

**Montgomery County Commission on Aging  
Executive Committee Meeting, August 18, 2016  
Minutes**

Noelle called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

**In attendance**

**Committee members:** Noelle Heyman, Isabelle Schoenfeld, Revathi Vikram, Stephanie Edelstein, David Denton, Tammy Duell, Charles Kauffman, Grace Whipple

**CoA members:** John Honig

**Liaisons:** n/a

**Staff:** Odile Brunetto, Director, Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

The minutes from the June, 2016 meeting had been previously distributed, and were approved.

**Chair's Report – Noelle Heyman.**

Noelle announced the date and time for the annual state and local commissions on aging symposium. The symposium topic will be *Translating Healthy Aging Research Findings into Practice*, and the afternoon keynote speaker will be Luigi Ferrucci, M.D., Ph.D., Scientific Director of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The symposium will be held on September 22, 2016 at the North Laurel Community Center. This is the same date as our CoA annual meeting. Noelle suggested that a member of the Alumni Group may wish to attend.

The County Council HHS Committee will hold its budget meeting on October 19, 2016, from 8:00 – 10:30 am. The Public Policy Committee will draft a statement, and Isabelle will represent the CoA.

**AAA Director's Report – Dr. Odile Brunetto.**

Falls prevention. Odile reported on a new, two-year grant to the County to implement a falls prevention training and community education program. The project will use a train-the-trainer model, through which volunteers will be trained to provide fall prevention programs for seniors. The County will provide facilities and materials. Anyone interested in serving as a trainer should contact Odile. Miriam noted the importance of also coordinating with hospitals.

Isabelle asked whether there is funding for home modification financial assistance, and whether the County has attempted to get such grants? Odile said that Montgomery County is very interested in this issue, and that she will soon attend a meeting with representatives of Habitat, two Villages (Takoma Park and Silver Spring), and others, to discuss a new pilot project. Grace

described a program in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, in which contractors do accessibility assessments and home modifications for seniors during their off season.

HHS Strategic Alignment Process. HHS is seeking to align County activities around mental health issues, and would like the CoA to be involved. Last year, the Council issued a report on behavioral health, but it did not address senior issues. (Several years ago, the CoA conducted a summer study on senior mental health.) HHS will convene the first meeting on alignment in September and would like CoA involvement. Rev and Miriam expressed interest in attending.

Age-Friendly Montgomery Update. The ten AF workgroups have been created, chairs have been identified, and some workgroups have met. The AF Montgomery County Advisory Group will meet on September 28, 2016. At that meeting, workgroups will each present three goals, along with action plans and anticipated outcomes, for inclusion in the overall AF Strategic Plan. There was discussion about whether early onset dementia should be addressed as part of AF or as part of the Dementia Friendly initiative. David explained that the Dementia Friendly initiative is more of a top down, national level structure to help communities identify issues and needs. AF is more of a local process, to develop mechanisms for meeting identified needs. The CoA now has a representative in each workgroup.

\*\*The County OMB is considering reclassifying the previously approved AF staff position from Senior Fellow (11 hours/week) to Part-Time County Employee (20 hours/week). The hourly rate is the same.

State Dental Grant. Montgomery County has been receiving \$75,000 annually from the state for senior dental programs. That funding will be reduced to \$40,000 for FY2017, but will return to the full amount in FY2018.

Group Home Subsidy. State funding has been reduced, but will return to the current level over the next four years (serving 40 people).

Maryland Citizens Health Initiative. This coalition is holding a series of meetings in the fall to discuss changes to the Maryland healthcare system. For more information, see <http://healthcareforall.com/2016/08/attend-a-forum-about-marylands-new-healthcare-system>.

### **CoA Draft By-laws, Membership, and Committees – Odile Brunetto.**

Odile reported that she received an email from the County Attorney's office. That office has reviewed the draft by-laws and we should hear from them soon.

Eight CoA members, including a number of committee co-chairs, will complete their second terms at the end of 2016. They include Paul del Ponte, Tammy Duell, Barbara Multz, Grace Whipple, Chuck Kauffman, Rudy Oswald, and Judy Levy. Other co-chairs are stepping down or moving to different committees. Committee chair positions will also turn over in January. As a result, we need to identify one or more co-chairs for all committees. Those co-chairs should

reach out to new members of their committees (COA members and others), to welcome them and to give them background and other information about the committee's work and priorities.

There was discussion of Commissioner absenteeism, and what the CoA can do when members fail to attend meetings. Under County policy for boards, committees, and commissions, members who miss three CoA meetings within a rolling year are to be removed, except that the County Executive may retain them in the case of illness, emergency, or other good cause. Unless new members have a specific interest, it can be a challenge for them to identify what committee(s) to join and how to get involved. One previous suggestion for engaging new members was repeated: that they be paired with a more experienced buddy.

### **Dental Services Summer Study – Tammy Duell.**

Tammy reported that the summer study was highly successful. It was well-attended by a diverse group of engaged people, including invited experts and CoA members. Some invited experts continued to attend meetings and have offered their assistance going forward. The group would like to continue to meet on these issues.

Tammy expressed appreciation to Tina Purser-Langley for her organizational support, and to Karen Maricheau for her “behind the scenes” research. The report will include recommendations for advocacy, partnerships, and outreach and communications. The report is being drafted and will be ready for the annual meeting.

### **Annual Meeting, September 22, 2016 – Tammy Duell.**

Tammy reviewed the draft agenda for the annual meeting, which will be held in the Rockville Library from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm, September 22, 2016. The annual meeting will focus on senior needs, services, and gaps in services, with the goal of identifying where and how the CoA can advocate to help the county meet those needs. The annual meeting program will include opening remarks from County Executive Isiah Leggett and some words from County Council President Nancy Floreen, plus updates from county agency leaders. There will be a working lunch with presentations on key CoA issues.

The morning business meeting will address the Dental Services Summer Study and recommendations from the Committee Restructuring Task Force. Afternoon discussion will focus on CoA budget and legislative priorities.

The executive committee approved this agenda, with the understanding that some small changes would still be made.

### **Restructuring Task Summary and Recommendations – Isabelle Schoenfeld and Stephanie Edelstein**

Isabelle and Stephanie spoke briefly about the work of the task force, whose members included almost everyone present at this executive committee meeting. The final draft of the recommendations was distributed to the task force and executive committee the week before this meeting, and some changes made in response to comments. The recommendations were approved. They will be presented to the full CoA in September. Committee co-chairs should discuss them at September committee meetings.

*Stephanie Edelstein*  
*Secretary*