

**Commission on Aging**

**November 18, 2021**

9:30 am – 12:05 pm

**Virtual via Zoom**

**Members Present**

Barbara Selter, Chair

Edgar Rivas, Vice Chair

Janice Zalen, Secretary

Richard Jourdenais, Budget Officer

Jean Dinwiddie, Past Chair

Wayne Berman

Neal Brown

Virginia Cain

Betsy Carrier

David Engel

Nkiru J. Ezeani

Arunima Ghosh

Mona Grieser

Morris Klein

Kendall Matthews

Nanine Meiklejohn

Ruby Moone

Sibo Neube

Karon Phillips

Laurie Pross

Beverly Rollins

Monica Schaeffer

Katie Smith

Mary Sweeny

Marsha Weber

Arthur Williams

Ryan Wilson

**Members Absent**

Joyce Dubow

Hillery Tumba

**Alumni Members**

Austin Heyman

**Liaisons**

Monique Gardner, African-Amer. Health.

Marcia Pruzan, Age-Friendly MC

Betty Ring, Sr. Fellow for Sidney Katz

**Staff**

Odile Brunetto, DHHS

Patrice McGhee Director, AAA

Shawn Brennan, DHHS

Jennifer Long DHHS

Tremayne Jones, DHHS

**Guest**

Lindsey West

**Welcome – Barbara Selter, Chair**

Chair Barbara Selter welcomed everyone and took roll. She asked that all participants use the reaction button when they wish to speak. Ms. Selter announced that she would be asking about new business at the start of the meeting to get a sense of how much time to leave at the end of the meeting for new business. Finally, Ms. Selter asked that everyone speak respectfully and avoid hurting others. Art Williams stated that he would be signing off as he does not wish to play games and that Monique is no longer his liaison.

### **Discussion on COA Administrative Procedures – Odile Brunetto, Chief, A&DS**

Odile Brunetto thanked the Commissioners for their work and thanked Barbara Selter for her testimony on November 17. Ms. Brunetto then noted that there are four items that all Montgomery County Boards and Commissions should know:

1. Attendance: If a commissioner misses three meetings in a rolling year, that commissioner is automatically removed from the Commission. The commissioner can write a letter to the County Executive to ask to be reinstated.
2. Open Meeting Act: Commissioners must attend training to learn the rules. More information is available in the Orientation Book.
3. Decorum and Commission Conduct During Meetings: Guidelines are in process.
4. Upcoming Elections: Commissioners are prohibited from political activity in their role as commissioners, but are allowed to be politically active as individuals

### **AAA Director Update – Dr. Patricia McGhee, Director of AAA**

- Montgomery County (MC) completed a 2-year job classification study across County government. Several positions in AAA were recommended for upgrades or downgrades. Responses to the study are due November 20.
- HUBS: Eight community-based hubs were established as part of the County's pandemic response. Since the HUBS serve many older citizens, AAA will partner with them and provide written resources and staff. Under a pilot program with the Aging, Disability and Resource Unit (ADRU), ADRU staff go to the HUBS to provide resources and outreach. The materials include a Resource Fact Sheet that Dr. McGhee will forward to Jean Dinwiddie and Beverly Rollins so that the Communications Committee can promote it. Also, the AIC will learn more about HUBS.
- The MD Department of Aging offers a free daily wellness telephone check open to anyone who registers. There are daily robocalls plus a live volunteer once a week. If there is no response to a call three days in a row, the emergency contact will be notified. If the emergency contact cannot be reached, local authorities are contacted to conduct a wellness check.
- African-American Program: Dr. McGhee's presentation to this group will be forwarded to the Commission.

### **Primer on HCBS in MC—Jennifer Long and Shawn Brennan, A&D**

This excellent presentation focused on home care and in-home supports. Services generally cost between \$18 - \$30/ hour and most people pay out of their own pockets. However, there are

Medicaid and Medicaid waivers subsidies available to those who meet income eligibility requirements. The best way to connect with programs (including Community Personal Assistance Services, Community First Choice and Community Options Waivers) is to call the Aging & Disability Resource Unit (ADRU) at 240-777-3000. ADRU conducts a level one screening and refers to Adult Services Intake Unit (ASI) for more complex screening. Based on its screening, ASI might refer to Adult Protective Services (APS), In-Home Aid Services or something else. Most important is to know to call the 3000 line to begin the process of obtaining services. Unfortunately, the State review process for financial eligibility for Medicaid-funded services can take up to a year. Non-Medicaid available programs include Senior Care, a statewide program (with a waiting list) that provides eligible seniors with gap-filling funds; In Home Aid Service (IHAS), serving 20 clients; respite services; and Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) community grants, which funds home care. There are many programs, but there are more potential clients on the waiting list than actual clients being served.

Issues and potential ways to address them:

- There is a long wait for care because of bottlenecks at various stages of the process. More staffing might help.
- Residents may qualify for home care, but there is insufficient funding to provide it. Lobbying for more funding might help.
- Many residents are not eligible due to income. Providing services to this Gap population might help.

