



COMMISSION ON AGING

TO: Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and County Council President Tom Hucker

FROM: Montgomery County Commission on Aging

Date: October 5, 2021

RE: Report and Recommendations of the Task Force on Racial Equity, Dementia Services and Policing

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA) is authorized by the Older Americans Act, P.L. 116-131, and was established by Montgomery County in 1974 to advise County government on the needs, interests, and issues of Older Adult residents, and to advocate on their behalf at the local, state, and national levels.

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging Task Force on Racial Equity, Dementia Services and Policing (REDSP) was formed in July 2020. The Task Force explored ways to improve health and safety services in the County that are available for all but perceived to be under-utilized by seniors of color. The review examined the policies, practices, and budgets that influence racial equity in policing, focusing on the use and accessibility of dementia and Alzheimer's services in communities of color – many of whom need the services the most. The Task Force greatly appreciates the participants of the Police Department in its study sessions, especially Officer Laurie Reyes, Officer Jason Huggins and Officer Johnathan Greene.

Unfortunately, the report was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for the actions the County has already taken to examine racial equity in policing services.

Upon the conclusion of research, listening sessions, review of evidence-based research and current practices, the Task Force proposed several objectives and deliverables to promote seniors' health and safety to influence accessibility of services. It is noteworthy that these recommendations are consistent with actions and recommendations that we've seen across the country.

It is the intent of the Commission of Aging Task Force on Racial Equity, Dementia Services and Policing that you find this report informative and beneficial to better serve the residents of color living in Montgomery County. Thank you for your consideration. The following individuals contributed to this report: Amoke Alakoye, Jean Dinwiddie, Karen Maricheau, Katie Smith, Arlee Wallace (Program Manager of the African American Health Program), and Arthur Williams.

Sincerely,
Barbara Selter, Chair

Cc: Raymond L. Crowel
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