longer needs to be pursued through the CoA.
2) Funding request for dollars as needed to support a pilot program that will allow MCDOT to	Aging in Community	Many conversations have taken place with the Rec Department and the DOT. Data and evidence of need is being collected.	This priority still needs to be pursued, possibly with the Transportation Services Investment Funds (TSIF).

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Provide backup transportation services.			
3) Funding requested of \$50,000 to develop curricula at Montgomery College and the Gudelsky Institute, leading to Universal Design (UD) certification (or degree if appropriate), recruit faculty, identify on-the-job training and mentorship opportunities, and provide relevant UD guidance for developers.	Aging in Community	Discussions between Montgomery College and CoA commissioners have occurred to develop a plan of action. Montgomery College is interested in integrating materials into existing courses, and Montgomery County Public Schools also want to incorporate such coursework into their vocational training programs.	<p>This priority still needs to be pursued with MCPS.</p> <p>Linda, Wayne, Mona to follow up.</p> <p>Pursue the idea with the County – Good advocacy for CoA. Good for Public Policy and AIC.</p> <p>Creating incentives for UD to builders</p> <p>Candy in Leisure World</p>

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4) Funding of \$250,000 to evaluate and expand the Access HEARS pilot program to cover the expense of additional devices and support for more needy County residents who are experiencing hearing loss and its adverse outcomes.	Health & Wellness		No Longer needed
5) Funding of \$'s for The Arc of Montgomery to provide respite services to unpaid, live-in, primary caregivers, who are often family members.	Health & Wellness	Laurie spoke to Jules Abate at ARC on 7-7-25. The primary focus is on frail older adults. Respite is a line item in budget.	<p>Focus on ARC's vulnerability for 2027.</p> <p>Proposed Priority is that County continue support for ARC plus additional amount the Feds will not cover.</p> <p>Laurie to prepare Priority statement</p> <p>Follow up from the Forum</p>

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6) Funding dollars to provide mental health services for older adults in Montgomery County, especially for in-home counseling services.	Health & Wellness		<p>Too broad to pursue currently.</p> <p>Need to prioritize reducing the number of waiting lists. H & W should follow up on this.</p> <p>Follow with Mental Health Groups in County – Sante?</p>
7) Funding for the expansion and service levels of in-home care services to older County residents by 1) increasing funding for In-Home Aide Services (IHAS) 2) increasing funding for additional DHHS staff and 3) increasing funding for supporting contractors and non-profits that provide	Health & Wellness		Needs follow up from H & W to focus the priority.

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the In-Home Aide Services.			
8) Provide \$60,000 in funding to clear the waiting list for a program in senior centers providing structured activities, socialization, and support designed to meet the needs of older county residents with early-stage memory loss who are aging in place. In partnership with the Recreation Department, a small site in another part of the county could be opened.	Health & Wellness		Needs follow up from H & W to focus the priority.

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9) Funding for one FTE at a pay grade sufficient to carry out the duties of a full-time Implementation Manager to lead, coordinate, and manage the Implementation Team recommended by the Home and Community-Based Workforce Task Force.	Health & Wellness		Needs follow up from H & W to focus the priority.

New Ideas:

- Dementia could be an opportunity for AIC – HW – Public Policy to collaborate.
- Tiger team on data
- Intergenerational work
- Support the growth of new villages.
- Technology for Caregiving

- WISE Cities
 - Dr Schiffman
- Medicare beneficiaries face challenges in accessing care and services. See Al Woodward (SHIP)
 - Technology issue
 - Not knowing what is available
- Self-Sufficiency standards for older adults in the County. How much do older adults need to live well in the County?
 - Link to data project – Linda to do a write-up
- What impact will the BBB Act have on older adults in the County?

No other business. Next meeting, September 9, 2025, and the agenda will be to finalize AIC's budget priorities.

Meeting was adjourned scheduled at 11:15.