

**Commission on Aging  
Executive Committee  
February 17, 2022**

**Attendees**

**CoA Members**

Barbara Selter, Chair  
David Engel, Budget Officer  
Wayne Berman, Co-Chair, Aging in Place  
Neal Brown, Co-Chair, Health and Wellness Committee  
Jean Dinwiddie, Co-Chair, Communications Committee  
Morris Klein, Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee  
Beverly Rollins, Co-Chair, Communications Committee  
Mary Sweeney, Co-Chair, Aging in Place Committee  
Marsha Weber, Co-Chair, Health and Wellness Committee  
Ryan Wilson, Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee

**Staff**

Patrice McGhee, Director, AAA  
Shawn Brennan, Staff, DHHS

**Welcome**

Chair Barbara Selter welcomed all attendees and took roll. She reminded everyone that the March CoA meeting will begin at 9:00a.

**AAA Report**

Patrice McGhee provided the following updates.

The 2022 Maryland legislative session is in progress and will end April 11. Bills that her office is watching include:

- *Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver – Participation and Applications (HB 80 and SB 28).* SB 28 is of concern to the County because the County has staff shortages and the bill includes a plan for waiver participation of at least 7,500 individuals.
- *Maryland Health Care Commission - Assisted Living Programs – Study (SB531).*
- *State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators – Renaming and Licensure of Assisted Living Managers (SB720).*
- *Assisted Living Programs – Assisted Living Referrers – Requirements and 3 Prohibitions (SB 624).*

Ms. McGhee noted that the State long-term care ombudsman will be testifying in support of the assisted living bills.

She reminded the Committee members that COVID supplies such as tests and masks are still available at County libraries. The lines to pick them up have dwindled significantly. When asked about how many times individuals can visit the libraries to pick up these supplies she responded that she does not think the County is keeping a record of this.

Ms. McGhee stated that the County's rapid COVID test website is live.

With regard to the American Rescue Plan Act funds, she stated that staff have not received an approval yet for their request. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow (February 18) and they should hear more at that time. Staff will share that information with the CoA once it is received. They have received no feedback from the Office of Management and Budget.

The County did receive funding for the Families First Community Grants. Staff are working with the Public Information Office to develop marketing and creative materials. The Public Information Office will be in charge of getting information out about them. Staff are exploring grassroots options to market the money from the grant.

Ms. McGhee stated that the County is having staffing issues with its nurses. Currently, there is a job posting for a nurse manager that closes on March 8. The County is also looking for four additional nurses.

Ms. McGhee noted that she received an announcement from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services saying that individuals will be able to get eight over-the-counter COVID tests a month beginning in April. The tests that are being distributed have to be authorized by the Food and Drug Administration.

In closing, Ms. Selter informed Ms. McGhee that the CoA's Public Policy Committee is following most of the same public policy issues that her staff is following and that it is writing letters in support. Ms. Brennan stated that staff are working to get the CoA's letters on its website.

### **Commission on Aging Business**

#### **Approval of January 2022 Minutes**

The minutes were approved.

#### **Approval of Draft February 2022 CoA Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

#### **Contribution in Honor of Tremayne Jones' Mother**

The Committee voted to donate \$50 to the United Negro College Fund in Gloria Trent's name.

### **Update on American Rescue Plan Act Funding Request**

Ms. Selter stated that there is no new information on this request but it sounds like the decision will be made shortly.

### **Update on Medical Adult Day Care Information**

Ms. Selter received word that HHS staff would like the CoA to support their request for \$1.5 million from the County to supplement the adult daycare workforce salaries. Ms. Selter stated that, however, the CoA did not get answers to several of the questions that members had about the program. Dr. Brunetto said that she will be happy to arrange a meeting for the CoA to discuss these questions with relevant HHS staff.

Ms. Brennan commented that the direct workforce of adult daycare needs more money. She suggested that before the CoA takes a position on the issue that perhaps it could sit tight to see what the County Executive puts in his budget proposal regarding money for that workforce. Staff is requesting the \$1.5 million from the County budget.

Ms. Brennan stated that Liz Barnes is the President of the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services, the organization that represents adult daycare throughout the State. A suggestion was made that the Health and Wellness Committee could contact her to obtain more information.

