

Commission on Aging
Executive Committee
September 15, 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
Wayne Berman, Co-Chair, Aging in Community Committee
Monica Schaeffer, Co-Chair, Aging in Community Committee
Neal Brown, Co-Chair, Health and Wellness Committee
Marsha Weber, Co-Chair, Health and Wellness Committee
Beverly Rollins, Co-Chair, Communications Committee
Ryan Wilson, Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee
Morris Klein, 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

- Now that the Montgomery County (MC) Area Plan has been approved, Dr. McGhee will forward it to Chair Selter.
- Erin Smith's position was filled by Asha Hamilton who began work on August 30, 2021.
- Medicaid-funded programs have returned to normal in-person service and clients are welcoming the services. COVID protocols are followed.
- MC government buildings are open and receiving clients.
- In order to determine how to provide more extensive telehealth services in MC, a telehealth survey was prepared in several languages and multi-language focus groups are being conducted.
- Two MC programs received National Association of Counties awards.

Commission on Aging Business

Approval of June EC Meeting Minutes

Committee members approved the June meeting minutes.

Approval of Agenda for September CoA Meeting

After a brief discussion about the length of the meeting, the September draft agenda was approved with minor changes.

Following approval, a vote was taken on whether to approve documents at meetings or by email. The EC voted in favor of approval at meetings. A discussion ensued on whether the EC could approve documents instead of the whole Commission. The By-Laws are a little vague, but it was determined that items for the public must be approved by the whole CoA and internal/administrative documents do not need approval by the whole Commission

Budget Report

Budget Officer Richard Jourdenais reported that there is \$4,795.11 in the account today. Two \$50 donations were made this summer. A brief discussion was held on how to spend the money in the account. It was agreed that this money does not have to be spent in a year and that the small group consisting of Wayne Berman, Monica Schaeffer and Dick Jourdenais will meet one more time to discuss ways to use the money currently in the account.

Update on The Community for Lifetime Award

Wayne Berman reported that the group met recently to determine criteria for award selection. They decided that they are not ready to discuss this award at the September Commission meeting. The official name of the award is *The Community for Lifetime Award* presented by the MC Commission on Aging (CoA).

Update on Task Force on Racial Equity, Dementia Services and Policing

Jean Dinwiddie reported that the task force accepted all of Ryan Wilson's edits to its Final Report. Mr. Wilson noted that the Public Policy Committee approved of all the recommendations in the Report. Ms. Dinwiddie agreed to write a cover letter, make last minute edits and call Art Williams.

Approvals of CoA Documents

- The TSIF letter was approved;
- The Social Isolation Fact Sheet, with Monica Schaeffer's edits, was approved and sent to David Engel so that he could incorporate the edits.
- The Operations Handbook was approved, with Monica Schaeffer's edits.

CoA members for Recreation Board and Public Guardianship Board

CoA Alumni Stephanie Edelstein volunteered to represent the CoA on the Public Guardianship Board. However, an MC lawyer must determine if an alumni can take this

position. The Guardianship program supervisor will check with county lawyers.

Ms. Selter will ask the full Commission for a volunteer for the Recreation Board.

Optimal Number of Members for CoA

It was agreed that the current number of members, which is 30, is optimal.

Because the email list of members includes many non-members, the suggestion was made that Tremayne Jones review the list and place non-members on a separate email list.

Barbara Selter will add an item to the full Commission agenda on the importance of joining at least one Committee. She will ask that members make their decision by November and inform the appropriate Committee Co-chairs.

HCBS Budget Priorities—How to Make This More Specific

After a robust discussion, it was agreed that more time is needed for this issue and that Barbara Selter would place this item on next month's EC agenda and would allow it a large chunk of time. Everyone should send their input/issues/thoughts to Barbara Selter who will compile a list for discussion at the next EC meeting.

Discussion of Topics for November CoA Meeting: HCBS Programs in MC or Police Department Special Unit

Although both important, there was consensus that given our HCBS budget priority, HCBS programs in MC is the more pertinent topic and that Jennifer Long should be asked to present. Questions should be sent ahead to Ms. Long.

Committee Reports

Health and Wellness Committee (HWC): This Committee's activities were covered during the HCBS discussion of today's meeting.

Aging in Community Committee (ACC): Wayne Berman reported that speakers from Vision Zero and Pedestrian Master Plan presented to the Committee.

Public Policy Committee (PPC): Ryan Wilson reported that HCBS was a large part of the last meeting. The next meeting will focus on the Legislative Forum. Drafting of the budget document will be by this Committee.

Communications Committee (CC): Beverly Rollins reported that Jean and Katie are working on "50+ in MC." The Briefing Book is the next item that Beverly will be updating. This document was initially developed for the new County Executive. The Committee is looking at lists of press personal in order to determine who should be on the Commission's press list. Suggestions are welcome.

Invited Speakers for Upcoming Meetings:

- September 23, 2021—Increasing Collaboration on COA Budget Priorities with speakers: Linda McMillan, Jennifer Bryant (OMB) or representative, and Gabe Albornoz
- October 28, 2021—Medical Day Care—Elizabeth Barnes, Maryland Association of Adult Day Services and Afhsin Abedi

New Business

Dick Jourdenais expressed concern about how well nursing facilities are being surveyed, now that it is a state (rather than MC) responsibility. The Commission doesn't know who at HHS (if anyone) is monitoring whether surveys are being conducted and if they are being conducted effectively. It was agreed that this should be brought up to both Gabe Albornoz and Patrice McGhee at the September Commission meeting. Shawn Brennan was asked to notify Patrice McGhee that the Commission would like an update on this issue in her AAA Report. It also was agreed that Eileen Bennett, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, should be contacted prior to the Commission meeting to learn of her concerns. It also was noted that Tom Hucker seemed very interested in the issue and that we may wish to meet with council members on this issue. Dick Jourdenais, Wayne Berman and Janice Zalen will take the lead although it also remains an issue for the Public Policy Committee.

Adjourn

Action Items

- Wayne Berman, Monica Schaeffer and Dick Jourdenais will meet to discuss sensible ways to use the money currently in the CoA account.
- Jean Dinwiddie will draft a cover letter for the Report of the Task Force on Racial Equity, Dementia Services and Policing and make final edits to the Report. She also will call Art Williams.
- The Social Isolation Fact Sheet goes back to David Engel to incorporate Monica Schaeffer's edits.
- Monica Schaeffer will send her edits on the various documents to the appropriate person so that her edits are incorporated into the different documents.
- Fiona Graham, Guardianship supervisor, will check with County lawyers on the acceptability of an alumni taking a position on the Public Guardianship Board.
- Tremayne Jones will review the Commission email list and place any non-members on a separate email list.
- Barbara Selter will add an item to the full Commission agenda on the need to select a committee by November and to inform the appropriate co-chair.
- Barbara Selter will place narrowing HCBS on the October EC agenda.
- Everyone will send their input on narrowing HCBS to Barbara Selter who will compile a list of suggestions.

- Everyone should think about questions on HCBS for Ms. Long.
- Everyone should send press suggestions to Beverly Rollins.
- Shawn Brennan will alert Patrice McGhee that information on nursing facility surveys should be included in the AAA Report to the Commission.