

**Commission on Aging
Public Policy Committee
September 14, 2023, 9:30 – 11:00
By Zoom**

Attendees: Commissioners Wayne Berman, Bob Levey, Janice Zalen, Joyce Dubow, Morris Klein, David Engel, Ryan Wilson; Staff Peter Flandrau

Peter provided a staff report noting that Kimberly Johnson is Acting Area Agency on Aging Director.

The Committee discussed the Agenda for the Legislative Breakfast to be held virtually.

Part of the Agenda is presenting the CoA Budget Priorities. The number 1 Commission Priority is to get a fulltime position in Aging and Disability services to do outreach and marketing. The number 2 priority is to get a full time Implementation Manager to follow through with the 26 recommendations from the Home and Community Based Workforce Task Force. The Committee agreed to help advise and edit the document to present to the County Council on October 12th and to discuss at the Legislative Breakfast. Ryan agreed to look at the 2022 Agenda and modify for 2023.

The Committee discussed the Reduce the Wait Act. Peter sent out the Summary and details:

<https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/Documents/JCRs/2022/SB%20636%20%28Ch.%20464%20of%20the%20Acts%20of%202022%29%20-%20Waiver%20Programs%20-%20Waitlist%20and%20Registry%20Reduction%20%28End%20the%20Wait%20Act%29.pdf>

The Committee discussed that there is a Multi Sector Plan on Aging. Betty Romero, AARP and Mont. County Age Friendly is now responsible for implementation of that program and expanding Age Friendly Communities in Maryland. The Committee discussed whether to invite Betty to speak.

The Committee discussed the attendance at the 2022 Legislative Breakfast and which Delegates and Senators would be important to attend. It was determined that a focus on Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs would be important in addition to Bonnie Cullison, Health and Govt Operations, Mark Korman, Lorig Charkoudian, Brian Feldman, Cheryl Kagan, Jeff Waldstrecher, Will Smith, Ariana Kelly, and new Delegate Ryan Spiegel.

Wayne discussed the Maryland Dept of Health website navigation. Issues are with finding someone to talk to and the navigation is difficult. The Committee discussed accessibility and the problems with food insecurity are increased for lack of access to information. Question was should that be added to the LB as a talking point.

Bob Levey discussed concerns with the Maryland State budget with respect to the States share of Metro, Child Care bills, the Cabin John Bridge, and that the CoA should recognize the State budget shortfall in the LB discussions.

Meeting adjourned.