

Commission on Aging
February 24, 2022
9:30 A.M.-11:50 A.M.
Virtual via Zoom

February Minutes

Welcome—Barbara Selter, Chair

- Roll Call/Attendee Introductions

COMMISSIONERS

- Wayne Berman
- Neal Brown
- Virginia Cain
- Betsy Carrier
- Jean Dinwiddie
- Joyce Dubow
- David Engel
- Nkiru J. Ezeani
- Dr. Arunima Ghosh
- Mona Y. Grieser
- Morris Klein
- Kendell Matthews
- Nanine Meiklejohn
- Sibon Ncube
- Karon Phillips
- Helen Pross (Laurie)
- Edgar Rivas
- Beverly Rollins
- Barbara Selter
- Mary Sweeney
- Tho Tran
- Hillery Tumba
- Marsha Weber
- T. Ryan Wilson
- Arthur Williams
- Janice Zalen

Absent

- Rev. Dr. Ruby Moon
- Kate Smith

Alumni

- Irwin Goldbloom
- Austin Heyman
- Dick Jourdenais

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Liaison

- Monique Gardner, African American Health Program
- Arlee Wallace, African American Health Program
- Sara Swarr Mont, Dept of Recreation
- Denise Isreal, Dept. of Transportation
- Phoebe Shih, Asian American Health Initiative

Staff

- Odile Brunetto, Ed. D., Aging and Disability Services, DHHS
- Patrice L. McGhee. DPA Area Agency on Aging, Aging and Disability

- Shawn Brennan, Department of Health & Human Services Transportation & Mobility and COA
- Marcia Pruzan, Senior Fellow
- Tremayne Jones, Aging & Disability Services, DHHS
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- Guest**
- Carmen Facciolo, Asst. Chief, MC Police
- Darren Francke, Asst. Chief, MC Police
- Kimberly McLurkin, Invited by Arthur Williams

AAA Director updates – Dr. Patrice McGhee, Director Area Agencies on Aging

Dr. McGhee announced the County mask mandate was lifted on February 21 (although HHS visitors are encouraged to still use) and reminded the COA that COVID supplies such as rapid tests and masks are still available at designated county libraries. She stated that the County’s rapid COVID test website is live. She noted that she received an announcement from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services saying that individuals will be able to get eight over-the-counter COVID tests a month beginning in April. The tests that are being distributed have been authorized by the Food and Drug Administration.

Maryland Legislature Session 2022 Bills to watch (among many others)

Senate Bill 28/House Bill 80- Would require Dept of Health to send 7500 home and community -based services applications each month.

Senate Bill 531-Would require the State to conduct a study of Assisted Living Facilities with 9 or fewer beds.

Senate Bill 284- Requiring each local Board of Election to conduct a voter registration drive at least once a year in high schools

Office of Health Care Quality visited 3-4 nursing homes this month. No details are available.

About the American Rescue Plan Act funds, she stated that staff have not received an approval yet for their request. Staff will share ARPA information with the CoA once it is received. They have received no feedback from the Office of Management and Budget.

The County did receive funding for the Coronavirus Grants. Staff are working with the Public Information Office to develop marketing and creative materials to encourage vaccination and boosters. The Public Information Office will oversee getting information out about them. Staff are exploring grassroots options to market the money from the grant.

Dr. McGhee stated that the County is having staffing issues with its nurses. Currently, there is a job posting for a nurse manager that closes on March 8. The County is also looking for four additional nurses.

Presentation from Montgomery County Police Department on Reimagining Policing Assistant Chief Francke and Assistant Chief Facciolo, Montgomery County Police Department

Chair, Barbara Selter introduced Assistant Chief Francke and Assistant Chief Facciolo

Assistant Chief Francke : Reimagining Public Safety

Assistant Chief Francke: Montgomery County has been through highs and lows where police work was highly thought-of, as during events like the sniper. The younger officers joining the profession now are under incredible scrutiny, especially with immediately available media. After George Floyd's death, our community got engaged in the protest movements, but few people were arrested. Our community members and politicians wanted to develop best police practices to communicate to the Police Department. New initiatives occurred when Chief Jones was appointed as Chief of Police

