

**AGING IN COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
COMMISSION ON AGING**

Date:

9:30am-11:30 am

“Virtual Meeting”

**In Attendance:** Monica Schaeffer, Wayne Berman (co-chairs, AIC), Barbara Selter, Mary Sweeny, Nanine Meiklejohn, Marsha Weber, Richard Jourdenais, Miriam Kelty, Maritza Rivera, Karon Phillips, Eddie Rivas, Joyce Dubow, Arthur Williams

**Staff:** Pazit Aviv, Marcia Pruzan

**Guests:** Sara Fought (JCA), Monique Gardner (liaison for Arthur Williams)

Topic	Discussion Points	Decisions/Follow-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome and Introductions</li><li>• The January Meeting Minutes were approved.</li></ul>	Monica Schaeffer welcomed everyone to the meeting. She mentioned that taking minutes of the meeting would become a shared activity, rotating among all committee participants. Wayne Berman, cohosted today’s meeting.	

<p><b>Agenda for AIC Programs in 2021</b></p>	<p>Wayne described the purpose of a template for laying out an Agenda of Programs for 2021 that had been shared in advance with the AIC. It includes the timing and other particulars for when the four topic areas earlier identified by the AIC will be addressed in 2021. The format of the template will help plan future meetings to ensure they are productive and to identify gaps that will need to be addressed before a fulsome discussion can be pursued, including topic leads, speakers, preparation of Focus Papers, etc. There was general agreement that the template was a very useful planning tool that should be shared with other CoA committees for their consideration.</p>	
<p><b>Discussion of Villages</b></p>	<p>Miriam introduced Pazit Aviv who was invited to describe the Village concept. She suggested that there are three functions for villages: building community, building social connectiveness, and developing a range of services that meet the needs of those in the community. Miriam urged new members to read the annual reports of past Commissions and also urged the CoA to conduct an orientation for new members and those who want to refamiliarize themselves with the range of topics CoA considers, including villages</p> <p>Pazit Aviv, MOCO staff, has supported the Villages for 7 years. She was asked to offer a “village 101” via a power point presentation for participants’ review offline, and then to discuss mature villages, their role and how they’ve changed over time.</p>	

- When she came on board in 2014, Pazit surveyed all known villages in the county; there were 11 at the time. She wanted to measure their county impact. To assess her own contribution, she developed a matrix to outline the villages from inception, growth, and sustainability. She still keeps track using this tool. There are now 27 villages in the county. Recently, growth has been slower with fewer villages developing. But the existing ones are forging partnerships and developing new services for their members. There are challenges to growth. Villages struggle to communicate their value and demonstrate their impact on the lives of participants. It will be interesting to assess their effect during the pandemic—e.g., as measured by the number of recipients involved and the number of tasks they've taken on. The village-to-village movement is looking at their collective impact and is seeking a consistent way to measure their impact. However, they need to gain consensus among the villages on how to do so because the movement is organic, and many do not want to be too formalized or regimented.

Nanine asked whether villages are intergenerational? Pazit responded that each village decides on its own which populations to serve. Some are multi- generational—in social activities, for example. Twinbrook and, Bannockburn

villages have both conducted intergenerational activities. Miriam reported that the local PTA contacted the Bannockburn village to make valentine cookies for older adults.

Wayne asked whether there exists a handbook on how to organize a village? Pazit mentioned several such sources, including Village 101; and a DC government publication developed as a handbook for which Leslie Marks wrote a blueprint that was eventually expanded by Pazit and others. There is a MOCO Village Guide available online that is comprehensive and includes a resource section with references and links. The Guide addresses risk management and liability, volunteer management, partnerships, diversity outreach, fundraising, and more. There's also an interactive village map for MOCO that offers village-specific links.

**Mature villages**—Currently, the older villages are looking at professionalizing services. Several are considering hiring staff to help reduce pressure on volunteers by handing off some operational functions. Members are aging, becoming frail and want to preserve the viability of their village. Mature villages are also considering offering additional services to focus on frailer participants. They are looking for additional ways to aid residents and to forge useful partnerships. Villages are collaborating re mentorship by offering advice to new groups and to help them organize-- Potomac is helping North Bethesda, e.g., so the latter doesn't have to reinvent the wheel. Additionally, the

villages want to share the load of planning events arising from covid—e.g., zoom meetings, collaboration in identifying speakers, etc. This will pave the way for other collaboration.

