

Commission on Aging  
Executive Committee  
March 17, 2022  
Minutes

Agenda

Welcome—Barbara Selter, Chair

Roll Call

**Attendees**

**CoA Members**

Barbara Selter, Chair

Edgar Rivas, Vice Chair

Kendell Matthews, Secretary

David Engel, Budget Officer

Jean Dinwiddie, Co-Chair, Communications Committee

Morris Klein, Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee

Beverly Rollins, Co-Chair, Communications Committee

Mary Sweeney, Co-Chair, Aging in Place Committee

Marsha Weber, Co-Chair, Health, and Wellness Committee

Ryan Wilson, Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee

**Staff**

Shawn Brennan, Staff, DHHS

**AAA Report**

Shawn reported that Odile Brunetto informed them that she had never seen this much increase in Aging and Disability Services's budget and was very pleased. Funds are in the budget for eight new positions, including an Ombudsman position and six new positions in Adult Protective Services.

The County opened a shelter in White Oak for 200 men. The Recreation department received an additional position to use in the senior program.

Ms. Brennan attended a meeting with Partners in Care, the organization who has the agreement with Maryland Department on Aging to run Community for Life. The governor's FY23 budget proposed \$600,000 for Community for Life. And Maryland Medicaid awarded CFL a grant for \$2.8 million over three years, which will provide 12,000 subsidized memberships.

Ms. Brennan reported that she did a presentation for Montgomery County Libraries this week, and they would like older adult printed materials on display in the libraries.

### **Commission on Aging Business**

- Approval of February 2022 minutes  
Minutes will be emailed to EC and approved via email.
- Approval of March 2022 COA Agenda  
March Agenda approved with changes
- Budget- David
  
- Report from Public Forum Working Committee - Jean and Marsha  
Marsha reported that things are going well. Everyone should have received the Public Forum invitation and all commissioners should register, so far 59 people have registered. We ask that you forward the information to your networks. The focus for the committee's upcoming meeting will be on questions and vignettes. The Post reported that experts and health authorities are closely watching a subvariant of Omicron BA.2. Currently, they are going forward with the in-person plan but have a plan B.

#### Status of Award Program – Eddie

Eddie stated they have two nominees and judges, and the award will be presented at the Public Forum on May 5, 2022. Wayne is encouraging everyone to continue to submit nominations. The panel includes Mary Gies from Montgomery County Government, Lori Simon Regionalist from University of Maryland, Kathy, Amoke, and Betsy. Wayne has suggested that Eddie and he be on the selection call. Eddie feels the committee should oversee this selection process. He will discuss this topic with Wayne.

- Preparation for County Council visits – when virtually or in person. Number of sign-ups per person, preparation of talking points,

Shawn shared we had four council members signed up for visits, three virtual meetings and one in-person. Staff will continue to contact council members to sign up. The first meeting is April 6.

After discussion, the following actions were decided

It is the expectation that all commissioners attend council member meetings. We encourage new commissioners to participate in the meetings. Sign up for at least two meetings but no more than three. We would like to have at least two or three commissioners in a meeting with a council member.

Committee co-chairs will develop talking points and send to Ryan and Morris by March 22. Ryan and Morris will develop talking points template/ format for the meetings by March 25. The CoA one page budget priorities will be sent to

commissioners.

Additional County Council meetings – when and how

It was agreed this is not a suitable time for additional county council visits with the Primary Elections. We are in an election cycle. Five villages have planned an election forum with candidates for county executive and council candidates. The minutes of the February EC meeting reflected that EC committee decided to resume this discussion after the spring council member visits.

- Move to in-person meetings – when should we begin, how, all EC meetings on zoom, CoA meetings in -person committees or just EC/COA, what about commissioners who are uncomfortable about the change?

With a new subvariant of Omicron BA.2 experiencing surges in the county. We will continue CoA meetings on Zoom. Wayne initiated an in-person outside model where people would gather in a social setting. In the fall plan an outdoor gathering.

June COA Agenda - Do we want a speaker, or should we invite the budget people for this session, do we want to invite potential candidates for council to present their budget priorities, do we want to hear the budget priorities from the Committees

The recommendation was to invite budget people Gabe Albornoz, Essie McGuire, and Jennifer Bryant to the June meeting. Barbara will testify before County Council in May for the next fiscal year.

- Advocacy – further action we can take on OHCQ survey issue, do we want to invite folks from MADC to COA meeting (Afshin Abidi and Liz Barnes to answer questions of Commissioners), any letters outstanding?

Lettering writing HB 981- Facility Base Care, taking words out last line. Suggest that a link be sent along with the letters. Tremayne has placed letters on the website under Advocacy, Letters, Testimonies etc.

- New Business

Public Policy- Quality of Care

Age Friendly should plan a Second Senior Summit in 2024, w/ support of

CoA.

- Action Items

Committee Co-Chairs send talking points to Morris and Ryan by March 22  
Morris and Ryan develop County Council talking points format by March 25

Barbara send out One Page Budget Priorities

Eddie send Village Candidate Public Forum

Adjourn 11:02 A.M