- An external audit of the police department is ongoing. There are preliminary results, and they expect a full report in March. The consultants are reading what and how officers perform their job and offer analysis of what is working and where improved is needed.
- The County Executive has created a reimagining public safety workgroup that issued recommendations taking in account the civilian side.
- The State of Maryland Legislature passed the Police Accountability Act, with the most progressive police reforms in the country.
- The Police Accountability Act is a series of legislative moves that went into effect on October 1st of 2021 and continue for the next two years. Changes include how no-knock search warrants for drugs, sex crimes, weapons will be conducted -only from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
- Internal Affairs investigations were considered a private personnel issue. They will be subject to the Public Information Act. This is a jarring change for officers.
- Nationwide police recruitment is down but 200 individuals have applied to become Montgomery County police officers in this recent class. To have these 200 applicants is an accomplishment. The challenge is how many candidates are qualified. The department projection over the next years will be down several officers.
- Montgomery County Police Department will celebrate their 100th Anniversary this year. The event will be a fun community day. The announcement will come out soon and they would like CoA to participate.

Assistant Chief Facciolo: Community Resource Bureau

- Officer Facciolo informed us of programs that engage the community such as, School Community Engagement Officers, which use a cluster model.
- The goal is to involve the community, and provide support and crisis response. Policy planning is using evidence and data about resources the community needs.
- What is Community policing? Problem solving, partnerships, officers working in the community, policy planning as to what the community needs.
- Information technology , data collection , data systems and recruitment of officers
- He gave an example: In District 3 there is a problem with gangs and gun violence. Officers worked on building trust and started a basketball league .It is very important to build trust.
- Community Engagement officers can offer crisis support get to nursing facilities to respond to either a resident calling because they feel they are being abused or staff calling because they have a very unruly person. T here have been problems in the past
- Assistant Chief Facciolo take aways is in policing there is a need to build trust with the community, police officer embrace new police policies, using technology, listening to the community needs, training and education, and officers 'wellness and safety.

Answers to COA Questions

Assistant Chief Facciolo's We are building out or developing an elderly department which will develop crisis invention strategies for seniors in nursing

homes, senior buildings, and private homes. Officers will be trained to look for the red flags.

Police are available 24/7 when you make a phone call. Suggest that you call 911 or 279-8000 -- officers will come out and they become social workers to do their best to determine the situation. They could: (1) identify if a crime has occurred and (2) if a crime has not occurred, but there is concern, they can point them to several resources within Montgomery County. They act as tremendous advocates for many different groups.

Liaisons (Recreation, Transportation, Age Friendly, Asian American Health Initiative, African American Health)

Recreation: Sarah Swarr

Long Branch Community Center is projected to open in May. Will start to transition the men's shelter out of the Long Branch Community and Senior Center starting in March. Workers are doing repairs to the building, new. Coffield Community Center is about two weeks behind Long Branch; they are projected to start moving out late in March and then to get them back into their building mid- May.

Transportation: Denise Israel

Bus transportation service were cut back because of Covid on Flash, Extra and Flex bus lines. New schedules are updated daily for Flash. They are in the process of recruiting new bus drivers Masks still need to be worn on public transportation. Call-N-Ride is providing essential food delivery for older adults and people with disabilities. Also rides to food banks, grocery stores and pharmacies. Free taxi rides are available to testing sites, vaccines clinics and to pick-up N95 masks and rapid testing kits from libraries for older adults and persons with disabilities. Flyers are out in libraries and community centers to inform the target population. Senior smart trip cards issued before 2012 would have to be replaced by March 1st because of updated fare boxes. The old cards will be invalid. Please go to the website to find out how to replace your smart card and transfer your balance.

Age Friendly Montgomery- Marcia Pruzan

The ten age friendly work groups are updating their older action plans The second thing they are working on is planning for another regional roundtable to take place in October. Last year Age Friendly hosted two different events. There will be a survey sent out ahead of time in which you will be able to participate to ascertain the biggest challenging issues and this will be another forum to come up with creative innovative solutions to challenging issues.

Asian American Health Initiative- Phoebe Shih

AAHI has sponsored online presentations on topics seniors requested such as elder savings, elder abuse, fall prevention, and Medicare. Because of the pandemic, members now have tablets and participate in online virtual activities. The older adults are glad to have the resources.