## **Commission on Aging Business**

### ***Approval of October Minutes***

The October minutes were approved.

### ***Budget Report***

Richard Jourdenais, Budget Officer, reported that the amount in the Commission account is \$4,795.11.

### ***Chair's Report***

- Community for a Lifetime Awards: All materials for this program were approved. Notify Wayne Berman if you would like to be on the panel to review submissions.
- Update on East County Closing: Kendall Matthews attending the Parks and Recreation meeting and learned that the senior program is working in the new location.
- In-Person Holiday Party: This gathering will be held in Cabin John Regional Park on December 5 from 1 – 3 pm. Barbara Selter will send out the address.
- Testimony Update: The November 17 testimony went well and led to a number of questions. A discussion was held on how best to respond to the questions.
- Thrive 2050: The aging perspective is needed and comments wanted from the CoA.

### ***Nominations of Miriam Kelty and Odessa Shannon***

Katy Smith reported that Miriam Kelty's nomination package is complete and will be submitted tomorrow. Ms. Smith will use the power of politics to help the nomination along. Beverly Rollins reported that she is working with Art and Ms. Shannon's daughter to complete Ms. Shannon's nomination package. Ms. Rollins is awaiting two letters of recommendation that Art Williams is compiling.

### ***Update on Legislative Breakfast/Legislative Package –Morris Klein***

Due to the Legislature's Special Session, the date of the Legislative Breakfast was changed to December 16. Topics and speakers are: Gap population with Neal Brown or Marsha Weber; nursing facility survey issue with Dick Jourdenais; and HCBS waiver program with Morris Klein.

### ***Public Forum Planning***

The Public Forum will be held on May 5 at the Gaithersburg Art Center and will be cohosted by the Gaithersburg Senior Advisory Committee. The theme is HCBS with a focus on home care. The following individuals volunteered to be on the planning committee: Jean Dinwiddie, Marsha Weber, Wayne Berman, Kendell Matthews, Betsy Carrier, Virginia Cain, Sibone Neube, and Laurie Pross.

### ***Nomination Slate for CoA Officers – Morris Klein***

Chair: Barbara Selter  
Vice Chair: Eddie Rivas  
Secretary: Kendall Mathews  
Treasurer: David Engel

Motion to accept the slate was approved.

All current committee co-chairs except Monica Schaeffer remain in place. Mary Sweeny replaces Ms. Schaeffer.

### ***Approval Requested from full CoA – Briefing Book***

Motion to accept the Briefing Book was approved.

## **Committee Reports**

### ***Communications Committee (CC)***

Jean Dinwiddie reported that 50+ is moving along nicely and that there are PSAs for County services between segments. The CC is looking at printed materials and considering adopting a library. Beverly Rollins reported that the Briefing Book will be sent to the County Executive, and the MC Council. David Engel is looking at County websites related to older adults to make sure that they are all up-to-date.

### ***Public Policy Committee***

Ryan Wilson reported that the majority of the PPC's time was taken up with the legislative breakfast.

### ***Aging in Community (AIC)***

Wayne Berman reported that the AIC has been reviewing their work of the past 10 months to help determine their agenda for the coming year. Monica Schaeffer noted that the CoA could use an update of usage of services by demographics.

### ***Health and Wellness Committee (HWC)***

Near Brown reported that Tina Purser Langley and Joyce Dubow gave presentations to the HWC last month and that David Engel presented on IHAS and contractors. Marsha Weber thanked all the people that have been helpful to the HWC and noted that representatives from other programs will present next month.

### **Liaison Updates**

- Marcia Pruzan, Age – Friendly, announced that an excellent regional forum was hosted by George Washington University and D.C. Age-Friendly and that the report from the forum will be forthcoming. Ms. Pruzan, who will be retiring, has agreed to remain in her post a while longer and to help with the transition.

### **Invited Speakers for Upcoming Meetings**

- December 16, 2021 at 9 am: Legislative Breakfast followed by a shortened meeting with social time for holidays. The importance of attending the Legislative Breakfast (that begins at 9 am) was emphasized.

### **New Business**

Monica Schaeffer noted that the Stanford University Forum will take place in December. She will send the registration information to Ms. Selter who will send the information to all Commissioners.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

#### **Action Items**

(These action items are based on a review of the minutes)

- Dr. McGhee: forward the Resource Fact Sheet to Jean Dinwiddie and Beverly Rollins so that the Communications Committee can promote it.
- AIC: learn more about HUBS.
- All Commissioners: Notify Wayne Berman if you would like to be on the panel to

review submissions for the Community for a Lifetime Awards.

- Barbara Selter: Send address of holiday gathering and information on Stanford U. Forum to Commission members.
- All Commssioners: Attend Legislative Breakfast at 9 am on December 16.