



## **Aging in Community Committee Minutes May 13, 2025**

**Meeting was called to order at 9:30**

**Attending:**

CoA: Joyce Dubow, Laurie Pross, Linda Bergofsky, Kendell Matthews, Mary Sweeney, Mona Greiser, Norman Goldstein, Sibon Ncube, Vernell DeWitty, Wayne Berman, Betsy Carrier

Staff: Pazit Aviv

Guest: Kat Klose, Amy Schiffman, MD, B.J. Carter

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the meeting on April 8th were approved.

**Presentation:**

Presentations focused on using technology to assist older adults in aging in place. The speakers were Kat Close, Co-founder of WISE Cities, and Dr. Amy Schiffman, a nationally recognized physician and consultant with expertise in aging-in-place, post-acute care, and Medicare policies, as well as the founder of AgingHere. She leads initiatives at the intersection of healthcare and technology that address the complexities of care delivery, reimbursement, and innovation.

Kat Close, co-founder of Wise Cities described the launch and introduction of Wise Cities, a platform designed to help caregivers and older adults find resources and services. Wise Cities, was established to streamline access to age-related information and services, activities. The platform includes a map view, and filters to help users find what they need. Kat highlighted the problem of finding information about aging, resources, activities, and services emphasizing the high burden on caregivers. Kat demonstrated Wise Cities' website, explaining its purpose as a one-stop shop for finding, comparing, and accessing resources for caregivers and older adults she showed how to search for specific services like transportation or care assistance, using filters to narrow down options based on location, type, and cost.

Kat highlighted upcoming features of Wise Connect, including a request a ride feature, smart comparison tool, translations, and community features like forums and smart “friending”.

#### **Q&A with Kat Close:**

A question was asked about how they would keep the information on the website up to date, funding sources, and how people find out about the site. Kat explained the process of updating information, including monthly reminders to providers and automatic updates based on changes to websites.

Kat detailed the funding sources, including government partnerships, nonprofit fees, and grants, and how the website remains free for users.

Kat discussed the marketing strategy to reach diverse populations and the importance of government partnerships for wider reach.

Kat explained the vetting process for services on the Wise Connect platform and the upcoming review system to ensure high-quality information.

#### **Presentation by Amy Schiffman:**

Dr. Schiffman highlighted the challenges of implementing technology in caregiving, emphasizing the need for an organized delivery system that balances caregiver needs and patient preferences. Dr. Schiffman discussed the healthcare ecosystem of aging, emphasizing the complexity and the need to address the needs and wants of different stakeholders.

She discussed the challenges of implementing technology in caregiving, including caregiver perspectives, access issues, and knowledge and fear among older adults.

Dr. Schiffman discussed the role of hospitals in supporting technology in the home, noting the financial constraints and the need for a comprehensive approach. She emphasized the importance of organized delivery systems and the need for a different approach to medical care to effectively utilize technology.

#### **Q&A Session with Dr. Schiffman:**

- Participants asked about the challenges of implementing technology, the role of the VA system, and the importance of organized delivery systems. Dr. Schiffman explained the unique position of the VA system in deploying technology and the challenges faced by individual physicians in implementing technology.
- Dr. Schiffman emphasizes the importance of addressing the needs and wants of older adults and the need for a comprehensive approach to technology implementation.

**Group Discussion:**

We discussed the utility of an application for healthcare providers to plan patient discharges, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary collaboration and technology integration. This discussion highlighted the challenges of discharge planning, noting that 60% of patients go to rehab and 40% return home, posing unique care needs.

Speakers raised concerns about the utility of technology for older, less tech-savvy individuals. The conversation also touched on the importance of addressing social determinants of health and the potential impact of Federal budget cuts on resources.

**Follow-up, Updates and Action Items:**

- Explore opportunities for the county to incorporate technology into existing home renovation for programs like Design for Life.
- Consider creating a demonstration home showcasing different aging-related technologies.
- The need for a comprehensive approach to technology implementation, including addressing the challenges of caregiver perspectives and access issues.
- Discussion of the need for an app for healthcare providers to plan discharges better. The discussion highlighted the challenges of discharge planning, especially for older patients, and the need for comprehensive care circles.
- Discussion of pros and cons of making websites more accessible, including YouTube tutorials and an integrated tutorial system. A high touch approaches to care management is also needed. Tech is difficult for many older adults.
- Discussed the challenges of addressing social determinants of health and the need for physician-led case management.
- Discussed the use of social prescriptions and the importance of addressing multiple health issues simultaneously.
- Discussed the impact of federal budget cuts on resources and the importance of budget conversations.
- The meeting concluded with a commitment to continue exploring ways to improve caregiving through technology and organized delivery systems.
- Update on meetings on housing
  - Spin off from last year's Housing Forum
    - a. Home sharing advisory committee
    - b. Contact from Urban Institute which resulted in their developing a proposal that will benefit Montgomery County if awarded.
    - c. Spin off from meeting with HOC—Development of senior housing info packet-

Next meeting will be June 10.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05