African American Health Program- Arlee Wallace

AAHP reported that they are bridging relationships with six senior apartments located in the East County area.. AAHP has developed a holistic blood pressure program.. After the workshop, they will conduct a survey and determine topic areas for other sessions. AAHP prepared 50 care bags for seniors, materials included were bone health, strengthening activities, home safety, Medicaid, and social isolation. Arlee worked with East County Senior Village to provide rapid test kits and N95 masks to their members.

Commission on Aging Business

Approval of January Minutes.

- January minutes were approved.

Chairman's Report- Chair Barbara Selter

- Chair Barbara announced that the Executive Committee approved a \$50.00 contribution to the United Negro College Fund, to honor Gloria Trent, the mother of Tremayne Jones.,.
- The Executive Committee agreed that Marcia Pruzan will send her weekly update to Tremayne who will add any additional entries and send it out to the full COA newsletter.
- Wayne Berman will invite Community for Life as guests to an up-coming meeting
- Neal Potter Award- Kathleen Stobey asked for three volunteers from CoA to be judges. Hillary, Karon, and Janice volunteered to work on the committee. Barbara encouraged commissioners to inform their community, social group, villages, list servers and their own personal networks of the Neal Potter Volunteer Award.

- Commissioners Letters for Reappointments

The Chair informed us of commissioners' terms expiring in 2022. They are Arunima Ghosh, Beverly Rollins, Barbara Selter, Mary Sweeney, and Arthur Williams.

They will need to write a letter asking to be reappointed. She is not sure when that needs to happen. She will let us know when and send out more information once it is received.

- Advocacy Letters

Advocacy letters sent to date are Medicaid waiver SB28,HB80, Medicare supplemental HB 247,Transparency for Windows SB6 ,Medicaid Dental Coverage HB006, Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSFI) letter sent to the DOT director HB456 Lower the minimum age from (62 to 60) to be eligible for the SNAP program ,THRIVE 2050 Plan, She received a follow-up letter (THRIVE 2050 Plan) from the County Council President thanking the Commission. A big thank you Wayne and Joyce for putting it together.

She shared to date three members are working on HP 351 facilities delegation with the inspection authority as well as SB 531 Assisted Living Program study. The Public Policy Committee will be working on standardizing advocacy letter writing process and they will make recommendations that will go to the EC and then to the CoA for approval. Looking forward to streamlining or standardizing the process.

- Update on Medical Adult Day Care information

MADCs are requesting funding from the County to address the added cost of service provision because of the increase in the minimum wage. The money would be passed on to the staff through the payroll process. We discussed this issue in the executive committee to wait to see the County Executive budget on this issue before taking any further action.

- Laurie asked about the PACE program She will write a summary of PACE and send to EC for review.

Have Adult Daycare services been taking place in-person during Covid periods? Barbara "My understanding is that during the Covid period last year they were not occurring. Over the last two years some of the centers have opened but many of them were doing virtual activities; some of them were doing things like getting food to people and some of them reopened,

- Tremayne Jones thanked everyone for the gifts, calls, emails, on the death of her mother. The family greatly appreciated the support and concern.

- Public Forum Working Committee- Marsha
The forum is doing a marvelous job, meeting every week. At this point they are about 90% done with the design of the forum. They have the speakers and the idea how the forum that will be presented. A small group went over to Activity Center at Bohrer Park to do a test drive. We are hoping to do the Forum in person, but we understand there have been some concerns. For those who may not be able to attend in person, we are trying to accommodate recording the program.
- Liaisons to other Commissions (Health, People with Disabilities, Mental Health, Transportation, Recreation)
The Chair is soliciting commissioners to volunteer to serve on other Commissions as liaisons. Kendell Matthews is the liaison to the Recreation and Parks Commission. Wayne Berman has offered to volunteer to serve as a liaison to Transportation. Liaisons volunteers are needed for the following commissions: Health, People with Disabilities, and Mental Health. We will have liaison reports every other month.
- Meeting Attendance
Barbara stated that to increase attendance by liaisons, we will start with the AAA report followed by the Liaisons reports every other month and then guest speaker. This change will begin in April.

