

Executive Committee Meeting

February 15, 2018

9:30am-11:30am

Minutes

Attendees

Commissioners: Isabelle Schoenfeld, CoA Chair; Stephanie Edelstein, Vice-Chair; Syed Yusuf, Budget Finance Advisor; Amoke Alakoye, Secretary; Noelle Ronald Heyman, Chair Aging in Place/Community and Planning (phone); Richard Jourdenais, Co-Chair Aging in Place; Alan Kaplan, Co-Chair Health Planning, Service and Community Supports; Judith Peres, Co-Chair Health Planning, Service and Community Supports (phone); T. Ryan Wilson, Co-Chair Public Policy Committee

Staff: Odile Brunetto, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director

Welcome -

Isabelle opened the meeting by welcoming EC members. In the interest of encouraging the group to get to know each other better, she led a brief meeting warm-up exercise.

Budget and Financial Report -

Syed reported the balance as \$5,662.31 and that there had been no activity last month.

Approval of Minutes -

The minutes from the January Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

March 28th Public Forum Status -

Noelle reported that everything is completed up to “Volunteers”. Elaine Binder will facilitate and coordinate the volunteers(?).

Flyer and Program Status:

- Flyer reviewed
- Program was revised based on CE Attendance (see Attached)

Still need to review the invitees list and discuss the PR plan:

- Odile will coordinate PR process
- Additions to PR Plan – Libraries, Regional Services Center, VLN, Villages, Commissioners will be asked to post the flyer in buildings or add to listservs;

Review Volunteer Roles: Plenary, Panelists, Facilitators and Recorders

- Marcia and Elaine will send revised guides to the group.

NOTE: All Panelists, Facilitators and Recorders will need a Day of Event packet containing the Agenda and all the guides so that they have a comprehensive picture of the Forum.

Volunteers to date:

- Registrars: Mary Petrizzo, Syed Yusef and Dick Jourdenais tables.
- Recorders: Judy, Barbara Brubeck, Monica (Employment)

Breakout Facilitators:

- Amoke will facilitate the Employment break out.
- Ryan & Stephanie for Elder Abuse (one moderator/one note taker).
- Karen Maricheau will facilitate the Community Engagement break out.
- PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITATOR NEEDED – Isabelle will reach out.

Refreshments:

Marcia and Noelle are handling this task.

Need to check in with Panel Speakers, to make sure they have what they need:

- Jim Resnick,
- Debbie Feinstein and Mario Wawzusin for Elder Abuse
- Austin and Vivan for Community Involvement
- David Gamse and Mara Mayor

Isabelle suggested that the Forum would be the ideal opportunity for the COA to present something to EC Leggett, to commend him for all of the support he has provided over the years. The EC members unanimously agreed. Odile will contact Mr. Leggett's office to see if he can attend the event.

The Public Forum Planning Committee has a call scheduled for Wednesday, February 21.

Committees Reports:

- *Health Planning, Service and Community Supports* - Judy and Alan reported that the committee is interested in identifying the problems and issues surrounding affordable assisted living. A recent GAO report was the inspiration for this exploration. The committee asks that a format for the reporting of Winter Projects be developed (?)
- *Aging in Place* - Noelle and Dick reported that the committee finished loose ends on the Summer Study. They heard from two experts, Timothy Goetzinger, Division Chief, Division of Finance and Administration, DHCA and Linda McMillan, County Council Senior Legislative Analyst to ask any and all questions as they drilled down in the study. The information collected from the experts will serve to inform the committee as they develop recommendations.
- *Public Policy* - Stephanie and Ryan reported that the committee identified Property Tax Credit legislation and Veterans Assistance as two Bills they intend to focus on. The next step is to draft letters of support. Ryan explained the strategy for moving the letters through the legislators before they vote on the Bill. The idea is to show this support sooner than later. In that interest, using the letters developed by AARP would be efficient. Tammy Bresnahan, from AARP will have copies of the letters.

- Housing Initiative Fund - There are a number of questions around this issue: what is the process and what should we focus on? It is hard to compare DC to Montgomery County. We know some funding goes toward rental assistance; and there is Federal assistance versus Montgomery County assistance. It was noted that Berliners' Affordable Housing paper came out after the committee meeting. There are two separate proposals from Council members Reimer and Floreen regarding the MPDU program. MPDU program changes increase the amount of the buy outs and more MPDUs (even in "better" neighborhoods). There will be a hearing on March 5th, at 2:30 PM.
- Affordable housing was always out there, but the COA impetus has raised the issue. The Renters Alliance asserts that people/candidates for elected office have different definitions when they talk about affordable housing so it's important to ask for their definition. We use the Montgomery County definition of affordable housing.
- The policy Committee discussed the legislation charts prepared in relative to COA priorities. A number of letters have been drafted already: SB4 Nursing Home Care; and State Version of Just Cause Eviction. HB156 Vulnerable Adults
- There was a question regarding NACO supporting a Bill regarding registering of Will Fees. This affects people who inherit property but cannot afford to probate to the estate. Advocates point out that it is in line with our position on Affordable Housing. The Registrar of Wills can waive the fee.

Future Full Committee Meetings discussion:

- **March** (TENTATIVE)

It was decided to invite Jeff Goldman, Nexus Montgomery and someone from Voices of Quality Care/Consumer Voices to address nursing home and assisted living and wrap around services issues. Odile offered to make those contacts.

- **April** (TENTATIVE)

We will ask the Planning Department to do a presentation on their Senior Housing Study

- **May** (TENTATIVE)

Discussed the possibility of focusing this meeting on the topic of Diversity/Inclusion in the Older Adult population and Social Isolation. This could include, ethnic, race, gender, serious childhood diseases/conditions in ageing population. We would invite

representatives from these groups who could be identified by OCP, HHS, Regional Service Centers, Rec Dept, non-profits. We would try to have some of the meeting be “experiential.” Amoke volunteered to work on this but with help from others.

- **June (TENTATIVE)**
Possibly planning for a new Administration, i.e., new Council members and new County Executive. What can COA do to educate them about older adult issues/challenges?

AAA Director Update-

Odile summarized final decisions regarding the budget reductions impacting Aging, from the full HHS Budget.

Bad News - Friday transportation to the Senior Centers was eliminated, saving \$42,032. Her department will be meeting with other partners to explore alternative solutions.

Good News- 1) Senior Care financial assistance for home care was increased to \$126,000.

2) State grant for group home subsidies increased. This year it doubled. 3) OHCQ staffing for FY’19 allows for 9 new positions and for the next seven years will add 9 new positions each year,

New Business -

Hillary’s proposal - The EC was unanimously in favor of the proposal (which was sent to the full COA body for pre-meeting reading) and agreed it should be discussed at the full COA meeting this month.

11:30 am Adjourn

Respectfully submitted, Amoke Alakoye