

**Commission on Aging
Executive Committee Meeting
May 19, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.
Virtually Via Zoom**

Executive Board Members : Wayne Berman, Neal Brown, Jean Dinwiddie, David Engel, Kendell Matthews, Edgar Rivas, Beverly Rollins, Barbara Selter, Mary Sweeney, Marsha Weber, T. Ryan Wilson

Staff: Shawn Brennan, Dr. Patrice L. McGhee

Absent: Morris Klein

Welcome- Barbara Selter

- Roll Call

AAA Report – Dr. Patrice L. McGhee

- The staff in the process of drafting the area plan update which is due by the end of the month. Will provide the draft plan to Barbara for review and approval.
- Federal monitoring is underway of Titles III and Title VII of the Older Americans Act for 2020 and 2021: pre-report due June 1, final report July 26. Monitoring support services, caregiver support, nutrition, elder abuse etc.
- Staffing: Vacant Caregiver Manager position: newly hired Long-term Care Ombudsman will start on May 23; losing an Ombudsman: increasing the half-time Ombudsman to full-time: hired two Community Health Nurses: and have a candidate for Community Health Nurse Manager.
- Ms. McGhee invited CoA members to the County Executive and County Council's Proclamation of Older Americans' Month on May 19, 2022. Odile, Patrice, Shawn, and Barbara will attend the event.
- Senior Planet Tech Hotline support hours extended 9am-8 pm, 888.713.3495. Provide technical support for anyone over age 50, even if not connected to Senior Planet. Eddie plans to test their knowledge of Apple products.
- ARPA funds no update. Staff are having planning discussions for the funds. County Council may need to approve.
- Will have telehealth survey results soon, which may influence use of ARPA funds.

Approval of April 2022 minutes

- Consent Agenda of April CoA minutes, May CoA meeting agenda, the draft First Quarter CoA Report and letters to Congressional leaders and Mr. Hucker was approved.
- Motion made by Eddie and seconded by Jean. Motion carried with one vote in opposition.

Approval of May 2022 CoA Agenda

- Barbara informed the group of the passing of former Montgomery County Executive Sidney “ Sid” Kramer , who died on Monday, May 16. A letter of condolence will be sent to the Kramer family on behalf of CoA and a \$50.00 contribution to an organization.
- Motion: CoA will donate \$50.00 to Solve ME/CFS in the memory of former Montgomery County Executive Sidney “ Sid” Kramer. Motion approved

Reports on County Council Visits

- Councilmember Will Jawando May 2,2022- Kendell
 - Councilmember Jawando is in support of the Senior Fellow position to improve communication between the county and older adults in Montgomery County.
 - He supports funding for Access HEARS.
 - The Council member strongly supports additional affordable housing for older adults.
 - Council member Jawando would like CoA to focus on an Intergenerational model between school children and older adults.
- Councilmember Hans Riemer April 29,2022- Marsha
 - Mr. Riemer is chair of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development ((PHED) affordable housing is one of his major concerns. He is supportive of affordable housing for older adults. We discussed modifications to senior units such as high seat toilets, walk-in showers, and space in the units to maneuver wheelchairs and walkers.
 - He supports funding for Access HEARS.

Senior Summit- what actions do we take to advocate for this?

- Under County Executive Isiah Leggett in 2009, the first Senior Summit was organized by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- The purposes of the previous two Senior Summits were to bring together government, the private sector, service providers, and the public to discuss and plan for the future of aging services in the County.
- Suggestions: We work with Age Friendly and CoA alumni to get a better understanding of the overall project. Invite Marica Pruzan to the next EC meeting to provide details about the planning of a Senior Summit.
- COA should consider establishing a Taskforce to look into the project for Fall, 2023, influence the agenda, and work with Age Friendly Montgomery.

Update on Annual and Quarterly Reports

- Very comprehensive report of the focus on older adults needs by the Commission on Aging this quarter.
- We have placed on the website fourteen or more advocacy letters sent thus far in 2022.

- Edit to report: Health and Wellness topic for this year is “Planning for Life Transitions as We Age.”

Update from Committees on Budget Priorities/ Budget versus Advocacy Priorities

- Discussion around the Budget Priorities and Advocacy Priorities
 - Take budget priorities and scale down idea with committee with specific ideas.
 - Advocacy can lead to budget priorities.
 - Advocacy is often about money, budget priorities, and reaction to public policy
 - When developing your priorities, ideally have a rough dollar figure.
- All Commissioners are expected to participate on at least one committee: that is their opportunity to offer budget priorities for consideration. New ideas will not be accepted during the July budget meeting.
- During the July budget meeting, each committee will have up to ten minutes to present their priorities.

Update on Public Policy Committee work on advocacy process

- When communicating to legislators be proactive and know the position that you would like to advocate. It best to have your thoughts as to what you want to advocate. It is helpful to understand these points when writing letters and speaking before a group. It helps to develop relationships with legislators.
- Barbara suggested Leslie Fry make a presentation about Public Policy and Advocacy. She will send out dates for advocacy training to the entire CoA. This will be helpful to CoA members to participate in the legislative process.

Approvals to ratify email votes

- Letter to Tom Hucker
- Justice in Aging Letter on Federal HCBS Legislation

New Business

- Communication Committee requested \$500.00 to produce a 30-50 sec. Public Service Announcement (PSA) to promote 50+in Montgomery County and \$500 to promote the Aging and Disability Resources Unit/240-777-3000 on Cable Montgomery.
Motion made by Eddie and seconded by Jean . Approved
- Communication Committee requested \$ 500.00 to edit down the Public Forum in into workable document.
Motion made by Eddie and seconded by David. Approved

Updates

- Katie is getting better and might be back in June. She thanks CoA for your flowers, cards, and calls.

- Shawn informed us that virtual meetings of all Boards, Committees, and Commissions are to be managed by County staff. Shawn and Tremayne are working towards having a new account set-up, and 2023 meetings scheduled, by October 31.

Action Items

- A letter of condolence will be sent to the Kramer family on behalf of CoA. Barbara
- A \$ 50.00 donation to Solve, in memory of former Montgomery County Executive Sidney "Sid" Kramer. David
- Invite Marica Pruzan to the next meeting to provide details about the planning of a Senior Summit. Barbara
- \$500.00 for the production of a 30-50 sec. Public Service Announcement (PSA) for 50+ on Cable Montgomery. David
- \$ 500.00 to edit down the Public Forum in into workable document. David

Adjourn: 11:05 am