

Commission on Aging
Executive Committee
February, 16, 2023
9:30-11:15 AM

Welcome –

Attendees- David Engel, Chair, Wayne Berman, Marsha Weber, Marcia Pruzan, Beverly Rollins, Jean Dinwiddie, Barbara Selter, Joyce Dubow, Virginia Cain, Ryan Wilson, Morris Klein. Attendee Staff: Pazit Aviv. Betsy Carrier and Nikiru Ezeani were absent.

Roll Call – Attendance was taken via screen shot plus phone identification.

Minutes of the 1/16/23 Executive Committee meeting

The January EC minutes were approved with no objection

Proposed agenda for Feb 23 COA meeting.

- The COA practice has been to have liaison reports every other month. During the January meeting, two liaisons were not able to report. Therefore, Ingrid Lizama, Community Engagement Specialist, Latino Health Initiative and Monique Gardner, African American program will report at the February meeting.
- David mentioned that no response has yet been received to the invitations to CE County Elrich and Council President Glass, both of whom had been invited to address the commission at its February meeting. As a contingency, he proposed two other presentations: either Marla Lahat from Home Care Partners—a non-for-profit contractor for IHAS and provider of services in several Hoc buildings. Ms. Lahat would offer a follow-up to last May's Forum on home health services and well as ARPA; or a panel discussion on proposed legislation, HBO-933 that addresses assistive end-of-life. Similar legislation has been narrowly defeated in the past. It was acknowledged that this is a controversial topic and the EC determined that a presentation from panelists with diverse positions would be help inform the commission on this topic. It was further agreed that in the event neither the county executive nor the council president is able to address the commission in February there are other times during the year when it would be advantageous to hear from each of them.
- Pazit noted that county authorities require that the COA agenda be posted one week in advance of meetings. She suggested that the EC should consider submitting an "evergreen agenda" that will include generic headings with speakers identified as TBD. The evergreen agenda will be the default agenda. This was accepted by the EC as a practical approach.
- Morris noted that new requirements are being considered by the county council to require greater transparency with more timely

submission of minutes by advisory bodies. Beverly added that there is an ADA requirement to advise that people with disabilities may request assistance. Such notice is already indicated on COA agendas.

- Beverly asked if the COA has the option of meeting in executive sessions that are not open to the public. There was discussion about which issues would legitimately lend themselves to closed sessions and it was agreed that they likely would involve personnel and commission membership. We will inquire if this is permissible.

CoA Old Business

Reminder of meeting with Councilmember Luedtke- District 7 at 2pm on February 16, Council member Friedson had been invited but cannot attend. He will be rescheduled.

Update on Public Forum Planning Committee- Smart Homes, Smart Care

Wayne described the planning progress. May 4- Keynote speaker has been confirmed Scott Code - from Leading Age. Other speakers have been invited to fill out the agenda. Plans will include intergenerational components and Superintendent McKnight of Montgomery County Schools will be a featured speaker. The key objective is to have speakers address how the innovations can be applied in Montgomery County. Logistics planning also underway.

Review action items from previous CoA meeting

- Library liaison Janice Zalen, Letters submitted.
- Discuss the February 23, CoA meeting –need backup plan for Chair Engel who will be out of town. Virginia and Wayne will be available to preside if necessary.

Community for a Lifetime Awards - options to continue (or not to continue)

Wayne mentioned we agreed to move forward with the award with modification, including the composition of the evaluation committee. He proposed limiting the committee to commission members and to include one of the co-chairs of each committee. In addition, Virginia would oversee the process. An alternative would be to select 4 commissioners from the commission as a whole. Jean wanted to know why outsiders were removed from the evaluation panel. Wayne said it would be an opportunity to engage members of the commission who are otherwise not active in commission activities. He was not convinced that using outsiders raised awareness of the commission's work. Jean suggested that keeping the work entirely in-house was a bit incestuous. She favored including a commission alum, and perhaps an academician or government representative. David proposed expanding the group to include greater COA participation but retain outside participation. Beverly wanted more information about the criteria used to select awardees. Wayne will send everyone a copy. The award is intended to recognize people or organizations who have worked to improve the lives of older Americans in Montgomery County. Names of past honorees will be posted on the website. Jean asked how many nominations we've received. She wonders if the nomination is too onerous. Wayne believes it is and is agreeable to simplify the process while still providing the evaluators sufficient information to make an informed choice. Marcia agreed that the dearth of nominations is a reflection of the fact that members of the commission don't know enough about the award. Barbara noted that since there are new commissioners, it would be worthwhile to describe the award and the selection process at a full commission meeting. It was agreed to add this to the next agenda. Jean suggested that if there continues to be very few nominations, the program should re-evaluated with an eye toward terminating it. Marcia suggested that we reach out to the Age Friendly community to seek nominations.

