

Commission on Aging
Executive Committee
January 17, 2025
9:30 AM -11:30 PM

ZOOM

ATTENDANCE:

Linda Bergofsky, Yvette Monroe, Wayne Berman, Kate Stein, Laurie Pross, Betsy Carrier, Peter Illig, Dr. Kimberly Johnson, David Engel

Wayne Berman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Minutes from the December Executive Committee meeting were not approved. David Engel - action item - to send the minutes to the EC. Minutes - sent during the meeting.

The meeting began with Wayne and Linda expressing their appreciation for the opportunity to co-chair the CoA and Executive Committee. They emphasized the importance of collaboration and support among the members.

Wayne introduced Peter Illig (new Montgomery County AAA CoA liaison, Transportation and Mobility Program Manager, and Legislative analyst). Peter, the new staff liaison, introduced himself and clarified his role in supporting the Commission on Aging. He also discussed his background and experience in international development and healthcare. Wayne introduced Dr. Kimberly Johnson (Director of AAA). Dr. Johnson shared her extensive background in social work and her passion for serving the community.

The EC discussed the success of the December luncheon, with many expressing appreciation for the event and suggesting improvements for future gatherings. A motion was made to hold the next luncheon at Brookside Gardens in December, with the understanding that transportation and accessibility issues would be addressed. The team also discussed the need for icebreakers and networking opportunities at future events. The motion passed.

The EC reviewed the Exec Committee assignments and the Committee Chairs. H & W and AIC are looking for additional co-chairs.

The EC discussed the Legislative Breakfast and its success with 21 Delegates, Senators, or their staff in attendance. Linda and Kate led the discussion on the nursing home oversight bill, which aims to allow the County to conduct nursing home inspections to protect vulnerable residents. The bill also includes a provision for cost-sharing, with the state picking up at least half of the costs. The committee members agreed to provide testimony at a budget hearing for OHCQ on February 13th.

The EC also touched on the Longevity Ready Working Group, with Linda expressing uncertainty about the state's resources for implementing the plan. The committee agreed to make this topic a regular feature of their meetings to stay updated on its progress.

Wayne and Linda discuss the upcoming Commission on Aging (CoA) meeting agenda. Linda has prepared the draft agenda which includes updates from county officials, a tutorial on Age-Friendly Montgomery, old and new business items, committee reports, and orientation materials.

Discussion on recruiting 9 new commissioners and establishing a nominations committee to manage the process. There is some confusion around whether previously interviewed candidates need to reapply. Commissioners discussed their frustration with the reapplication requirement. The EC requested Peter to follow up with Beth on the process.

The EC discussed the organization and logistics of committee meetings, emphasizing the need to send agendas and attachments to Peter and Tremaine for distribution. Laurie (H & W) was advised to continue working with Tina for sending out materials.

The meeting focused a robust conversation on the annual public forum, discussing the 17 potential topics and the purpose of the event. Caregiving and life transitions emerged as major themes. David suggested standardizing the process for future events, while Linda proposed considering various venues for better accessibility. Kate suggested using the forum to elevate public awareness and advance public policy on key issues. The group agreed to narrow down the topics and focus on those that could drive systemic change and improve the quality of life for older adults in the county.

The EC agreed to decide on the topic for the public forum to announce it at the next full commission meeting. Topic 17 **Overall Topic:** *Revaluing care: strengthening formal and informal care networks in Montgomery County* was unanimously approved for May 22nd 2025 depending on venue availability. There will be no full commission meeting in May. Preliminary Public Forum Committee members including Wayne, David, Laurie, Kate, and Peter.

Wayne, Linda, and Yvette to discuss how to build up to the public forum topic in upcoming Commission meetings. It was suggested inviting speakers for a caregiving segment between now and May.

The EC also discussed the possibility of inviting mayors from Gaithersburg, Takoma Park, and Rockville to discuss their approaches to serving older adults in their communities.

The EC also discussed the County Council briefings scheduled for late March to early April, with Linda adding this to the CoA agenda.

The possibility of in-person or hybrid CoA meetings was discussed, with EC expressing concerns about the logistics of hybrid meetings.

Action items:

Betsy raised a question about reviewing CoA budget priorities given the current State and County budget situation, which Kate (PPC) agreed to consider.

Public Forum planning committee to be formed at the full Commission meeting.

Peter to verify with Beth whether previously interviewed candidates need to reapply and be re-interviewed for Commission vacancies.

Tremayne to schedule County Council budget briefings for late March/early April.

Committee chairs to send meeting agendas to Tremayne about a week before meetings for distribution.

David to compile the annual report using information from quarterly reports. Draft to EC.

Request for Peter to share relevant legislative analysis with the CoA on current legislation proposed in this session.

Request to report back to Linda with comments on the suggestions for 2025 speakers and topics for CoA meetings.

The conversation ended with a motion to adjourn.