

**Commission on Aging
Public Policy Committee
January 10, 2019, 9:30-11:30 am
7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 600, Conference Room 6C
Minutes**

Members Present: Stephanie Edelstein, Mort Faller, Amoke Alakoye, Beverly Rollins, Nanine Meiklejohn, Ryan Wilson

Staff Present: Shawn Brennan

Meeting Commenced: 9:34 am

County Issues

TSIF: Age Friendly Montgomery will have a briefing on the Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF). The committee decided that the COA should seek information from the Transportation department about the TSIF regulations, and if the department is not forthcoming to talk to the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee.

Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Safety – There is a Department of Transportation meeting on bike lane positioning tentatively scheduled for January 30. (one was held on February 4 regarding bike lane placement in Silver Spring.) The committee expressed concern about the use and placement of electric scooters, especially on sidewalks in the county that affect pedestrian safety, especially for seniors and the disabled.

County Executive's Budget – The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is anticipating some cuts and perhaps some additions. The County Executive releases the budget proposal on March 15.

State Issues

Bills are being introduced in the General Assembly. SB 46, which governs contingent benefits for Long Term Care Insurance, is scheduled for a hearing on January 23. SB 77, which makes changes to the guardianship rules, is scheduled for a hearing on January 22.

Ryan volunteered to write letters of support for the Medicaid home-and-community-based waiver bills (SB 699 and 700, and their house cross-files).

Low Income Housing Tax Credit – The committee discussed whether to ask for a study, considering that the County is working on the issue and the State is under a consent decree governing the program.

The committee also discussed other bills and will continue to monitor legislation as the legislative session progresses.

The committee discussed pursuing having the State being designated age-friendly. To date, only three states – New York, Massachusetts, and Colorado – are designated as age-friendly.

Federal Issues

The Committee discussed legislation by Senator Cardin that would provide dental coverage under Medicare.

Other Business

COA has received one negative reply and six replies saying they would get back to us from other county aging commissions about AMCOA (Association of Maryland Commissions on Aging). The committee thought making Maryland an age-friendly state would be an issue on which AMCOA might be able to work.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:27 am