

Commission on Aging  
Executive Committee  
March 16, 2023

**Those in Attendance:** David Engel, Chair Roll was taken by screen shot: David Engel, Virginia Cain, Wayne Berman, Beverly Rollins, Morris Klein, Ryan Wilson, Barbara Selter, Nikki Ezeani, Marcia Pruzan, Marsha Weber, Joyce Dubow, Pazit Aviv

**Old Business**

- *Approval of February EC Minutes* The minutes were approved without objection

**Discussion of speakers for next COA meetings**

- Marla LaHat, Home Care Partners will be the guest speaker at the March meeting. She will talk about IHOS, ARPA funding she received, and state issues regarding in-home care.

**Approval of March 23<sup>th</sup> 2023 CoA Meeting Agenda**

- Review action items from previous 3/23 CoA meeting
  - David has been in touch with Access Hears to encourage them to be an exhibitor at the Forum in May. He asked them to keep the Commission informed about progress of their workplan.
  - Neal Potter award nominations are due 3/17. Barbara said that commission members usually participate on the evaluation of Neal Potter award candidates. David said we have been asked to do this this year as well. David will contact Lindsay to possible arrange for two commissioners to participate.

**Reminder and talking points for COA meeting with Council member Friedson meeting: 3/24 at 11:30am**

- This will be a virtual meeting. It will be an opportunity to discuss the proposed budget and to test talking points that will be used for meeting with other council members.
- Tremayne will send a sign-up letter to all commissioners for meetings with council members.

**Update on Public Forum Planning Committee**

- Wayne reported that all speakers and the agenda are worked out. They are working on talking points for the speakers and the logistics of the day. School superintendent McKnight is confirmed to talk about intergenerational issues for the afternoon session. They are working on room setup, assigning volunteers for tasks during the forum, name tags, etc. An advertisement in the Beacon is set for April. A flyer has already been submitted to Tremayne

for distribution. There is money from the county for the technology. The office of Technology Enterprise Solutions will assist in arranging for all the needed technology- specifics to be discussed at a meeting on March 17. Vendor registrations are coming in slowly. David encouraged members to solicit vendors who would be appropriate. The deadline for vendor sign-up is late April.

### **Update Community for a Lifetime Awards**

Wayne reported that a selection committee has been established. Nominations for the award are due on March 28 and a meeting during the week of April 10 will be held to select awardees. Certificates will be presented at the Forum. To date, one nomination has been received.

### **Review Speakers for 2023 COA Meetings**

- April- Laurie Orlov will speak on technology- she has her own blog and is a writer and speaker on the topic. She has also helped find speakers and to define focus of the Forum.
- In May, Carmel Roques- Secretary of the MD Department of Aging, MD will speak. David will confirm.
- June is open at this point. July and August are devoted to discussion of budget priorities.
- David reviewed several other potential speakers for the end of the year, including the possibility of addressing Medicare and Medicare Advantage in September before the federal open season for Medicare beneficiaries.
- Joyce raised the possibility of considering genuine long-term care reform in addition to figuring how to pay for it.
- Virginia proposed that we identify what we want from each of the speakers— what is the goal of each presentation? David suggested we offer suggestions to the speaker. Wayne suggested we ask speakers to identify what the commission can do to address the issues that are discussed.

### **Updates on Age Friendly / Senior Summit**

- David reported that Marsha has joined the small working group planning the event.. He noted that the senior summit not mentioned in the proposed budget.
- There was a review of the letters the commission has written concerning various legislative proposals under review by the state.

### **New Business**

- Beverly proposed that we follow Austin Heyman's suggestion that we show a sign of support for the aging agenda at budget hearings by being present at the hearings. Dates for testimony will be determined after we register to testify.
- David summarized highlights of the proposed county operating budget
  - Non-departmental grants increased. Some community grants from previous year have been move to the permanent budget. Money has been increased for community grants so many non-profits will be eligible

- to received funding for their programs this year.
- A few items that have decreased but overall, the budget for older adult programs proposed has increased.
- Planning for upcoming meetings with council members.
  - The Public Policy Committee will meet on March 20 to discuss budget priorities and talking points. In view of the temporary nature of ARPA funding, it will be necessary to determine how to address the high COA priorities that were funded via ARPA. For example, we may want to consider that some lower prioritized items may be moved up for this budget cycle and given greater emphasis by the commission because higher priority items will be funded with ARPA funds, likely through 2024.
- *Solicitation for new Commissioners was published*
  - We need to encourage qualified people to apply, particularly those from diverse communities. Pazit reported that organizations representing diverse communities have been contacted and encouraged to spread the word that the commission is looking for new members. The deadline for submitting applications is end of April.
- David received a letter from the Superintendent of Schools re intergenerational activities about participating in a meeting to help the school system plan intergenerational programming. The meeting coincides with the next commission meeting. Wayne will represent the commission at the meeting. Chuck Short had approached Wayne to be involved.
  - Barbara noted that the home and community-based taskforce recommended that MC highschoolers receive training as homecare workers. She requested Wayne to raise this idea at the meeting.
- **Budget**
  - Nikki reported that the commission's account balance is \$ 3,990.12. Some money is going to be allocated for public service announcements—about \$500. A motion was made that the commission support the registration fees for up to three people to attend a forthcoming meeting on affordable housing sponsored by the county at a cost of approximately \$450. David will inquire whether reduced rates can be made available to Commission attendees.
- Adjourn- 11:57 A.M.