Commission on Aging Executive Committee September 21, 2023 9:30-11:15 AM

In attendance: David Engel, Chair, Marsha Weber, Jean Dinwiddie Peter Flandrau, Wayne Berman, Ryan Wilson, Betsy Carrier, Morris Klein, Virginia Cain, Joyce Dubow, Beverly Rollins

Old Business

- Approval of July 20th 2023 EC Minutes- The minutes were approved without amendment.
- Action items review
 - Christine Hong, Chief of Services to Prevent and End Homelessness will likely attend the January CoA meeting. It was agreed regarding this topic that the correct terminology is important and needs to be identified.
 - David successfully informed the wife of Jack Sprague, that the commission had made a donation to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in honor of her husband.
 - Shelley Stein reported that the Access Hears project has been successful, having distributed all available hearing aids. The project now seeks an additional \$40,000 to acquire additional hearing aids. They hope to get this funding from reallocated ARPA funds. Ms. Stein may provide an update at the November CoA meeting.
 - Nikki Ezeani now has signing authority and access to the CoA bank account.
- Approval of the proposed September 28th 2023 CoA Meeting Agenda- The
 agenda was approved with the addition of the chair's report and the
 affiliations of the two invited speakers who will present on Medicare. The
 meeting is now scheduled to end at 11:45.
- Review action items from July 27th CoA meeting
- FY 25 Budget Priorities review

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- The top two budget priorities were discussed and subsequently identified via commission-wide vote. These are: 1: Hire a permanent Marketing and Outreach staff person in the Department of Aging Disability Services to promote the many County programs available to older adults, including coordinating the CoA's volunteer Ambassador and Library Liaison Programs. 2: In accordance with the HCBS Work Force Task Force recommendation, hire one FTE at a pay grade sufficient to carry out the duties of Implementation Manager.
- David will be given 4 minutes on October 12 sometime between 8:30 and 10;30 to present the two budget priorities to the HHS committee of the council. Jean suggested that members of the commission attend this session (wearing similarly colored shirts) to show support for these priorities and for our spokesperson.
- David will circulate to the EC his draft remarks to the council for comments.

There was discussion about how the remaining budget priorities should be addressed. David advised that the committees can work on them, flesh them out. However, he emphasized that testimony before the council will focus of only on the top two priorities.

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- Review CoA Speakers for 2023 2024 meetings
 - There will be no CoA meeting in October because members will be expected to attend the Aging Summit. (However, there will be an Executive Committee meeting at its regularly scheduled time.) The AIC committee will identify a speaker for the November meeting. No speaker is planned for December. At this meeting the Lifetime Achievement awards will be made and appreciation will be expressed for retiring CoA members, officers, and committee chairs. In January, Christine Hong (see above) will present on homelessness. In February, a representative from the philanthropic community may be invited, perhaps the Executive Director of the Greater Washington Community Foundation, to discuss how the commission can best relate and support non-for-profit organizations in the county who have received or are worthy of receiving financial assistance from the foundation. It was suggested that an additional speaker could be invited during this meeting as well. Wayne suggested someone from the Commission on Disabilities. He also recommended someone from the newly established commission for people with intellectual disabilities be invited to present at a future meeting.
- Review of letters written and actions since last meeting
 - O Beverly's draft letter to Dr. Bridgers emphasizing the need for administrative support for the Ambassador and Library Liaison programs was discussed. It was agreed that the letter should be directed to Patrice McGhee, chief of A and D. It was agreed that the EC would review the draft, possibly revising it to emphasize that this request was but one component of one of the commission's budget priorities to have a full-time county employee assigned to market and help disseminate materials designed for older adults.
 - The letter expressing the commission's interest in the county's plans for vaccinations was sent. Dr. Santiago responded to the letter. The EC recognized that this is a very fluid situation and that the county is in the process of developing an appropriate implementation strategy.

Other actions

- Several members of the commission attended Councilmember Sayles session commemorating Senior Citizens Day, at which David gave brief remarks.
- In the capacity of and "Ambassador", David presented at the Military Officers Association of America where he received input and concerns from the attendees. He noted that the event was well attended and that there was great interest in the work of the commission. He also distributed copies of the newlyreleased Life Transitions packet, about which there was great interest and uptake.
- New Commissioners nomination committee update and nominees for commission membership
 - In total, 21 people were interviewed, seven of whom (5 older adults and two younger members) will be recommended to the County Executive and council for approval. It is hoped that new members will be confirmed by the end of October. David observed that it will be important to hold an orientation session for new members and buddies assigned to them as well.

- Committee Chair and Co-chair assignments 2024
 - Marsha and Ryan have expiring terms and will no longer chair their respective committees.
- Wayne, Betsy, Morris, Jean, and Beverly will remain as chairs/co-chairs of their respective committees. Health and Wellness will need a new chair and co-chair and Public Policy will need a new co-chair.
- Discussion of new officers. Wayne, Betsy, and Joyce volunteered to serve as the nominating committee to identify candidates for commission office. David suggested that the Nominating Committee be prepared to propose a slate of officers at the November meeting with a final vote for new officers at the December meeting.

New Business

- Beverly suggested preparing for orientation immediately after the appointments of new commissioners are official. New members will be provided links to the materials. The briefing book for council members is ready
- Wayne reported that the Community for a Lifetime letter will be ready in October. He suggested that candidates who were not selected for the Neal Potter award be considered for this award because several were deserving. There was agreement to this proposal. There will be two or three awardees.
- Peter showed the publication for the Summit on Aging that will be available by the end of September.
- Marsha thanked people who assembled packets of the Life Transitions materials.
- Peter met with Kimberly Johnson, acting head of the AAA, to brief her on commission activities and issues. She will not attend the September meeting.

Attachments:

Agenda Executive Committee Meeting September 21st 2023
Agenda CoA meeting September 28th 2023
Minutes from July 20th 2023 EC meeting
Minutes from July 27th 2023 CoA meeting
Public Forum Report – formatted for printing
Budget Priority post vote list
Communications Committee letter