

Commission on Aging

October 28, 2021

9:30 am – 12:05 pm (Virtual)

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

Joyce Dubow

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

Hillery Tumba

Marsha Weber

Arthur Williams

Members Absent

Tho Tran

Ryan Wilson

Alumni Members

Austin Heyman

Liaisons

Monique Gardner, African-Amer. Health.

Arlee Wallace, African Amer. Health

Marcia Pruzan, Age-Friendly MC

Betty Ring, Sr. Fellow for Sidney Katz

Speakers

Elizabeth Barnes, MD. Assoc. of Adult Day

Afshin Abedi, Loving Care Maryland

Staff

Odile Brunetto, DHHS

Patrice McGhee Director, AAA

Shawn Brennan, DHHS

Enrico Lachica, DHHS

Lindsay Lucas, MC OMB

Tremayne Jones, DHHS

Welcome – Barbara Selter, Chair

Chair Barbara Selter welcomed everyone and took roll.

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

- The FY 2021 National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) data is due to the MD Department of Aging on November 15 even though the NAPIS is being replaced by the Older Americans Act Performance System (OAAPS) on October 1. The new system is expected to capture better demographic information as all programs in the Older Americans Act are reported in that system.
- Sidney Katz is hosting a senior forum on aging in place.
- There are three new personnel openings in AAA as follows: Nurse Manager, (Community Evaluation and Review Services), Long Term Care Ombudsman, and Marcia Pruzan's Senior Fellow position. A discussion about Marcia Pruzan's position ensued, in which it was suggested that this part-time position (11 hours per week) should be changed to a full-time facilitator position. There were many commendations to Ms. Pruzan on her excellent and tireless work.
- Montgomery County (MC) issued new telework policy for its employees.

Mr. Art Williams asked Dr. McGhee to give her report to the African-American Health Program's Aging Subcommittee and Mr. Williams was invited to give a brief report on the African-American Health Program's Aging Subcommittee to the CoA.

Medical Day Care (MDC) with Guest Speakers Elizabeth Barnes (Easter Seals) and Afshin Abedi (Loving Care MD) of the MD Association of Adult Day Services

Medical Day Care is facility-based but in the community for adults ages 16 years and older. The medical model is followed in MD, with facilities providing a nursing facility level of care so it can do everything that a nursing facility does, but in the community. It offers transportation, nutrition, activities, and physical and occupational therapies. During COVID, MDC kept in touch with their participants. There is a waiting list. The annual cost is \$22,763 v. \$54,559 for home health care

Minimum wage in MC is higher than the rest of the state, but the Medicaid rate is based on the state minimum. MC added a supplement to help cover the gap, but it only covers ¼ of the increase wages created. If the minimum wage is increased, there are Medicaid issues, i.e., Medicaid caps must be addressed. Because so much time is spent arguing with both the State and the County about their reimbursements and costs, Ms. Barnes requested that the CoA help to convince the County to include MDC in the annual budget. MDC says it needs \$2 million in the core budget.

Although 42% of Easter Seals' clients are African-American, in general, there is a low rate of participation for African-Americans and Latinos because the MDC cannot charge less than the \$88/day rate set by Medicaid. In MD, the medical model (as opposed to the social model) is required for Medicaid payment. There are 18 MDCs in Montgomery County

Commission on Aging Business

Update from Enrico Lachica on Nursing Home Surveyors Issue

- As of July 1, there were no recertification surveys conducted in MC.
- To his knowledge, there was one complaint investigation in MC even though multiple complaints were submitted by the long-term care ombudsman program on behalf of residents and two complaints regarding infection control were submitted by County sanitarians.
- The County is unable to access information regarding the progress of complaints.
- County Health and Human Services (HHS) leadership have been discussing how to continue to provide regulatory inspections of its nursing facilities. There are discussions with the Office of Management and Budget regarding funding for a new Memorandum of Understanding with the State in which the County would fully fund the agreement and request that the State reinstate the program status. There are also preliminary discussions on revising current County codes for nursing facilities to include a quality of care inspection component so that local inspectors may conduct their own separate inspections.

Approval of September Minutes

Minutes were approved.

Budget Report

Richard Jourdenais, Budget Officer, reported that the amount in the Commission account is \$4,795.11. There were no expenditures last month.

Chair's Report

- Due to the holidays, the dates of the next CoA meetings are Thursday, November 18 and Thursday, December 16. The dates of the EC meetings are Monday, November 15 and Monday, December 13.
- Thank you to Janice Zalen for preparing comments and to Nicki Enziani for participating in the draft assisted living regulations meetings.
- The budget priorities document is being worked on and will be emailed when completed.
- Community for a Lifetime Awards will begin in January. A huge thank you to Wayne Berman, Eddie Rivas, Marsha Weber, Jean Dinwiddie and Monica Schaefer for all their hard work on this project.
- The holiday party will be a short virtual meeting with time to exchange holiday greetings. Wayne Berman and Barbara Selter are working on an informal, voluntary, in-person party.

