

COMMISSION ON AGING  
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES  
October 25, 2018

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>
Miriam Kelty	Deborah Royster
Amy Harbison	Syed Yusef
Beverly Rollins	Amoke Alakoye
Nanine Meiklejohn	Revathi Vikram
Mary Petrizzo	Karen Maricheau
Tho Tran	
Stephanie Edelstein	<b>Alumni Members</b>
Isabelle Schoenfeld	Charles Kauffman
Marsha Weber	Beth Shapiro
Mort Faller	
Alan Kaplan	<b>Guests</b>
Phyllis Rand	John J. Kenney, Chief Operating Officer, Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA)
Jean Dinwiddie	Lisa Sturtevant, President of Lisa Sturtevant & Associates, LLC
Hillery Tumba	Pamela Zurich, Montgomery County Parks and Planning
Noelle Heyman	Karen Tan, Asian American Initiative Group
Ryan Wilson	
Neal Brown	<b>Liaisons</b>
Richard Jourdenais	Marcia Pruzan, Senior Fellow Age Friendly Montgomery
Monica Schaeffer	Austin Heyman, Senior Fellow Office of Community Partnerships
	Phil Smakula, Department of Recreation
	<b>Staff</b>
	Odile Brunetto, Acting Chief, Aging and Disability Services and Director, Area Agency on Aging
	Tremayne Jones, Dept. of Health and Human Services
	Shawn Brennan, Dept. of Health and Human Services

Commission on Aging (COA) Chair, Isabelle Schoenfeld, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

### **Presentation to John J. Kenney**

Isabelle presented Dr. John J. (Jay) Kenney with an award on behalf of his outstanding work with the Commission on Aging. Dr. Kenney retired after 25 years with Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to become the Chief Operating Officer of Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA).

### **Budget and Finance Advisor Report**

Treasurer Syed Yusuf reported that the COA account balance is \$ 5,512.31.

### **Approval of September Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the September 27, 2018 meeting were approved.

### **FY20 Budget Priorities and October 22, 2018 Meeting with County Council HHS Committee**

Isabelle presented the COA FY20 budget priorities at this meeting chaired by Councilmember George Leventhal. The priorities were also submitted in writing. COA's annual County budget recommendations are informed by the Senior Agenda, COA public forums, COA Committees' Focus Areas, COA monthly meetings, and summer studies. These activities benefit from input and feedback from subject matter experts and members of the public, especially, older adults and their families. COA's FY20 priorities include recommendations for Health and Social Services programs, Affordable Housing expansion and preservation, and new positions/programs that would provide needed support for our vulnerable and vital older adults and their families.

### **Notice of Upcoming Meetings**

The **November COA meeting** will take place on November 29, 2018 at Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton, from 9-12pm. Guests will include County Executive Ike Leggett, Council Chair Hans Riemer, Chair Elect Nancy Navarro. (Note: The meeting could extend beyond noon to accommodate the schedules of our guests.)

The **December COA meeting and holiday luncheon** will take place on Wednesday, December 19 from 11:00am-1:30pm at Ingleside at King Farm, 701 King Farm Blvd, Rockville. Complimentary valet parking will be available. The COA Executive Committee will meet immediately before the COA meeting at the same location.

### **MNCPPC-Planning Department Report: Meeting the Housing Needs of Older Adults in Montgomery County**

Guests Lisa Sturtevant, President, Lisa Sturtevant & Associates, LLC, and Pamela Zorich, Research

Coordinator, Research & Special Projects, Montgomery County Planning Department, discussed the 2018 report, *Meeting the Housing Needs of Older Adults in Montgomery County*.

Lisa A. Sturtevant, PhD is President of Lisa Sturtevant & Associates, LLC, an Alexandria, Virginia-based consulting firm specializing in housing, demographic and economic research. She previously served as Vice President for Research of the National Housing Conference and Deputy Director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University.