- **Financing** is a key concern. Some villages charge membership fees. Eleven receive a county grant. Others receive money from private foundations, while some get donations from their communities. Money is always an issue.
- **Diversity** is a concern. Currently, villages are concentrated down county. Why is this? Pazit suggested three “Ps”—Villages need *people* to lead, *places* to congregate to organize, and *prosperity*. Many communities just focus on surviving and don’t have the bandwidth to focus on other activities like starting and sustaining a village. We need to invest in formal support, hire local staff from within the community to build relationships, and help them organize villages. We also need to recognize the County is very diverse, with many who come here at different stages of life. They prefer to stick to what they are most comfortable with. Many don’t want to extend beyond their own communities. We must respect this desire to feel safe and comfortable. The challenge is how to address the need to respect cultural norms while keeping people comfortable. We must avoid imposing external perceptions on how

	<p>best to organize villages. This means that development of villages will be slow in communities that are socially and ethnically diverse. COA can spread the word among people until someone in a particular community becomes interested in formalizing and organizing into a village.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pazit reported that nationwide, villages are struggling with achieving diversity. Diversity is hard to achieve and not an endpoint. It was suggested that the CoA Forum on social isolation to be held this May include a discussion of villages as a means of mitigating social isolation</li><li>• Eddie observed that it is difficult to get home care agencies to go into neighborhoods where people only need limited assistance for short periods of time. He suggested the villages could be useful as a means of organizing home care in communities where those people with ADLS and IADLs who only need a few hours of assistance might benefit from a collaboration between villages and home care agencies. It was noted that physical therapy agencies deploy staff by zip codes. Could the Health and Wellness Committee address this? Marsha Weber, chair of H and W said the committee could address this idea at a future meeting. Barbara noted</li></ul>	
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<b>Update on vaccinations</b>	<p>that some states are looking at deploying homecare workers for short periods of time.</p> <p>Pazit described the current situation as chaotic and attributed this to lack of earlier planning and engagement. The State has been uncoordinated—provided no centralized registration and hasn't facilitated local coordination within counties. She noted that MOCO is just one recipient among others and there is no effective communication among the parties with respect to coordination or prioritization. MOCO is dealing with uncertain landscape amidst a great deal of misinformation. She also observed that the County is the only entity taking account of equity access to vaccine by e.g., identifying zip codes, co-morbidities, race and ethnicity—demographic characteristics that are given priority. However, demand is far greater than the supply. Pazit fielded concerns of several members on their personal circumstances that confirmed the chaotic situation she escribed. She reiterated that the county has limited to no control over activities that state is overseeing. She implored everyone to be patient.</p> <p>Leslie Marks was unable to attend today's meeting. However, she had reported earlier that senior housing managers and residents were all concerned about getting vaccine to their residents, most of whom lacked transportation. She suggested that vaccinators be invited to offering vaccination at senior residencies. Dr. Brunetto said the county is aware of these issues Leslie also suggested training for resident managers for senior</p>	
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<p><b>Housing Follow-up Discussion from January AIC Meeting</b></p>	<p>housing.</p> <p>Additional discussion on HOC had been planned, including on affordable rental housing. However, no additional detail was available for today's call.</p>	<p>Barbara wants to discuss how to help seniors who have auxiliary housing on their property or rooms to rent in their homes. What can the COA do to encourage this? Eddie mentioned the newly started— Renters Alliance. Wayne wanted input into when the AIC could discuss these issues at greater length. It was suggested at earlier meetings that resources to do more were required to build more affordable housing and to communicate to the public which services are available, particularly to those facing eviction. The group acknowledged that additional resources are not likely given current budget constraints. Are there other ways to move this issue that are not financial? Nanine offered ideas that are considered controversial: limit rent increases in areas close to transportation hubs—essentially rent-stabilization; zoning changes that will allow construction of small multi-family homes in single family zoned areas (infill); and support for new senior housing, even in the face of community objections and resistance (NIMBY issues). Eddie stated that he does not see these ideas as feasible. Nevertheless, this issue involves extensive conversation and there</p>
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<p><b>Food Insecurity: Potential topic for April AIC Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Next virtual meeting: March 9, 2021</b></p>	<p>Concern was expressed that no one has stepped up to take the lead on food insecurity. Miriam wants Barbara to request participation at the CoA meeting and to encourage participation from those who are not engaged in committee work.</p> <p>Topic: Transportation</p>	<p>was agreement that these issues require more time and more consideration. Wayne stated that the AIC needs to determine the next steps to address this issue. Barbara thinks we should have a separate meeting devoted to this topic. Wayne will see how to organize a separate meeting and to address food insecurity as well in April, with most of the time devoted to the housing issue.</p>