Nomination of Miriam Kelty and Odessa Shannon for the 2022 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame

The following motion passed unanimously: Arthur Williams, Katie Smith, Beverly Rolliins and Ruby Moone will put together nomination packages for Mirian Kelty and Odessa Shannon on behalf of the CoA.

Ruby Moone was congratulated on her acceptance to the 2021 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

Update on East County Recreation Center Closing

Activities for elders are being moved from the East County Recreation Center to the Good Hope Community Center. Transportation is being worked out.

The EC determined that the CoA should monitor how this move is working out for elder consumers. If needed, Joyce Dubrow may write a letter on this issue as a follow-up to the CoA's previous letter.

Consideration of New Budget Priority for Age Friendly Facilitator

Jean Dinwiddie explained that the senior fellow position currently held by Marcia Pruzan is only 11 hours a week and Ms. Pruzan clearly works many, many more hours than that. Marcia Pruzan, Monica Schaeffer and Jean Dinwiddie met with Odile Brunetto to discuss the need for more hours. Ms. Dinwiddie suggested adding advocating for a full-time position to the CoA's budget priorities. The CoA has advocated for full-time facilitators before so there is precedent. DC and Howard County both have full-time age-friendly coordinators.

Motion to add advocating for a full-time age friendly facilitator to the CoA's budget priorities passed with Art Williams abstaining.

Racial Equity and Policing Task Force Updates and Acknowledgements

Anyone who worked on this Report should have the option to have their names added to the Report if they so choose. Art Williams' and Arlee Wallace's names will be added.

Approvals Requested from CoA

- Motion to approve the appointment of Kendell Mathews as COA representative to the County-wide Recreational Advisory Board passed unanimously. Art Williams expressed interest to be involved; he can attend meetings and act as Ms. Mathews's backup.
- Motion to approve Community for a Lifetime Award materials passed unanimously. Wayne Berman pointed out that for this program to be successful, all Commissioners must pitch in and submit nominations. In addition, volunteers are needed for reviewing the nominations. Please send suggested names to Wayne Berman. You may suggest yourself, another commissioner, a CoA alumni and/or a representative from academia.

- The budget priorities document is not yet available, but will be emailed to all once completed.
- Motion to approve CoA letter in support of a Holy Cross PACE Program was approved with an abstention by Laurie Pross. David Engel was thanked for writing the letter.

Committee Reports

Health and Wellness Committee (HWC)

HWC Co-Chair Marsha Weber reported that home-based care remains the HWC's major focus. They looked at the WISH program and why it ended, and are seeking information from IHAS contractors. The Age-Friendly leader from Hyattsville presented to the HWS on its "More Than a Meal" Program.

Aging in Community (AIC)

Wayne Berman announced that effective January 1, 2022, Mary Sweeny will be the new co-chair, replacing Monica Schaeffer. The AIC's last meeting focused on housing issues and included an update on home-sharing. Also, The Renters Alliance provided an update on renters in MC. In 2005, 25% of MC residents rented and now it is 43%. The November 9 meeting will look back on the past year to help plan for next year.

Public Policy Committee (PPC)

Co-Chair Morris Klein reported that the legislative breakfast is scheduled for December 9 (but the date changed to December 16 after the meeting). Shawn Brennan will send out invitations. The PPC has been focusing on nursing facility survey issues, draft assisted living regulations and the budget priorities document.

Communications Committee (CC)

Jean Dinwiddie reported that Seniors Today has successfully been rebranded and Public Service Announcements are being produced. David Engel worked tirelessly on a new project coordinating web sites relating to older adults and keeping them updated and on updating the CoA website. Beverly Rollins reported that the updated briefing book is almost complete and will be ready in time for the Legislative Breakfast. Alumnus Austin Heyman provided a lengthy list of activities that the CC plans to work on.

Liaison Updates

- Marcia Pruzan, Age – Friendly, announced that Jean Dinwiddie has agreed to co-chair an Age-Friendly Committee. An excellent regional Age-Friendly meeting was held earlier in the week.

Invited Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

- November 18, 2021 – Primer on HCBS Programs in MC, Jennifer Long, DHHS.
- December 16, 2021 –Shortened meeting with social time for holidays (and

Legislative Breakfast was added after the meeting)

New Business

Marsha Weber brought up a request from Robyn Stone, Leading Age, that the CoA support using ARPA funds to increase wages of direct care staff. Marsha Weber will check in with Odile Brunetto and then forward information to the PPC and the EC.

Meeting Adjourned

Action Items

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

1. Arthur Williams may give a brief report on the African-American Health Program's Aging Subcommittee.
2. Arthur Williams, Katie Smith, Beverly Rollins and Ruby Moone will put together nomination packages for Mirian Kely and Odessa Shannon on behalf of the CoA. .
3. All Commissioners should be thinking about nominees for the Community for a Lifetime Award.
4. All Commissioners should suggest names for the Community for a Lifetime reviewing committee.
5. Marsha Weber will check in with Odile Brunetto re use of ARPA funds and forward information to the PPC and EC.