Pamela Zorich is a Research Coordinator at the Montgomery County Planning Department. She has tracked local and regional demographic trends for two decades, quantifying growth and changes in the County. Her specialty is extracting a meaningful story from data tables to fill the needs of community planners, policy analysts, and community service providers.

It was noted that this report resulted from COA's concerns that a previous County report on affordable housing did not fully address housing needs of older adults. Lisa discussed the study's objectives, methods and key findings:

#### Objectives

- Document characteristics
- Quantify housing supply serving 55+
- Assess current and future demand for housing for older adults
- Offer recommendations for meeting growing housing for senior needs

#### Methods

- Population & housing data analysis
- Document review
- Interviews
- Evaluation of current programs
- Best practices review

Key study findings include:

- Over the next 25 years, the County's older adult population will be substantially larger than it is today, suggesting significantly growing housing and service needs for an aging population.
- More seniors in Montgomery County will be renters in the years to come.
- Housing affordability is a challenge for many older adults in Montgomery County.
- The oldest seniors (age 85+) face the greatest challenges and their numbers are growing.
- Increase in multi-generational households is expected as the population continues to diversify.
- Vast majority of older adults would like to age in place but many will face challenges.
- Older residents live in older housing stock: 40% of older adult households live in housing units that are at least 45 years old; 80% live in housing that is at least 25 years old.

The report is available at [http://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Meeting-the-Housing-Needs-of-Older-Adults-in-Montgomery-County-Final\\_5-18-18.pdf](http://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Meeting-the-Housing-Needs-of-Older-Adults-in-Montgomery-County-Final_5-18-18.pdf)

#### **AAA Director's Report (Dr. Odile Brunetto)**

Dr. Brunetto provided the following updates:

- Evictions: The Office of Legislative Oversight reports that there were 836 court-ordered evictions in FY17 (all ages). From October 2017 to September 2018, Adult Protective Services (APS) received

20 referrals for assistance due to eviction, 14 of which were for persons 65 and older and 6 were for persons under 65.

- CAPABLE: the Weinberg Foundation has funded a new home accessibility program to be operated by Habitat for Humanity in Montgomery County and Prince George's County. Homeowners age 65 and older with annual income below \$41,050 are eligible. The home assessment, conducted by an occupational therapist, will identify areas of need such as assistive devices and structural adaptations (raised toilet seats, shower seats, grab bars, securing rugs, medication management etc.). A service plan will be developed and implemented/coordinated by Habitat for Humanity. This program has operated successfully in Baltimore City for years.
- OMB, in partnership with DHHS and DHCA, is convening four focus groups on home sharing in different areas of the County. DHHS will be seeking input from home owners and home seekers to explore local interest in Montgomery County. AAA staff Shawn Brennan, Erin Smith, and Pazit Aviv are staffing this initiative, and St. Ambrose has offered technical assistance. The plan is to hold sessions with two Villages and at two senior centers (North Potomac and White Oak). Information gathered will be used as the County considers recommendations to explore possible future projects as part of the Age Friendly Montgomery County Initiative. Note: funding for a home sharing project is also a COA FY20 budget priority.
- DHCA has worked over the past year to develop a database of available rental housing. The database, to be called Market Place, is expected to go live in February 2019. It will assist renters seeking up to date information about rental vacancies in the County. Note: funding for a user-friendly database for affordable housing is also a COA FY20 budget priority.
- DHHS has received a \$750,000, three-year grant from the Kresge Foundation to address inter-generational poverty (across two or more generations). The County will establish pilot projects in East County and Germantown. The project will focus on job readiness/job search support, and will include families with three generations in poverty, e.g., grandparents raising grandchildren.
- The September Fall Prevention Campaign was once again a success with over 20 free events for older adults all across the county.
- Nexus Montgomery has received a 3-year \$370,000 grant to train nursing home and assisted living staff on mental health first aid.
- The Maryland Planning Department, is holding focus groups around the state under the umbrella "A Better Maryland." Odile met with representatives interesting in the possibility of exploring a statewide age friendly initiative. New York and Massachusetts have age friendly status.
- The Long-term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) program had to relocate one resident in a small group home as an urgency per the State's Office of Health Care Quality due to the delegating nurse's license having expired. This is in addition to the six persons who had to be relocated last month from another small group home.