At the end of the discussion, the Executive Committee voted to wait to see what the County Executive's budget looks like with regard to the adult daycare workforce. The Executive Committee also voted to send a letter to Liz Barnes asking for answers to CoA member questions.

### **Report from Public Forum Working Committee**

Marsha Weber reported that the Committee is making progress. It recently suffered a minor setback in that one of the invited guests will not be able to participate, but the members are considering a replacement. In addition, the Committee will soon be visiting the selected meeting place to get an idea of what the set up will look like. Also, Jean Dinwiddie plans to follow up with HHS staffer, Lylie Fisher, regarding her participation. A "Save the Date" email will be sent out soon.

### **Discussion on Additional County Council Contacts Beyond Yearly One-on-One**

Ms. Selter asked the Committee members whether the CoA should conduct more than one, one-on-one meeting with the individual Councilmembers. After a brief discussion, the Executive Committee members decided that the more meetings with the Councilmembers, the better – as long as both parties have the time to meet. A suggestion was made about possibly inviting the Councilmembers to attend a CoA meeting. Another suggestion was made to meet with the Councilmembers in the Spring and then again in the Fall. Ultimately the Committee members decided to table this discussion; however, per custom, CoA members will definitely meet with the individual Councilmembers in the Spring. There was a general sense that the CoA will also plan to meet with them in the Fall. Committee members decided to resume this discussion after the Spring Councilmember visits.

## **Liaisons to Other Commissions (Health, Disabilities, Recreation, Transportation, etc.)**

Ms. Selter stated that more information is needed about CoA members serving as liaisons to other Commissions. She noted two concerns: we need to know which CoA members are acting as liaisons, and we need to determine when they should report back to the CoA. Ms. Dinwiddie commented that the CoA should definitely have liaisons to other Commissions. She suggested that possibly at the next CoA meeting a request could be made for volunteers. Executive Committee members agreed that, initially, volunteers will be recruited to serve as liaisons to the following Commissions: Transportation, Human Rights, People with Disabilities, Health, and Mental Health. Parks and Recreation is also a priority and CoA member, Kendell Mathews, is currently the liaison with that Commission. Wayne Berman stated that he would serve with the Transportation Commission. It was suggested that all CoA members be provided with a list of potential committees where the CoA could offer a liaison, along with the times that they meet. There are 19 committees within HHS; there are about 90 committees total in Montgomery County government. It was also suggested that the County's website that lists the various Commissions be sent to all CoA members (<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/list.html>), and that the reasons CoA liaisons are needed/wanted be provided.

Ms. Selter stated that she will include this topic on the CoA agenda for March. She also stated that she will research how often the agreed upon Commissions meet, and what their missions are.

Ms. Selter also noted that she will ask liaisons who attend CoA meetings to report every other month. She will also schedule these reports to be given at the beginning of the CoA meetings.

## **Recording Committee Meetings**

Ms. Selter asked whether CoA Committee meetings should be recorded. After a brief discussion, Committee members agreed that there should be no requirement that Committee meetings be recorded. If a CoA member wants a recording then that individual should contact the Communications Committee before the meeting so that it can be arranged.

Ms. Brennan added that in 2023, in keeping with HHS policy, staff person Tremayne Jones should be responsible for setting up all of the CoA's Committee and full Commission.

## **Discussion of Community for Life**

Mr. Berman noted that there are differences of opinion on whether to participate in this initiative. Ms. Brennan stated that she will provide the name of a person who Mr. Berman can contact to get more information and possibly invite them to an Aging in Community Committee meeting to get a conversation started.

## **Re-instituting the CoA Weekly Newsletter**

Ms. Dinwiddie explained that the Communications Committee discussed this last summer and tentatively decided that forwarding alumni member Marcia Pruzan's Age-Friendly newsletter (instead of re-instituting the CoA newsletter) would be a good idea. The Executive Committee decided to have staffer Tremayne Jones simply forward Ms. Pruzan's email to the CoA, adding items of interest to the CoA if necessary.

## **Advocacy Letters Sent and Organization of Advocacy Process**

Barbara listed all of the advocacy letters the CoA has sent recently. The Executive Committee decided to wait to see the proposed changes suggested by the Public Policy Committee when they address the advocacy process and will react to the suggestions provided by the PPC.

## **New Business**

## **Adjourn**