

Commission on Aging
May 26,2022, at 9:30 a.m.
Virtually Via Zoom

Board Members : Wayne Berman, Neal Brown, Virginia Cain, Elizabeth (Betsy) Carrier, Jean Dinwiddie, Joyce Dubow, David Engel, Nkiru j. Ezeani, Mona Y. Grieser, Kendell Matthews, Siboncube, Karon Phillips, Helen (Laurie) Pross, Edgar Rivas, Beverly Rollins, Barbara Selter, Mary Sweeney, Marsha Weber, T. Ryan Wilson, Arthur Williams, Janice Zalen **Alumni:** Austin Heyman **Liaisons:** Sara Swarr, Phoebe Shih **Staff:** Odile Brunetto , Dr. Patrice L. McGhee, Shawn Brennan, Tremayne Jones, Marcia Pruzan **Guests:** Tricia Hanson, Josi Macon, Mona Negm **Guest Speaker:** Phoebe Shih, Asian American Health Program
Absent: Dr. Arunima Ghosh, Morris Klein, Nanine Meiklejohn, Rev. Dr. Ruby Moon, Kate Smith, Tho Tran, Hillery Tumba,

Welcome- Barbara Selter, Chair

- Roll Call- Edgar Rivas

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

- The staff is in the process of drafting the area plan update which is due May 31. Federal monitoring of Titles III and Title VII of the Older Americans Act for 2020 and 2021 pre-report due June 1. Final report due July 26. Will provide the draft plan to Barbara for review and approval.
 - Federal monitoring Titles III and Title VII for 2020 and 2021 pre-report due June 1 final report July 6.
 - Staffing: Vacant positions; Caregiver Manager, one full-time Ombudsman position in budget (which converted from being a half-time Ombudsman position), two nurse positions vacant.
 - May is older Americans Month. The theme is “Age My Way “, to honor them on May 19, the County Executive held an in-person Proclamation Event. Odile, Patrice, Shawn, and Barbara attended the event. Dr. McGhee thanked Barbara for her beautiful remarks. Then she read The Older Americans Month Proclamation to the group.
 - Senior Planet Tech Hotline support hours were extended to 9am-8 pm, Mon-Fri, 888.713.3495
 - Talked about OHCQ, that conducts inspections of nursing homes in Maryland. Tier I must be done before Tier II. Because of covid and ransomware, the state of Maryland has a backlog of inspections.
 - Responses to Questions: Dr. McGhee: the inspections are monitored by the state of Maryland. The age in the Older Americans Act is sixty and older (not fifty), except possibly employment programs

Presentation on Building Bridges: Improving Cultural competency with Asian Americans- Phoebe Shih, Asian American Health Program

- Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) is dedicated to improving the health and wellness of Asian American communities in Montgomery County by applying an equity lens, community engagement and data driven approaches. AAHI was established in 2005 as part of Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, under the Office of Community Affairs.
- Montgomery has diverse groups of many Asian cultures such as Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Pakistani, Indian, Japanese, Pacific Islanders and East Asia and Southeast Asia, to name a few. AAHI disseminates relevant health information to the Asian American community at faith-based and community-based organizations, cultural events, health fairs and small businesses. AAHI's culturally and linguistically tailored health education materials are available in multiple languages. Montgomery County has large populations of Asian Americans who live in Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Parkview.
- AAHI also provides referrals to screening and health care services throughout Montgomery County to eligible residents. To support and empower community partners in the Asian American community, AAHI provides several types of workshops to local organizations so that communities have the skills, knowledge, and resources to better address the needs of their members. Some of the health concerns such cancer, hepatitis B, diabetes, tobacco, use and osteoporosis.
- Project and the Public Resource Education Program (PREP): AAHI also provides technical assistance to community partners and public Health Organization to support the planning, implementation and evaluation of their health services and programs. AAHI offers insight on best practices and community outreach and health programs implemented in Asian American communities. Equipped with these tools, organizations can be more effective in addressing the health needs in their communities and be able to develop programs and services that are culturally and linguistically competent when serving Asian American.
- Art Williams: In February do not invite the AAHP. He would like to see the data of the various ethnic groups of the people of color in Montgomery County. Blacks (African American)
"Ours is no immigration story" to the United States of America.

