



Montgomery County Commission on Aging
Executive Committee Meeting Summary
June 19, 2025, 9:30 -11:30 am

Attendees

Wayne Berman (Co-Chair), Linda Bergofsky (Co-Chair), Kathleen McGuiness, Laurie Pross, Betsy Carrier, Yvette Monroe, Marie Sloan, Peter Illig

- Call for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, which is seconded and approved.
- Treasurer Laurie Pross provides the treasurer's report, stating no new activity and discussing the process for reimbursement of expenses.

Debrief of May 25th, 2025, Public Forum

Discussion of full CoA meeting with Dr. McGee's presentation covering the budget and HHS strategic plan.

Discussion of CoA Full Commission Agenda and Priority Setting for July 26th Meeting with emphasis on the need for written materials to help new commissioners understand the county's priorities.

Updates on New Commissioners and Commissioner Orientation/Mentoring:
Discussion on creating policies and procedures, along with an orientation outline for new commissioners. New commissioners must complete mandatory training within 90 days.

Mentoring Pairs and Buddy System:

Discussion about the outline of the proposed mentoring pairs, matching new commissioners with experienced ones. Concern was raised about the time commitment and a suggestion was made for a more informal check-in process. There was agreement to adopt a more flexible approach, emphasizing the importance of mentoring for new commissioners. The need for a social committee to address social issues, including behavior at the forum, was also discussed.

Advocacy Training and Community Action Agency will be introduced at the CoA meeting. Plans are in place for advocacy training sessions in June and September, focusing on specific issues relevant to the Commission on Aging.

Confirmation for the December 12th full CoA meeting will be at Brookside Garden.

Request for planning the next year's public forum in advance to avoid last-minute issues.

Committees:

Health and Wellness Committee Updates: Laurie shares updates on the activities and meetings of the Health and Wellness Committee. A suggestion is made to hold a joint meeting with the Aging in Community Committee to discuss priority setting.

Betsy mentions the Urban Institute's research project on aging in place and emphasizes the need for input from commissioners.

Communications Committee: Library Program and Ambassador Presentations. Marie provides updates on the library program and upcoming ambassador presentations. She seeks a volunteer to coordinate the library program, involving Peter's staff.

Discussion of Buddy System and Mentorship Guidelines for new Commissioners. The focus will be on the buddy's role in providing support, not forming a new best friendship.

Discussion on the proposed Candidate Forum for County Executives. Wayne suggests a forum focused on older adult issues for the upcoming county executive election. The candidates would discuss their views and concerns related to older adults. Wayne recommends collaborating with another group or agency to co-sponsor the event. A concern is raised about the specific candidates and their accessibility, mentioning Friedson, Glass, and Jawando. There is some opposition to policy candidate forums, with suggestions that other organizations should lead such efforts.

Respite and Mental Health as Topics for a Joint Meeting: A suggestion to include respite care as a key topic for the joint meeting, recalling previous enthusiasm for this subject.

Aging in Community: A proposal to discuss Design for Life as another potential joint activity, with a desire to garner more input and participation from AIC members.

Budget Priorities and Strategic Alignment: Discussion about drafting an email to request additional side conversations with committees or the executive committee. There is a suggestion to have a County representative discuss strategic priorities and align them with the goals of various committees. The plan is to begin this process on the 26th and make the formal request for alignment.

Joint Meeting Planning – a proposal for a joint meeting (AIC & H&W) on July 8th to discuss budget priorities and collaborative activities. It is suggested to contact Molly (MDOA) for updates on state-level activities related to respite and mental health.

Adjourn