## **Committee and Special Task Group Updates**

### *Public Policy Committee (Ryan Wilson and Mort Faller, Co-Chairs)*

The annual Legislative Breakfast is now planned for December 13 at Holiday Park Senior Center. Invitations will be emailed/mailed to newly elected and re-elected members of the delegation.

Mort attended the Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF) County Council Working Session. The Department of Transportation Director was the only speaker. The Director stated that the incentives adopted by the department had proved inadequate to get the taxi industry to introduce more accessible vehicles in the fleet – or to get more taxi drivers to drive them. The Department of Transportation held a meeting on October 17 to discuss changing the incentives in the TSIF program. Ideas for program enhancements were discussed, including: providing transportation to senior centers on Fridays and enhancing call-n-ride service by adjusting income criteria for inflation.

The Maryland Department of Planning is holding a series of listening meetings around the state, including in Montgomery County – in Gaithersburg – on October 24. The Department of Planning offers assistance to counties and municipalities in the state with land use and resource planning and provides review and technical assistance on a variety of planning topics. In addition, Planning offers data, analysis, and research assistance and policy development and implementation support to local governments, as well as communities, businesses, and other organizations. Mort and Ryan will strategize on how to engage the Planning Department. Age Friendly Montgomery was suggested as a model.

The Public Policy Committee agreed to try to be proactive on issues at the state level. One of the issues mentioned was providing dental care through the state Medicaid program. HB 1158 of 2017 would have authorized the state Medicaid program, beginning January 1, 2019, subject to the limitations of the State budget and as permitted by federal law, to provide comprehensive dental services for adults whose annual household income is at or below 133% of the federal poverty level. That bill did not pass. However, a pilot program has been approved for Medicaid dental care for adults starting January 2019.

The committee also discussed working with the County delegation on a Bill to study implementation of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program. Questions that could be studied include:

- How higher cost jurisdictions such as Montgomery County are impacted by the current formula for distributing the tax credits, and how the credits could be applied differently.
- Whether the Northern Virginia model, which makes adjustments for higher cost jurisdictions, could offer lessons for Maryland.
- What effect the recent federal tax legislation will have on the credit's viability as an incentive to build low and moderate income housing.

Mort discussed COA's initiative to create an Association of Maryland Commissions on Aging, with a goal of collaborating on advocacy on issues of common interest. Letters were sent to 21 other commissions on aging, and responses are coming in. Some have said that they will discuss at an upcoming meeting; some replied that they do not engage in legislative advocacy. So far, it appears that no other commissions engage in advocacy like Montgomery County.

#### *Aging in Community Committee (Noelle Heyman and Richard Jourdenais, Co-Chairs)*

AICC's 2019 goals include affordable housing for extremely low income seniors, employment for older residents as a means to enhance quality of life, fire safety, villages, pedestrian safety.

Health & Wellness Committee (Alan Kaplan and Neal Brow, Co-Chairs)

The committee reviewed the draft of its focus issue paper, which will be Quality of Assisted Living or the Senior Gap or a combination. They will look at county data on seniors 65 and over with income between \$28,500 and \$100,000 (Medicaid level), county statistics on projections, and break down diversity within that population.

COA Briefing Book Status (Amy Harbison and Marsha Weber, Co-Leads Briefing Book Team)

This document is almost ready. Hillery has formatted the text, added graphics, and final edits are being complete. It is expected to go to the print shop for publication in the next couple of weeks. Amy named and expressed appreciation to all the Commissioners who were involved in the development and production of the Briefing Book.

Meeting adjourned at 12pm