

Public Policy Committee Minutes April 14, 2016

Shawn Brennan (Transportation and Mobility Coordinator) gave an overview of the issues remaining to be decided about the use of UBER funds for the transportation of persons with disabilities. Seth Morgan (chair of the Commission on People with Disabilities) shared his activities in working with a group setting up a co-op to further this activity. Subsequently he shared their letter to the County Executive and County Council. Discussion led to support for a COA letter on this issue, and maybe including reference to the problems of Metro-Access. Isabelle will work on this issue.

Maryland Legislative Summary

COA Testimony on State bills

HB 718: Asset Recovery for Exploited Seniors Act. Passed

SB 336/ HB 1277: Hospitals – Designation of Lay Caregivers. Passed

SB 472/HB580: Healthy Working Families Act. Passed House, Senate referred to Finance Committee

SB 819/HB316: Independent Living Tax Credit Act. Letter sent. No votes.

COA Letters on State bills

HB 495: Offense Against Vulnerable/Elderly adult. Unfavorable report

HB 244: Closure of Assisted Living Facilities

SB 98: Senior Center Activities Operating Fund. Passed

SB805/HB 262: Increased Funding for Senior Centers: funding raised. Passed

HB 685 state dept. of aging comprehensive plan unfavorable report

Other bills watched that passed.

SB 242/HB 886: Telemedicine

Questions for Attorney General Brian Frosh

How will he administer new law on elder abuse?

How does he view the Florida program, Seniors vs. Crime Taskforce?

County Council meetings

Need more detail on our talking points. A number of council members indicated that they might be willing to support more funds for social services to adults program because of the long waiting list. The tax issue was overtaken by the introduction of bill 10-16 providing for the deferral of increases in property taxes for those with incomes below \$80,000. PPC recommended that we support this bill by a testimony on April 26 from COA Chair.

Summer Study Suggestions

Topics broached included:

Gap needs for seniors from aging-in-place

Hoarding

Transportation

Regulation of Mortgage Brokers

Mort Faller is discussing standards for mortgage brokers, as well as a possible presentation by state's attorney John McCarthy

Attendees:

John Honig, Stephanie Edelstein, Chuck Kauffman, Karen Maricheau, Doug Newton, Rudy Oswald, Isabelle Schoenfeld, Odile Brunetto, Jack Sprague, Sarah Gotbaum, Seth Morgan, Shawn Brennan, Hileia Seeger and Mort Faller on the telephone.