Liaison Updates- Liaisons from Other Boards and Commissions and CoA commissioners to other Boards and Commissions

- Recreation and Park-Sara Swarr
 - Long Branch Community Recreation Center opened on May 16. Ruppert Garden Center donated plants and their employees volunteered to arrange and plant flowers and shrubby. The grounds look beautiful. This is a give back to the community because fifty Ruppert staff live in the Long Branch

community. Beginning on June 6, there will be a week-long celebration with special events, and shows

- Gwendolyn Coffield Community Center will open on June 13 with many special events.
- Seniors 55 and older are invited to a BBQ Party at Smokey Glen on June 22. You will need to register for the event, transportation will be provided. Please let your center director know if you need transportation.
- Senior Summer Camp will open at the Long Branch Center on June 21 and the Damascus Center the week after
- Age Friendly – Marcia Pruzan
 - Marcia gave congratulations to CoA on the wonderful Public Forum, thanked us for the award.
 - They are working on the Ten Domain- progress Report for AARP.
 - A regional group is planning a Regional Summit for November on housing, and long-term care.
- Asian American Health Initiative - Phoebe Shih
 - AAHI Heritage Month Celebration on Sunday, May 22.
 - On May 31, Tricia Hanson will be the guest speaker
- End of Life- Laurie Pross
 - Attended her first meeting of the Coalition this month. They had a speaker who was particularly good.
 - She met folks and feels she will enjoy this group.
- Commission on Health- Betsy Carrier
 - The mission of this commission (COH) is to advise the County Executive and County Council on Public Health issues.
 - Issues facing (COH) are equitable access to care, prevention/vaccines, mental health, substance abuse and violence, and environmental toxins
 - This commission needs more diverse members

Commission on Aging Business

- Approval of March 2022 minutes
 - The motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda of April CoA minutes, the draft First Quarter CoA Report and letters to Congressional leaders and Mr. Hucker.
 - Motion made by Laurie and seconded by Jean. Motion approved
- **Chairman's Report**
No update on ARPA Funds
- Reports on remaining County Council Visits:
- Councilmember Will Jawando May 2, 2022- Kendell

- Councilmember Jawando is in support of the Senior Fellow position to improve communication between the county and older adults in Montgomery County.
- He supports funding for Access HEARS.
- The Council member strongly supports additional affordable housing for older adults.
- Council member Jawando would like CoA to focus on an Intergenerational model between school children and older adults.
- Councilmember Hans Riemer April 29,2022- Betsy
 - Mr. Riemer is chair of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development ((PHED) affordable housing is one of his major concerns. He is supportive of affordable housing for older adults.
 - He is in support of two senior fellow positions.
 - He supports funding for Access HEARS.
- Senior Summit-what actions do we want to take to advocate or this?
 - There were two Senior Summits under former County Executive Ike Leggett
 - The purposes of the previous two Senior Summits were to bring together government, the private sector, service providers, and the public to discuss and plan for the future of aging services in the County.
 - Suggestions: We work with Age Friendly and CoA alumni to get a better understanding of the overall project. Invite Marcia Pruzan to the meeting to provide details about the planning of a Senior Summit.
 - Establish a Taskforce to look into the project.
- Updates from Committees on Budget Priorities
 - All Commissioners are expected to attend at least one committee meeting, where they can offer new budget priorities for consideration. None will be accepted during the July budget meeting.
- Update on Public policy Committee work on advocacy process
 - When communicating to legislators, be proactive and know the position that you would like to advocate. It best to have your thoughts as to what you want to advocate thought through ahead of time. It is helpful to understand these points when writing letters and speaking before a group.
 - Barbara will invite Leslie Frey to do a Public Policy and Advocacy presentation. She will send out dates for advocacy training to the entire CoA. This will be helpful to CoA members to participate in the legislative process.
- **Update on Annual and Quarterly Reports**

Very comprehensive report of the work of the Commission on Aging this quarter. We have placed on the website fourteen or more advocacy letters thus far in 2022. Wil edit the report's mention of the Health and Wellness topic to "Planning for Life Transitions as We Age."

