

COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

May 24, 2018

Members Present	Members Absent
Mort Faller	Amoke Alakoye
Neal Brown	Barbara Brubeck
Sue Guenther	Mary Petrizzo
Karen Maricheau	Rashid Makhdoom
Nanine Meiklejohn	
Alan Kaplan	
Phyllis Rand	
Jean Dinwiddie	
Jerry Morenoff	Liaisons
Amy Harbison	Phil Smakula, Department of Recreation
Deborah Royster	Marcia Pruzan, Senior Fellow Age Friendly Montgomery
Miriam Kelty	
Ryan Wilson	Guests
Noelle Heyman	Charles Short, Special Assistant to County Executive
Stephanie Edelstein	
Richard Jourdenais	Alumni
Nguyen Minh Chau	Beth Shapiro
Hillery Tumba	John Honig
Monica Schaeffer	
Syed Yusuf	Staff
Tho Tran	Jay Kenney, Department of Health and Human Services
Marsha Weber	
Isabelle Schoenfeld	Odile Brunetto, Department of Health and Human Services
Revathi Vikram	Pazit Aviv, Department of Health and Human Services
	Shawn Brennan, Department of Health and Human Services
	Tremayne Jones, Department of Health and Human Services

Call to order—Chair, Isabelle Schoenfeld called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Isabelle welcomed new Commissioner Amy Harbison.

Action – April minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget and Finance Advisor Report—Syed reported the COA account balance is \$5,562.31.

AAA Director Update—Dr. Odile Brunetto reported on the following:

- My Groceries to Go Program— Montgomery County applied to expand the program and it was approved for 500 people. So far 300 people have been enrolled in the program. This partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank delivers food to seniors.
- Governor Hogan approved a 3% increase to LTSS providers. Providers of home- and community-based services and nursing home care to Medicaid beneficiaries in Maryland will receive a 3% rate increase for FY2019 beginning in July. The state's budget for the fiscal year, which begins July 1, includes a total of \$20.2 million to fund the long-term services and supports — \$5.1 million for the home- and community-based provider rate, \$3 million for the specialized foster care and group home service provider rate and \$12.1 million for the nursing home rate. More than 42,000 individuals receive LTSS via Maryland Medicaid, increasingly through home and community-based services rather than institutional-based care, according to the governor's office. The state was one of the first to implement the Community First Choice program, an option established under the Affordable Care Act intended to make it easier for Medicaid participants who require institutional-levels of care to receive services in home- and community-based settings.
- The Montgomery County Planning Department, part of The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, has completed a study “Meeting the Housing Needs of Older Adults in Montgomery County” and will present the findings to the Montgomery County Planning Board today. This study, was undertaken, in part, based on feedback from the Commission on Aging that the Planning Department’s 2017 study “Montgomery County Rental Housing” included minimal information on older adults housing demographics and needs. It was also undertaken by the department’s Research and Special Projects Division in response to the county’s growing number of residents aged 55 and older—estimated to be nearly 288,000 people—and the housing challenges this population faces. Consultant Lisa Sturtevant and Associates worked with the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis and Neighborhood Fundamentals to assess the housing needs of seniors in Montgomery County.

Among the goals of the research were to quantify the supply of housing serving older adults in the county; document the characteristics of the senior population; assess current and future demand for senior housing-both the amount and preferred housing types; and recommend ways of preparing to meet growing senior housing needs.

For more information on the study “Meeting the Housing Needs of Older Adults in Montgomery County” visit the website at: <http://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Meeting-the-Housing-Needs-of-Older-Adults-in-Montgomery-County-Final-5-18-18.pdf>

County and Budget Process-Dr. Jay Kenney and Dr. Odile Brunetto explained the timeline of the budget process. County staff and all departments begin in September to prepare the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. In September, departments are directed to prepare a budget that will be higher, lower, or flat - the same as that of the current year. If departments must eliminate programs they prioritize which programs will be cut in order to protect essential programs. The programs that are usually protected are services like Adult Protective Services, Ombudsman and Public Guardianship. Flat budgets can still include increases for staff, salaries, and healthcare.