The Chair informed the COA that the EC agreed that it would be good to increase meetings with county council members. Would like to schedule one meeting in the fall and second in the spring. There will be details to work out, particularly surrounding the best timing. Tremayne will handle the scheduling of the meetings. She is beginning to set up a schedule to see when different council members are available. Commissioners, please review your calendar for dates and times you are available to sign up. It is suggested that two commissioners meet with a council member.

Questions: Are the meetings with council members in March or April going to be in person or virtual? The council members will let us know if meeting in-person or virtually. It will be up to Commissioners to sign up for meetings that are in their preferred mode (i.e., virtual or in person)..

Committee Reports

- Health and Wellness-Marsha
Health and Wellness spent the year focusing on Home Health Care which has now become the topic for the Public Forum Last meeting, we had six committee members present ideas of topics. At the next meeting the plan is to provide a summary and action steps. The goal is what product the committee and the Commission would be interested in producing that would be helpful to people around the county.
- Aging in Community- Mary/Wayne
The February 8th topic was food insecurity, and they had a great program put together by Joyce and Karon. We had three speakers -- two from the Montgomery County Food Council and one from the Maryland Hunger. They gave us an update on how things are going currently in the county with food insecurity support. They talked about current statistics and usage indicating that there has been an increase in SNAP usage during the pandemic. The problems talked about are: (1) it is very difficult to get the word out to all the people who really need the programs, (2) people do not know how to get the services, and (3) in Montgomery County, the most underutilized groups using SNAP now are older adults and the Latino population. Our next meeting will be on Design for Life. We will learn from real world experience the benefits and challenges started using Design for Life and in April. Future topics include our technology program and transportation.

- Public Policy-Morris/Ryan

This month we discussed the recent letters that went out. In our meeting, we talked about the letter writing process for next year, preparing for the council visits, and preparing work that is progress now.

- Communication- Jean/Beverly

Jean and Katie are really knocking themselves out, doing a wonderful job with 50 + a Montgomery County cable program. They sent out about 40 letters to people at community retirement community centers and assisted living facilities promoting 50 plus and are trying to get people aware of it and to encourage people to watch the program. 50 plus this month is on villages; three village leaders will give a quick overview of what villages are and talk about the accomplishments of their villages.. April the theme is staying safe in your home as a tease for our May Forum. David Engel is doing this unbelievably good thorough job of working with the various web county websites that deal with older adult issues. He coordinates the information and make sure it is correct.

- **New Business-Wayne**

Over the last several months they have tried to organize an award so that the Commission on Aging can recognize good work that an individual and or organization in Montgomery County has done over the past three years supporting and improving lives of older adults. They created a template of criteria for the award, award formats and need volunteers from the commission to help them identify the recipient. Eddie has contacted someone from academia for the award committee. They are looking for two volunteers from the Commission to help. Would like to solicit four nominations in the next weeks. They will have an evaluation panel review, which can make some suggestions and recognitions in the April. Wayne will send all the information out to the commission. The award will be presented at the May Forum. Commissioners may submit a person or organization name on the nomination form and then we also need commissioners, to be on the evaluation committee. If you are interested, please feel free to let me know on an email.

- **Action Items**

Volunteers for the Neal Potter Award- contact Barbara

Commissioners' Letters for Reappointments- contact Barbara

\$50.00 contribution, to honor Gloria Trent, to the United Negro College Fund. - David Laurie write a summary of PACE and send to EC for review.

Volunteers Liaisons needed for other Commissions including Health, People with Disabilities, Mental Health- contact Barbara

Recipient Nomination form for Community for a Lifetime Award- Wayne

Volunteers for Community for a Lifetime Award- Wayne

The Public Policy Committee will be working on standardizing advocacy letter writing process and they will make recommendations that will go to the EC and then to the CoA for approval. -Morris/Ryan

Adjourn: 11:35 am

NOTE: Invited Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

- March 24, 2022 – Hospice/Palliative Care – Edo Banack. President and CEO of National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. –
- April 28. 2022- Aging Life Care Management – Susy Murphy, Debra Levy Eldercare Associates