

COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES
March 29, 2018

Members Present	Members Absent
Amoke Alakoye	Barbara Brubeck
Neal Brown	Ryan Wilson
Stephanie Edelstein	Rashid Makhdoom
Mort Faller	Noelle Heyman
Richard Jourdenais	Judith Peres
Alan Kaplan	Karen Maricheau
Nanine Meiklejohn	Hillery Tumba
Jerry Morenoff	Sue Guenther
Mary Petrizzo	Revathi Vikram
Phyllis Rand	
Monica Schaeffer	Liaisons
Isabelle Schoenfeld	Marcia Pruzan, Senior Fellow Age Friendly Montgomery
Jack Sprague	Phil Smakula, Department of Recreation
Syed Yusuf	
	Alumni Members
	Charles Kauffman
	Guests
	Jeff Goldman, Primary Care Coalition Vice President for Population Health and Director of Nexus
	Mario Wawrzusin, Adult Protective Services and Public Guardianship
	Seda Gelinian
	Sara Lovinger
	Nguen Minh Chau
	Teanna Abraham
	Staff
	Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services
	Odile Brunetto, Dept. of Health and Human Services
	Tremayne Jones, Dept. of Health and Human Services

Call to order—Chair, Isabelle Schoenfeld called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Action—February COA meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Budget and Finance Advisor Report—Treasurer Syed Yusuf reported the COA account balance is \$ 5,662.31.

Feedback: March 28th Stakeholder Forum— Isabelle asked the audience to give their feedback on the Stakeholders Forum, both positives and things that can improve. Isabelle stated that it was a successful event, very good turnout, the panelists who spoke about each of the AF Workgroups were impressive. Isabelle thanked Elaine Binder, moderator of the forum for the great job she did. Vendor tables, refreshments and check-in went well.

Feedback from other attendees:

- There were a number of participants, maybe half, who had not registered in advance and others who registered but were not on the master list due to not registering by the deadline. Ran out of name tags. Seemed to be a large number of people who said they registered who weren't on the list.
- Dr. Kenney congratulated the Commission on Aging on the success of the stakeholder's forum and stated that County Executive Leggett was deeply touched for the presentation from the current and former chairs of the COA.
- Wasn't there but saw two notices on Twitter.
- A non-Commissioner guest said wonderful to see such competent people in this County. Thrilled to see how much you care about people in the county and how talented you are.
- I am on the workgroup on Employment, only one session this time, last year, two, last year which was much better. In our session just individuals who were looking for jobs and they didn't know where to go. Communication angle isn't working. Wondering about people who were invited. Need have goal of increasing employer support/participation. Who develops the invitee list and if there is something we can do about that.
- I was only able to stay for part of the sessions, all educational, learn a lot from the Workgroups, esp. Employment. Walked around the different booths, how do you communicate what you're doing to people in the county, get the word out. Go to programs like this. How do we get the word out in a more general, focused way so people know what is available, how to access?
- Very successful, very pleased to see number of alumni group participating esp. the

former Chairs of COA.

- Hate to criticize knowing how much work put in. First three speakers were intelligible because of sound issues. Need to go in before the meeting to check it out. Re: the speakers, many had head down reading, if you read it nobody listens, and too many read it.

Isabelle gave a shout-out to Marcia Pruzan for doing 99% of the work on the Accomplishments Document given to Ike Leggett. She did this in a very short period of time. Mr. Leggett will enjoy having this accounting of his accomplishments over his 12yr tenure. It will also be on the website.

Introduction to Jeff Goldman—Isabelle introduced guest speaker Jeff Goldman, Primary Care Coalition Vice President for Population Health and Director of Nexus and read his bio sketch.

Mr. Jeff Goldman Presentation: Mr. Goldman gave a description of Nexus Montgomery. The goal of Nexus Montgomery is to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and improve the health of the community through jointly operated programs that focus on four populations: the medically frail, Medicare seniors age 65 and above, individuals with severe mental illness, and the remaining uninsured in need of specialty care.

The State awarded \$7.6 Million (goes to the Primary Care Coalition) to the Nexus Montgomery Regional Partnership collaborative effort among the six hospitals operating in Montgomery County and a network of community based organizations—to implement or expand initiatives that will improve the health status of those most at risk of avoidable hospital use. Nexus Montgomery serves 47 zip codes.

What does Nexus Montgomery do? –Nexus Montgomery invests in programs and initiatives that will improve the health of people who are at high risk of an adverse health event, or who have complex needs. By keeping people healthy and connecting them to appropriate community-based care, Nexus Montgomery initiatives reduce avoidable hospital use, reduce the total cost of hospital care, and generate a return on the initial investment. Nexus Montgomery partners are currently collaborating on four interconnected programs:

- **Hospital Care Transition** programs support people as they transition from hospital to home, with the goal of reducing the rates of readmission within 30 days of being discharged.
- **Wellness and Independence for Seniors at Home (WISH)** provides free, confidential health surveys for seniors with Medicare who live independently in

the community. WISH identifies people in jeopardy of declining health and connects them with the services and support they need to remain independent and out of the hospital for as long as possible.

- **Capacity Building for the Severely Mentally Ill** initiatives include the addition of an eight-bed crisis house and an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team, which uses an evidence-based model to treat patients with severe mental illness and keep them healthy, stable, and connected to community-based care and support.
- **Project Access** is a specialty care referral network serving low-income, uninsured individuals. Nexus Montgomery provides funds for uninsured people at risk of hospitalization, or who have recently been hospitalized, to receive needed specialty care.