County departments send their proposed budgets to OMB, which reviews them and sends them to the CE for review. The CE’s proposed budget is released to the public and sent to the County Council by March 15th. This budget includes the CE’s Senior Initiative Budget. The Council votes on the budget by the end of May. The County Council will vote today (the day of the COA meeting). The final budget is below:

FY19 County Budget

<u>COA Priorities</u>	<u>County Executive Proposed</u>	<u>County Council Approved</u>
Affordable Housing Increase HIF balance up to \$53.5 million	\$51.6 million included for HIF (Housing Initiative Funds) DHCA	\$63.8 million for HIF_
1 Full Time Position Long Term Care Ombudsman Program \$87,097		1 Full Time LTCO Position \$65, 320
1 Full Time Position for Social Worker for the Public Guardianship Program \$99,629		

Senior Center Plus \$150,000 Early State Memory Loss	Community Grant to JCA to establish one additional site in partnership with Recreation Department for seniors with early state memory loss \$30,000	JCA grant for Recreation Department Project with seniors with early stage memory loss \$30,000 + \$10,000
Respite Care \$89,000 minimum wage increase for Direct Care Staff		
Respite Care Increase for Respite House \$50,000		
State Attorney Office 1 Full Time position for Fraud Investigation \$99,629	Eliminate senior JCA bus transportation on Fridays to senior centers: Recreation Department reduction of \$69,000	
Restore Friday Transportation to Senior Centers \$69K	Reduce senior mini trips: Recreation Department reduction of \$13, 234	
Restore mini trips \$13,234	Eliminate Ride On bus senior transport to Ross Body Community Center: Reduction of \$14,000 HHS	
	Add financial assistance for Adult Medical Day Care new minimum wage staff salary \$813,759 HHS	
	Add one full time nurse position for HHS project with EMS (Mobile Integrated Health program) 911 frequent users and annualize cost of one FT Social Worker that was approved in FY18 \$169,405	\$169, 405 for both positions
	As of March 15, 2018	As of May 17, 2018

Based on this budget, Odile suggested the following Preliminary Priorities for COA consideration for FY 20:

- Public Guardianship Social Worker \$74,720
- Early Stage Memory Loss/Recreation Department partnership JCA \$120,000
- Respite Care Increase \$89,000
- Respite House Increase \$50,000
- Friday Transportation to Senior Centers \$91,924
- Mini Trip to Recreation Department \$12,560

- New Recreation Department Senior Center in Silver Spring-Senior Center staffing, operating cost, lunch program and transportation \$ TBD
- Affordable Housing HIF \$ TBD

Guest Speaker: Charles L. (Chuck) Short-Special Assistant to the County Executive (CE) was introduced by Isabelle. Mr. Short has worked in different leadership capacities in the County government under every CE starting with CE Charles Gilchrist. Mr. Short expects that the election results will most likely not change WHAT we do—major programs, boards and commissions, budget procedures, etc. But HOW we do what we do could change and this is critical. As we have learned from the recent changes at the federal level, the WAY we conduct our business is extremely important. Will it be done with the same civility, inclusion, transparency, involvement, respect that this administration has tried to do?

Mr. Short spoke to the audience about the newly elected officials and their support for diverse groups. Will a new CE be as accepting of new immigrants as Ike Leggett? Not only ‘accepting’ but affirming and celebrating our diversity. Will it be important to a new CE that Montgomery County be the “most welcoming community?” Will events such as Annual Diversity Day continue, etc? This speaks to the importance of “Political Leadership” ...HOW one Leads

What is very different about this election is HOW LONG IT WILL BE FROM THE PRIMARY RESULTS to the time the new CE and Council will assume office, i.e., 6 months. But this 6 month Transition period will also give the COA and others more time to weigh in, to request to meet with the new officials and make their needs known.

Mr. Short urged the COA to create a “Briefing Paper” for the new administration. He recommended that it be at the “30,000 foot level” rather than including lots of statistics and details. He suggested that it be no more than 30 pages with each page devoted to an issue of importance to the COA (i.e., Affordable Senior Housing; Transportation; Aging in Place, Age-Friendly Montgomery Initiative, etc.)

Other suggestions:

- COA should meet with the incoming CE and other newly elected officials and present the briefing paper in person.
- COA should make known to the incoming CE the “qualities” that we desire in appointed positions/department heads/high level managers.

