

Commission on Aging
Public Policy Committee

June 8, 2023

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Attendees: Commissioners Wayne Berman, Morris Klein Peter Flandrau, Barbara Selter, Janice Zalen; Staff Peter Flandrau and Summer Fellow Afliong Ibok

Co-chair Morris Klein welcomed everyone and the May minutes were approved.

Peter Flandrau provided the staff report that included: 1) budget increases to A&D services; and 2) Results of “Point of Time” survey that shows an increase of 55+ homeless persons in 2022. After a robust discussion on what the COA could do to help prevent homelessness and evictions, and to let people know how to find help, the following suggestions were agreed to by the Committee: 1) Consider suggesting inviting the new director, Christine Hobbs, to come to a CoA meeting; 2) Bring this problem to the attention of the Communications Committee so that they can address it in the Ambassador Program.

Planning and Priorities for Next Year: The Legislative Breakfast will be held in November. We need to decide what the topic(s) will be. Barbara asked if Peter could produce a document that illustrates what the CoA advocated for and the results.

Nursing home inspections will continue to be a priority. Based on the discussion above, homelessness also may be a priority. Questions to be answered are: do we want to take on the issue of homelessness? Should we work in collaboration with the Renters Alliance? Because we need data, Wayne Berman agreed to send a January 22 power point presentation that will provide data on the issue to the Committee. It was agreed that we should invite Commissioner Mary Sweeney to a Public Policy Committee meeting so that we can learn more about the issue. The bottom line is that we need to know more about the issue before determining if we want to add homelessness to the state legislative agenda breakfast.

State Issues:

1. Janice Zalen announced that MD and KY have the worst records in the country regarding inspections. Our strongest advocate in the legislature was Krill Reznick who is now working for state government. It is crucial to find a new advocate. Also, this Committee does not know if Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is still willing to pick up the expense of conducting inspections. Finally, is there a way to find out the current status of inspections: It was agreed that 1) Peter Flandrau will contact HHS to learn whether they are willing to pick up inspection expense; 2) Peter Flandrau will contact Eileen Brennen regarding how to get information on inspections, 3) Barbara Selter and Morris Klein will contact Ariana Kelly by (friendly) email asking if she was going to

stay involved in the issue and also who does she recommend to help with our issues. 4) Janice Zalen will write a similar email to Krill Reznick asking who will take up the issue now that he is no longer in the legislature. The emails will be sent to the Committee for its approval prior to sending them to Kelly and Kresnick.

2. Follow-up to the Secretary of Aging Presentation: Since other Committees are more involved in the issues the Secretary presented, there are no active steps for the Public Policy Committee at this time.

New Business: We are not scheduled to meet again until September, but Morris and Ryan will determine if we should meet in July.