Jeff's presentation was followed by a number of Qs and As.

Introduction to Mario Wawrzusin: Isabelle introduced Marion Wawrzusin, Administrator, Adult Protection Services and Public Guardianship and read his bio sketch.

Mr. Mario Wawrzusin Presentation: addressed the audience on Adult Protective Services (APS) and Public Guardianship, a state mandated program that investigates allegations of abuse, neglect, self-neglect and/or exploitation of vulnerable adults. APS is a program that serves persons age 18 and over who lack the physical or mental capacity to provide for their daily needs. APS is currently serving 117 persons as guardians of persons and prepares more court reports for guardian of properties. The purpose of the program is to prevent or remedy the abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation of adults who are unable to protect their own interest and are at risk of immediate harm to their own persons or to others. Under the law any health practitioner, police officer, human service worker and personal of financial institutions who has reason to believe that a vulnerable adult is in danger is required to report that fact to the local department of social services. Any concerned person may also make such a report. Persons who report the need for Adult Protective Services are protected under the law. Section 14-309 of the Family Law Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, states "any person who in good faith makes or participates in making a report under this subtitle or participates in an investigation or a judicial proceeding resulting from a report under his subtitle is immune from any civil liability that would otherwise result." Protecting adults from abuse and neglect is everyone's responsibility. All suspected case of the following should be reported:

Abuse is a sustaining of physical injury by a vulnerable adult because of cruel or inhumane treatment or because of a malicious act by any person; Neglect is the willful deprivation of adequate food, clothing, medical treatment, or rehabilitation therapy, shelter, or supervision from a vulnerable adult; Self-Neglect is the inability of a vulnerable adult to provide for his/her physical or mental health and wellbeing; Exploitation is any action which involves the misuse of a vulnerable adult's funds, property, or person;

Mario's presentation was followed by Qs and As.

Updates: Dr. Jay Kenney addressed the audience on the submission of County Executive Leggett's FY19 budget that was released on March 15, 2018. Now the County Council will review it and COA's priorities will be advocated by the Commissioners. Jay described specific COA's budget priorities.

Mr. Phil Smakula, Recreation Dept. described the Transportation budget cut back which will affect Friday bus transportation to the senior centers and the mini trips.

Mr. Kenney said that the County Council hearing on Aging and Disabilities Services will be April 30th.

Mr. Kenney also read the policy regarding what Commissioners can or cannot do relative to election activities. BCC as an entity can't engage, but, members of these entities can participate as a member of the public, not on behalf of the BCC.

Dr. Odile Brunetto said that Federal budget have good increases, some 3%, some 10% increase. Hopefully, gives signal that FY19 would continue. Re: State budget, Secy Kramer, Office of Aging, \$2.5million increase to divert from nursing homes to home care.

Commissioner heard via Hank Greenberg, MD AARP, that Secretary Kramer turned back some of these funds, esp. for county and other local jurisdictions. AAA Director will follow-up.

Councilmember Visits:

Stephanie provided a description of background, purpose, and councilmember visits. List is going around to sign-up for these visits. You will have a packet that will provide the info. you need.

Committee Reports

Aging in Place/Community and Planning (AIP/C&P)- Richard Jourdenais reported that guest speaker Sarah Reddinger from Habitat for Humanity discussed apartments and accessory dwelling units, and the regulations governing those housing options. Next month looking into 2nd focus area: intergenerational communities.

Health Planning, Service, & Community Supports (HSCS)—Alan reported that HSCS coordinated with Public Policy Committee (PPC) to draft a letter supporting a regulation to implement the state’s electronic advance directives program. HSCS also drafted a letter in support of a grant application by the Montgomery County End of Life Coalition to conduct a health decision making campaign. The committee has decided to focus on assisted living affordability issues as its winter focus. They are identifying speakers for future meetings and will soon identify assignments for committee members. This focus means that there will be less focus on nursing home issues.

Public Policy Committee: Stephanie, no additional advocacy letters. Monitoring bills. GA ends April 9th. Some bills we supported died. One supported by most of MC delegation allow MC to change tenant’s law to allow for just cause evictions, bill was withdrawn. PPC now working on county issues, councilmember visits, talking points.

New Business:

Isabelle talked about May COA meeting on Transition to Newly Elected Officials and what COA can do to ensure that newly elected officials are informed and we don’t lose ground. Based on discussion at today’s meeting we should inform them of the importance of communications to older adults. Guest speaker will be Chuck Short, Sr. Assistant to Ike Leggett who has worked for every County Executive. The June COA meeting will focus on Older Adults from diverse populations and invite reps from these communities. Stephanie, Amoke and Isabelle will meet with the Office of Community Partnerships to help identify reps. from these diverse groups. In April meeting we will do some brainstorming on the May and June Meetings.

Liaison Reports:

Chuck Kauffman: Hank Greenberg talked about MD becoming an Age-Friendly State. Chuck said it should be structured w/in the Alumni Group, but haven’t yet discussed it with the Alumni Group. Chuck is on Taxi Cab Commission and discussed Bill 33-15 relative to Transportation Improvement Services Fund (TISF). DOT in its budget attempted to invade that fund. Mr. Berliner is following-up.

Phil Smakula: Reminder of the JCA Job Expo Fair coming up.

Meeting adjourned at noon
Respectfully submitted