

Executive Committee Meeting

January 18, 2018

9:30am-11:30am

Minutes

Attendees

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

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

Welcome/Chair's Remarks -

Isabelle welcomed everyone to the first Executive Committee (EC) meeting of the year and expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the members of the EC to have come forth to serve in leadership positions for the COA, as she realizes that most EC members are still working and all have busy lives. The Chair shared her positive experience of serving on the Commission for the past five years and hoped everyone else would enjoy the experience as much as she.

Transparent, collaborative and teamwork is Isabelle's leadership style, and she invited EC members to question and offer ideas. Also, to communicate any concerns regarding her leadership to her as she assumes her new role as Chair. She noted that in previous years the Vice-Chairs were often underutilized and the Chair's role was overly burdensome. She expressed appreciation to Vice-Chair Stephanie Edelstein who has agreed to assume a more active role by sharing many of the Chair responsibilities.

With the goal of better identifying and distributing tasks within COA roles to lessen the burden on certain leadership positions, the position of COA Secretary has evolved into two functions: COA Secretary and COA Reports Coordinator. Amoke Alakoye has agreed to be Secretary, and Sue Guenther has agreed to fill the newly created role of COA Reports Coordinator. [The Secretary is an Executive Committee position based on COAs by-laws and the Reports Coordinator is not].

Isabelle concluded her remarks by adding that she hopes some fun can be a part of our work.

January Full COA Meeting -

Eileen Bennett, Program Manager, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, will be the guest speaker. Eileen will share what she knows about the nursing home quality of care situation. Judy and Alan will update the Commissioners on their committee work in this area as well. Alan shared that committee discussions identified a need to make the distinction between "skilled nursing" and other long term care options, including assisted living. He will include the definition of skilled nursing in their presentation.

AAA Director Update-

Odile summarized those County Executive's proposed budget reductions which are impacting Aging Services, included in the full HHS Budget Report, sent to the Commissioners earlier this week:

FY'18

- Dental Services will be cut by \$78,000.
- Recreation Department will eliminate Friday bus transportation to Senior centers; reducing the budget by \$42,000.
- Senior Nutrition Program will reduce their budget by freezing two vacant positions: a part time administrative position in the nutrition program (for which COA advocated last year), and in the Community First program, one full time position.

The County Council vote on the budget reductions is this month. So far, the Council would like to restore the Dental Program; which means the proposed cut will have to come from somewhere else.

FY'19 - 24 Capital Budget -

Odile reported that this projected budget includes funding for the White Oak, White Flint and Wheaton development projects/master plans. Since this budget affects affordable housing and rapid transit, she suggested the COA invite Clarence Snuggs, Director, Dept. Housing and Community Affairs to brief us on the status. There was also a suggestion to have a discussion of the master plans' status at the same COA meeting that Pamela Zorich et. al. present on the Senior Housing Study. In the meantime, Odile will send the Commissioners summary documents and links to information for read-ahead material. Our focus on the content and presentation is from an Age-Friendly community perspective.

Good News-

The County Transportation Department won a \$500,000 grant from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). The award is for three years and will subsidize the Call-n-Ride taxi program.

County Executive Leggett's FY'19 Budget Forums –

Talking points will be developed and provided to Commissioners who will attend the forums and make a statement on our two priorities: Affordable Housing and Services for Vulnerable Adults, and also a brief description of COA's mission. We will ask for volunteers at the January COA meeting.

Stakeholders Meeting-

The Planning Committee is meeting on the 23rd at Odile's office from 1-2PM. This year's meeting will be a continuation of the discussions begun last year by introducing additional Domains addressed in Age-Friendly planning. Former COA Chair Elaine Binder will serve as facilitator. March 28, 2018, at the Silver Spring Civic Center, from 9 - noon, is the date and time. Save the date information has begun to go out to the mailing list.

Committee Reports

Aging in Place/Community and Planning - Rescheduled due to weather for 1/23, from 9:30 - 11:00 am.

Public Policy -

The committee met on 1/18 and discussed the budget reductions for FY'18. They assessed the utility of testifying at the Budget Forums, with the idea of exploring other effective means of lobbying for essential programs to the COA.

Members identified two areas for talking points - Housing and Vulnerable Seniors.

The committee is eager to arrange a meeting with legislators, either in Annapolis or Rockville, around the low-income housing tax credits. There is a need to educate the legislators on how other jurisdictions have handled this program. For example, Northern VA is a possible approach to replicate. Given that September - March is the optimum time to get the ear of the legislators, Ryan will work on getting on their schedule as soon as possible. Ryan also suggests that a representative from AIP/C&P Committee (e.g., Nanine, who is a member of both committees) be involved in these meetings. He further suggests that the other two committees send representatives to the Public Policy Committee meetings to ensure that their expertise and passions are present.

County Legislative Activity – Mort Faller has volunteered to monitor the County Council website and press releases to follow their activities.

State Legislative Update - Stephanie has volunteered to monitor the status of bills in the General Assembly. She has developed a tracking report and will send it out to the EC. So far, she has identified five bills to follow:

1. SB4 – Direct MDOA to study quality of care in nursing homes. (Hearing 2/2/18, 1 PM)
2. SB16 - Limiting to two, the number of residents in a nursing home room.
3. SB214 - Creating a Task Force to study how adult guardianships are monitored....
4. HB33 - Making it possible for an incapacitated adult under a guardianship to voluntarily commit him/herself to an MH facility, under certain circumstances.
5. Prohibit limits on the number of PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) providers

Health Planning, Service & Community Supports - The committee is very interested in the broad area of nursing home quality, and is eager to identify which aspect of this issue they should focus on during this term.

Committees' Winter Focus Discussion

The EC discussed the proposal to initiate a Winter Focus approach (changed to Committee Focus approach), using the discussion points sent out to EC members. This will be discussed within each Committee and it will also be presented to the full Commission at the January meeting with the hope of beginning the approach in February 2018 or soon thereafter.

Speakers for COA Meetings in 2018

Possible speakers to date are: Pam Zorich et.al. from the Planning Dept.; Jeff Goldman, Executive Director, Nexus Montgomery; Hans Riemer, County Council President; Clarence Snuggs, Director, Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. It might be that one of the speakers would present at COA's annual meeting.

New Business

Judy Peres requested that COA send a letter to the Maryland Health Care Commission regarding COMAR 10.25.19, a proposed Regulation for establishing a process to award State recognition of an Electronic Advance Directive Service. She asked that the COA support the Montgomery County Palliative Care End of Life Coalition, to which she is the COA liaison, in encouraging the Maryland Health Care Commission to make their criteria for awarding recognition available for public comment by the end of 2018, if not earlier.

EC members asked for revisions to the draft letter including that the letter not be a letter of support of the Coalition's position on the new regulation, but rather, a letter of COA support for the proposed new regulation. Before voting on sending the letter of support, the revised letter will be circulated as soon as possible and polled for a vote. NOTE: Following the meeting, the revised letter was circulated and the CE approved the letter with the recommended changes.

11:30 am Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Amoke Alakoye,
Secretary