Review of Age Friendly meeting on Senior Summit

Title yet to be announced. Perhaps there will be 3-tracks: Villages, will be one, Age Friendly, another track, and the Health and Wellness project on Life Transitions and Communications Committee could be a third, along with a focus on other Commission activities. David wanted to know if there was agreement among EC members to highlight commission initiatives. There was consensus that we should plan breakout sessions to highlight the commission's work on behalf of older adults.

Annual Report Writing – due March David is in process of reviewing Kendell's report.

Review of letters written

- Anita Vassallo, Director of Montgomery County's Public Libraries, has informed us that she has directed that library sections for older adult materials be re-established at all libraries and as a beginning point to start building an inventory of relevant and important print. We have asked Aging and Disability Services to supply each library with 50 copies each of the following documents: The Commission on Aging's Resource Factsheet · Aging and Disability Services' Sell Sheet (50 in English and 50 in multi-language)
- David sent an invitation to the new Secretary on Aging to participate in a Commission meeting. Secretary Roques agreed to speak at the May 25th CoA meeting.
- In an email letter to Patrice McGhee, the CoA requested to work closely with the "Connectors" and the "Broker" in establishing and implementing our Ambassador Program; in fact, we are thinking it would be nice if the Connectors could work directly with the CoA to help get the Ambassador Program up and running. Questions to Dr. McGhee were: 1) Will the Connectors be part of the PIO or A&D? 2) Who will be in the supervisory role for the Connectors? Further, the letter contained the following information: The combined efforts of the Connectors and the CoA could boost public participation in the Program, allow it to reach more older adults, and make it strong enough to continue after the Connectors are no longer available when their funding lapses. We are definitely envisioning a permanent Ambassador Program for the County using CoA volunteers and, ideally, County employees. Since you inquired about Ambassador Programs that surrounding Counties offer, we are sharing with you our notes from a meeting with representatives from Alexandria. We have also met with representatives from DC and I can share those notes as well. We understand that their Programs are successful and an important service to their older adults. Also, we would like to kindly request that you, or a designated staff person, include timely updates to CoA members Jean Dinwiddie and Beverly Rollins regarding the planning and training of the new Connectors and Broker. They can be reached at JeanDinwiddie@gmail.com and GraftonWV@ yahoo.com.
- A letter in support of requiring private insurers to cover the cost of hearing aids -SB0 397
- Submitted a letter of support for HB28 to support family caregivers
- We are in the process of writing a letter to support to increase in wages of homecare workers.

- Janice followed up with Kate Stewart on the nursing home issue

Potential speakers for future meetings were discussed.

- January- Patrice McGhee – ARPA funds review
- Feb-Marc Elrich? or Evan Glass? or panel: [Maryland End-of-Life Option Act \(SB 845/HB0933\)](#)
- March Evan Glass? or Marc Elrich? or Panel: Rebuilding Together/ Senior Reach/ Habit for Humanity
- April Laurie Orlov, Public Forum pre-event speaker-confirmed
- May Carmel Roques Dept of Aging, Secretary- confirmed
- June 2022 Forum In-home care follow up – Marla Lahat, Home Care Partners? Or a panel on Senior Reach, Rebuilding Montgomery
- July Budget Priorities
- August Vacation or voting on priorities
- Sept MoCo Dept of Health and Human Services –new or acting Dir. and or Dr. Bridgers - Chief of Pub Health Services. Odile is retiring in June. No information of who her replacement will be New chief of Aging and Disability director (still not news)
- Oct Affordable Housing -- How the new project was developed? AHC, Habitat, HIF etc.? or Age Friendly?
- Nov Odile Brunetto
- Dec

OTHER OPTIONS:

- Home Care Workforce
- Medicare
- Prevention of Blindness (Sean Curry) The Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington presentation on high and low tech for low / no vision.
- MC Palliative Care and End of Life Coalition, Compassion & Choices
- Medicare
- National Institute on Aging
- Elrich for end of year if he does not come in Feb/March
- Panel: Rebuilding Together Montgomery County, Habitat for Humanity, Senior Reach

- Homelessness in the county: Interagency Commission on Homelessness, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, The Montgomery County Continuum of Care (CoC)
- <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/homelessness/numbers.html>

New Business-

The Commission is not allowed to have a government account. But David suggested it would be helpful if the Commission had a budget to be used for specified expenses. Who must approve use of these funds? In the past, it's been the EC. The EC has already approved spending \$800 for two public service announcements. There was discussion about publicizing the Forum. There will be a full-page feature in the Beacon. Other plans are underway.

Beverly asked if there has been an announcement to solicit new commission members. David inquired but has not heard back yet.

Adjourn at 11:19