



Public Policy September 11, 2025 minutes  
9:30–11:30 am

Attendees: Kate Stein (PPC co-chair); Linda Bergofsky and Wayne Berman (CoA co-chairs); Dixie Butler, Janice Zalen, Renee Randall, Albert Woodward, Carmen Kaarid (guest, county staff for Montgomery County Commission for Women), Peter Illig (staff)

Guests: None formally listed; Carmen Kaarid participated as a guest observer.

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Kate called the meeting to order.

Attendees and guests introduced themselves.

Carmen Kerry, program manager with the Montgomery County Commission for Women, joined to observe and report back on shared legislative interests.

### **II. Discussion / Approval of Prior Minutes**

Minutes from the July meeting were circulated in advance.

The motion to approve was carried unanimously, with no amendments.

### **III. Review of Priorities for 2024–25 and Decisions**

Reviewed 2024 PPC priorities:

- - Independent review of the Office of Grants Management system

- - Baseline county-wide older adult community needs assessment survey
- - Re-establishing the Senior Fellows program
- - Nursing home inspections / MOU with state delegation

Discussion highlighted:

- The Senior Fellows program continues to draw interest but faces county resistance; reframing is needed to emphasize older adult engagement.
- - Data needs assessment remains critical and may tie into a future Tiger Team.
- - Pushback from councilmembers suggested alternatives (student interns, Montgomery College placements).

#### **IV. Discussion of New Policy Proposals**

##### **1. Reports from Other Committees:**

- - Aging in Community: proposal for seed funding to develop villages in underserved areas; exploration of universal design curriculum at MCPS/Edison HS.
- Health & Wellness: Respite care expansion—staff pay/reimbursement and hours; demand has grown 40–45%, and the system is at capacity.
- - Communications: internship program with Montgomery College, collaboration with new County PIO, urgent need for translation into top county languages.

##### **2. Long-Term Care Facilities:**

- - Monitor timeliness of OHQC nursing home surveys and complaint resolutions.
- - Meet with county/state leadership to define criteria for exercising MOU if state fails inspections.
- - Repair strained relationships with OHQC and MD Dept. of Health.

- - Develop pilot consumer-friendly data report (nursing homes + assisted living).
- - Strengthen the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (appoint a director, restore volunteers, and ensure reporting).

### 3. Caregiver Policy Proposals:

- - Tax Credit for Caregivers (\$5,000 income tax credit; state and federal levels).
- —Caregiver Training / Education: The county should take a lead role in providing training and awareness resources, which could possibly be bundled into the caregiver support portfolio.

### 4. Study Bill: Direct Stipends for Caregivers (SOCi Program):

- - Proposes MGA study bill on the feasibility and implementation of direct stipends.
- - Delegate Greg Wims expressed interest; meeting planned with his staff.

### 5. Teach for Maryland (Teacher Pipeline):

- - Modeled on Teach for America; recruits displaced federal workers via boot camps.
- - Addresses 1,600 teacher vacancies statewide; scalable alternative to Montgomery College's small program.

## V. New Business

Tiger Teams: discussing creating multiple Tiger Teams (e.g., long-term care, data needs).

Coordination with the Commission on Women and the Commission on People with Disabilities for caregiver-related advocacy.

Delegation outreach is ongoing: Delegates Wims, Charkoudian, and Qi await a response from Del. Solomon and Sen. Kramer.

## VI. Action Items

- —Long-Term Care Proposal: Dixie and Janice will refine the recommendations into operating budget requests with Linda's support.
- - Caregiver Portfolio: Draft consolidated proposals (tax credits, stipends, training, respite) for commission vote.
- —Teach for Maryland: Kate and Linda will prepare a summary for Delegate Wims. They will also explore county pilot options through conversation with Dr. Taylor of MCPS and the county council.
- - Delegation Meetings: Continue outreach to legislators; coordinate legislative briefing prep.
- - Tiger Teams: Identify members for long-term care for the Tiger Team following the September meeting of the full commission.
- - Follow-Up: Kate will circulate action item notes to PPC.

## VII. Close

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 am.