

**Commission on Aging
Public Policy Committee
May 12, 9:30 – 11:00
By Zoom**

Attendees: Ryan Wilson, Morris Klein, Barbara Selter, Eddie Rivas, Joyce Dubow, Janice Zalen, Wayne Berman, Shawn Brennan

State Issues

a. Expanding Advocacy During Legislative Session

The group discussed going beyond writing letters before each bill's first hearing and including non-budget issues in advocacy efforts. When delegates are here in town, we should lobby them, raise issues important to us, like LTC (to Joanne Lynn's point), make some noise, be face-to-face to educate them on our issues. Work with delegation more than at breakfast and letter writing time. Could identify legislators who are—or could be—champions of particular issues as well as reps of our districts.

This links back to our idea to set up a **more coherent advocacy process** for the Commission. One idea is for different commissioners to adopt issues, like Janice adopting the nursing home inspection issue and Wayne tracking transportation. Let commissioners pick the issues they are passionate about. Let's create an infrastructure around what adopting an issue means.

Prioritizing also important—distinguishing short and long-term issues. Some issues are too big for one person. Let's be planful and agile. Think strategically: what are ongoing things coming down pike that we care about? Some broad priorities could relate to County and State—like increasing HCBS.

We need to lobby executive branch too. But minimal time on federal issues. Focusing on a few issues to avoid being spread too thin.

b. Nursing Home Inspections

No inspections in March statewide. (MDH computer breach?) April none in Montgomery County. At some point, inspectors went to one nursing home with two immediate jeopardies.

Who to meet with? Who to request meeting with? Apparently, Dr. Nay not taking calls from Montgomery County. Who in the County can reach OHCQ? Dr. Crowel, Dr. Bridges? Clark Beil? Maybe Delegate Resnik would get involved? Or Rona Kramer, as Chair of the Oversight

Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities? Perhaps Beth Shuman/Gabe Albornoz will get involved?

Janice will call Odile and Beth Shuman. Wayne will call Stevanne Ellis, State Ombudsman.

Do we want to position someone to be on one of the task forces created this legislative session?

County Issues

- a. **Staff Report:** AAA hoping for ARPA approval around May 18; Montgomery County and Howard County will be working on a pilot program and task force related to Medical Adult Day Care and Home Care Coordination (SB 527/HB 1051).
- b. **Planning for the July meeting about budget priorities.** Should we prioritize state issues or non-budget priorities? Each committee comes up with up to 5 priorities.

Can we look at ways to promote cluster care models that enable more people to receive shorter bursts of care? In-home services provided on a sliding scale?

What's being done? Are there instances of good practices? Let's learn from what's already been done.

Federal Issues

- a. Justice in Aging Letter regarding Federal HCBS: Group voted to sign-on.

Next steps:

Start working on ideas for priorities.

Work on a plan for how we move forward on advocacy. Let's have PPC make a proposal to EC regarding the advocacy process. During the "first" meeting, id priorities. Assign volunteers to take charge of a topic, write letter, follows up, follows through leg process. Also decide how to address ad hoc issues. Have ongoing conversations with elected officials.