

Commission on Aging
Executive Committee
June 17, 2021
Virtual via Zoom

Attendees

CoA Members

Barbara Selter, Chair
Jean Dinwiddie, Past Chair and Co-Chair, Communications Committee
Edgar Rivas, Vice Chair
Janice Zalen, Secretary
Richard Jourdenais, Budget Officer
Neal Brown, Co-Chair, Health and Wellness Committee
Marsha Weber, Co-Chair, Health and Wellness Committee
Monica Schaeffer, Co-Chair, Aging in Community Committee
Beverly Rollins, Co-Chair, Communications Committee
Ryan Wilson, Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee

Staff

Patrice McGhee, HHS
Shawn Brennan, HHS

Welcome—Barbara Selter, Chair

Chair Barbara Selter opened the meeting with a roll call of meeting attendees and a welcome.

AAA Report—Dr. Patrice McGhee

- The County Council approved the County budget. Under this budget, the Department of Transportation (DOT) will continue free Ride-On for all residents through September and for older adults (65+) indefinitely. Also, 51 broker (contract) positions will become full County staff positions. Ten of these are under AAA.
- The MD Department of Aging (MDA) has extended its survey deadline to June 30. Any EC member who has not yet completed the survey should go to <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/StatePlanonAging2.aspx> by the June 30 deadline.
- Holiday Park, Damascus and Gaithersburg Senior Centers re-opened this week, with congregate meals and transportation.
- On June 14, Holiday Park held an Elder Abuse Week kick-off event in Spanish on financial scams. There were 25 in-person attendees and 8 on-line attendees.
- The AAA and MDA have joined together to distribute tablets to socially isolated individuals. They have partnered with both African-American and Latinx groups to distribute 70 tablets for up to 12 weeks at a time.
- Vaccination Efforts: In-home vaccinations to persons who are homebound continue.

County nurses are no longer assisting in COVID efforts and have returned to their regular duties.

Commission on Aging Business

Approval of May EC Meeting Minutes

Committee members approved the May meeting minutes.

Approval of Agenda for June CoA Meeting

Before approving the agenda, committee members discussed changing the name of the Austin Heyman Award for Inspiring a “Community for a Lifetime” in order to recognize recently deceased Commission member, Miriam Kelty, who has done so much for older adults in Montgomery County. While there was agreement that Ms. Kelty should be recognized, concern was expressed that changing the name at this point could be unsettling to Mr. Heyman.

A motion that asks Monica Schaeffer to contact Marcia Pruzen and Pazit Aviv to assess the change and report back to the EC was approved.

The June draft agenda was then approved with minor changes, including changing the commissioner presenting on strategy from Barbara Selter to Edgar Rivas.

Budget Report

Budget Officer Richard Jourdenais reported that there is \$4,895.11 in the account today. There were no expenditures.

Memorial Contributions

- A motion to donate \$50 to the Bannockburn Neighbors Assisting Neighbors in Bethesda in Ms. Kelty’s honor and to explore an award in her name was passed with two abstentions. Richard Jourdenais will write a check and the cover letter.
- A \$50 donation in honor of Denise Isreal’s son, Omari Isreal, will be made to Larkin Street Youth Services. Richard Jourdenais will write a check and the cover letter.

Update on Commissioner Recruitment

Seven out of eleven individuals were selected for positions as follows: 4 positions open since January 2021, 2 positions to open up in January 2022 and a replacement for Miriam Kelty.

Approval of Orientation Booklet

Barbara Selter thanked Beverly Rollins for producing an excellent Orientation Booklet. The EC approved the Booklet unanimously.

Update on Austin Heyman Award for inspiring a “Community for a Lifetime” COA Award and Recognition Program

Monica Schaeffer provided a brief report and noted that it is important that the first award be presented at the legislative breakfast. Mr. Berman will give a full report at the June Commission meeting.

Planning for Budget Priority Meeting in July

A lengthy discussion ensued and it was agreed that it is very important for the Commission, in the future, to get involved in the budget process earlier in the year. Barbara Selter agreed to prepare a timeline and flow chart that explains the important dates of the budget process and when the CoA should be inputting that process. The Commission will try to begin the new earlier process for fiscal year 2024.

Update on Task Forces

- Task Force on Racial Equity, Dementia Services, and Policing: The Final Report of this Task Force was reviewed by the Public Policy Committee who still had concerns about the document and its recommendations. Ryan Wilson agreed to edit the document and send the edited version to the Task Force, and copy the Public Policy Committee.
- Task Force on Social Isolation and Loneliness of Seniors: It was agreed that this Task Force would continue in order to conduct follow-up work from the Public Forum.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee (CC): Jean Dinwiddie reported that the CC is planning to change the name of *Seniors Today*. Please send suggestions to Jean Dinwiddie by the end of the month. Beverly Rollins reported that the new member orientation booklet is almost complete.

Health and Wellness Committee (HWC): Marsha Weber reported that the HWC continues its work on home-based care, which is a very broad area. The Committee is trying to narrow down the subject to a few areas in which they can have an impact.

Aging in Community Committee (ACC): Monica Schaeffer reported that the Committee continues to work on food insecurity. In addition, it has planned the speakers for the June 24 Commission meeting. The theme of this program is *Design for Life* in which accessibility is a part of ordinary living. The confirmed speakers are Jessica Fusillo, Community Outreach Public Relations Manager, Department of Permitting Services; Gail Lucas, Department of Permitting Services; and Dean Packard, President, Universal-Communities.

Public Policy Committee (PPC): This Committee reviewed letters drafted and sent by the Commission and reviewed the report and recommendations of the Racial Equity Task Force.

Action Items

- EC member who has not yet completed the survey should go to <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/StatePlanonAging2.aspx> by the June 30 deadline.
- Monica Schaeffer will call Marcia Pruzen and Pazit Aviv and report back to the EC.
- Richard Jourdenais will cut two checks and write two cover letters.
- All Executive Committee members are asked to send suggestions for a new name for *Seniors Today* by the end of May.
- Barbara Selter will prepare a timeline and flow chart that explains the important dates of the budget process and when the CoA should be inputting that process
- Ryan Wilson will edit the Report of the Task Force on Racial Equity, Dementia Services, and Policing and send the edited version back to the Task Force, and copy the Public Policy Committee.