- Approvals to ratify email votes
 - Letter to Tom Hucker
 - Quarterly Report
 - Annual Report
 - Justice In Aging Letter on Federal HCBS Legislation

Committee Reports

- Communication- Marsha and Neal
 - *May's 50+ in Montgomery County's* topic was on gardening and native plants. June topic is End of Life Issues, presenter Diane Rehm.
 - Beginning to gather information about identifying older adult organizations, older adult retirement communities and avenues to get information to them. Next meeting is **June 27** at 1 pm.
 - Katie is getting better and might be back in June. She thanks CoA for your flowers, cards, and calls.
 - Shawn informed us that management of Zoom calls for all Boards, Committees, and Commissions will come under County staff. Shawn and Tremayne are working towards having the accounts set-up by October 31.

- Health and Wellness- Marsha /Neal
 - Topic for this year is "Planning for Life Transitions as We Age." Next meeting is June 7 at 9:30 am.
 - Planning outline of budget and advocacy priorities. Our input will be ready in June.

- Age in Community- Wayne, Mary
 - *May's* meeting topic was transportation with two speakers with focus on programs for older adults and persons with Disabilities. such as Call-n-Ride, Ride on buses, Taxi services, and Ride On Reimagined in 2023
 - Committee forming workgroups to focus on food insecurity, technology, housing, and design for life. Goal is to define priorities for consideration during the COA's July meeting.

- Public Policy- Janice
 - Will focus on more advocacy priorities, nursing home inspections, letters to legislators, and needs of older adults. Come to our meeting on June 10 at 9:30 am.
- New Business

- Communication Committee requested \$1000.00 for the production of two 30-50 second Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to promote for 50+ and the Aging and Disability Resource Unit (240-777-3000).

Motion made by Kendell and seconded by Laurie. Approved

- Communication Committee requested \$ 500.00 to edit down the Public Forum in into workable video.

Motion made by Eddie and seconded by David. Approved

- Barbara informed the group of the passing of former Montgomery County Executive Sidney "Sid" Kramer, who died on Monday, May 16. A letter of condolences will be sent to the Kramer family on behalf of CoA and donation.

Motion: A letter of condolence will be sent to the Kramer family on behalf of CoA and \$50.00 donation to Solve ME in the memory of former Montgomery County Executive Sidney "Sid" Kramer.

Motion made by Laurie and seconded by Kendell. Approved

- Currently there is \$4,625.78 in the CoA account. We need to spend down the funds Austin informed that the money was the result of fundraising for past events. Shawn shared in the future if we need funds, DHHS may provide requested funds.
- Laurie requested CoA members' cellphone numbers. Barbara will email members the request.
- Letter will be sent to Art's wife in celebration of her birthday on June 2.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn. Approved at 11:39

- Action Items

- A letter of condolence will be sent to the Kramer family on behalf of CoA. Barbara
- A \$ 50.00 donation to Solve, ME/CFS in memory of former Montgomery County Executive Sidney "Sid" Kramer. David
- Invite Marcia Pruzan to the next meeting to provide details about the planning of a Senior Summit. Barbara
- \$1,000.00 for the production of two 30-50 sec. Public Service Announcement (PSA). David
- \$ 500.00 to edit down the Public Forum in into workable document. David
- Birthday letter to Art's wife. -Barbara