- COA can expect a turnover in some appointed department heads once the primaries are over as current directors/managers retire or seek other employment, or replaced. The appointments made by the CE need to be confirmed by the Council.
- COA is urged to meet frequently with the CE, just 30 minutes at a time, but 3-4 times per year.
- COA is encouraged to hold a few large meetings of 100 or more stakeholders so they get publicity and are seen as having political clout and influence.
- Individuals can use their individual personal relationships (if they have them) with newly elected officials (NOT as COA members, but, as individuals).

The new CE has very important actions to take very soon after the November elections, including: Capital Budget due three weeks after inauguration, State Legislative Agenda for the State General Assembly 2019 session, and the Operating Budget due March 15.

Committee/Task Group Reports

- **Aging in Place**-Noelle reported that Tim Goetzinger from the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) was the guest speaker at the May meeting. He discussed the Housing Initiative Fund and the County's system for funding affordable housing. The committee will consider next steps and recommendations at the June meeting.
- **Health & Wellness**-Alan updated the COA on the Health & Wellness Committee. The committee discussed a draft of the Background of the Committee focus plan study as well as statistics on Montgomery County senior demographics. The discussion surrounded what information/resources and speakers needed for the study. Alan stated the committee agreed to extend their meeting time from 9-11am starting in June, and that they will meet in both June and July.
- **Public Policy**-Ryan reported that the committee discussed the County Council's budget activities on the reconciliation list, which includes items funding the public guardianship program, the long-term care ombudsman program, and transportation to senior centers. Some members of the County Council want a

study to determine what transportation options to senior centers older adults would prefer. **State Activity** – Two bills on which the Commission had written letters of support, SB 4 and SB 386, had passed but had not yet been signed by the governor as of the date of the committee meeting. SB 4 establishes an oversight committee on quality of care in nursing homes, and SB 386 establishes time frames within which OHCQ must investigate serious complaints. Ryan agreed to follow up with Senator Kramer or others in the county legislative delegation. Note – the Governor signed both bills after the committee meeting – SB 4 is now Chapter 473, and SB 386 is now Chapter 454 of 2018. The committee discussed reaching out to other County Commissions on Aging and coordinating activities where appropriate. Mort volunteered to draft a letter to the State Department of Aging to ask for contact information for other county commissions on aging.

- **Ageism Study**-Hillery discussed the Kick-Off Meeting held on May 18th. Members of the workgroup met to discuss critical themes in ageism and develop questions of interest for a panel of experts to address on May 31st. The conversation was illuminating and touched on many interesting subjects including:
 - **Elder speak.** Different participants shared experiences of ageism such as elder speak – when someone patronizes or infantilizes an older person when addressing them: Examples given: “young man” “young lady” “sweetie” “honey”
 - **Ageism in the workplace.** Experiences of age discrimination in employment and different ways that job descriptions are phrased or employment applications are structured to determine age of candidates.
 - **Intentionality behind ageism.** There was discussion that sometimes things are said that are not intended to be offensive by the person saying them but they are interpreted in this way. The space of opportunity is by focusing on those interactions. It will be harder to change behavior and attitudes of people who are intentionally biased vs those who hold implicit biases.
 - **Stereotyping.** Older adults are not a single monolithic group. Older adults represent multiple generations and experiences yet are often described in stereotypes. Often these stereotypes are negative and related to diminishing physical and cognitive abilities.
 - **Individual vs. communal experiences.** In our individual interactions people will often frame the information they share about themselves to control

how their audience perceives them. There are opportunities to address ageism in both individual interactions and broader culture.

Updates on June 28th COA meeting program-Revathi provided an update on planning of the June 28th meeting program on diverse populations among older adults in the County. Based upon the amount of time available at the meeting and the demographic data on diverse communities in the County, it was decided to focus on 5 groups: African American, Ethiopian, Salvadorian, Vietnamese and Korean. In addition, representatives (and COA alumni) from the Chinese and Muslim communities will be invited to share their experience and expertise. Format of the program is a facilitated conversation between a facilitator, representatives of the diverse communities listed above, and the audience. Bruce Adams, Director of the Office of Community Partnerships, will facilitate.

Isabelle noted that the June 28th meeting will have another topic following the diversity focused topic. This will be a discussion related to COA's preliminary FY20 budget priorities. It will be a brown bag lunch meeting from noon to 1:00pm. It's important that all Commissioners plan to stay for this additional hour discussion.

Adjourn