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**COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING**

Minutes

January 25, 2021

**PRESIDING:** Reginald Avery, Chair

**Members Attending**

Jennifer Asher  
Angie Boyter  
Peter Brunner  
Wei Guo  
Susan Hailman  
Victoria Hathaway  
Julia Mattis  
Michael McPherson  
Eletta Morse  
Sue Song  
Mark Stinson  
Michael Willis

**Office on Aging and Independence**

Courtney Barkley  
Jenna Crawley  
Terri Hansen  
Barbara Scher  
Donna Tugwell

**Guests**

Kelly Kesler, M.S., C.H.E.S. Bureau Director, Population Health (Director of the Bureau of Population Health and the Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition within the Howard County Health Department)

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

**Approve Agenda**

Angie Boyter motioned to approve the agenda. Jennifer Asher seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

**Approve Minutes**

Jennifer Asher motioned to approve the minutes. Mark Stinson seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

## Special Guest

Kelly Kesler, Director of Bureau of Population Health and Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition gave a presentation on information and education regarding the COVID-19 vaccine efforts.

The following topics were discussed:

- Symptoms of COVID-19
- How COVID-19 can spread
- Different types of vaccines and the ones created to prevent COVID-19
- Key facts COVID-19 vaccines
- The effectiveness of the vaccines
- Side effects of the vaccines
- Priority groups and what to do when the vaccine is made available to your group
- Channels for vaccine distribution and general clinic flow
- What you can do to help as you wait for the vaccine
- Whether to get the vaccine if you have allergies
- What to do after getting the vaccine
- Information about the vaccines and the vaccine administration phases is available at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov>
- Using the [www.marylandvax.org](http://www.marylandvax.org) website to register for the vaccine and see clinics available
- Contact information:  
Howard County Health Department  
410-313-6284  
[askhealth@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:askhealth@howardcountymd.gov)  
Follow HCHD @HoCoHealth

## Discuss Upcoming Retreat

- A retreat is scheduled to be held Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Angie Dabbs will be the Facilitator. The retreat will be held via WebEx. Please let Reginald Avery know if you are interested in attending the retreat. To date, about one half of the commissioners have responded and said yes. Jenna Crawley will be sending a Save-the-Date for the retreat.

## Office on Aging and Independence Report

- Peters Omoregie is the new Division Manager of Home and Community Based Services. Ofelia Ross Ott will be starting her new position as Operations Manager.
- Office on Aging and Independence has been very active in the vaccine response.
- MAP has received numerous calls on their phone line. Just today there were 367 calls. The average calls per day were 70. So there has been a 427% increase. There are a lot of questions and seeking of information. The MAP team has mobilized to respond to the community. The commissioners were recognized as ambassadors who help.

## Chair's Report

- Reginald Avery welcomed Victoria Hathaway as a new member to the Commission.
- Reginald Avery and Sue Song are scheduled to be reappointed.
- Jenna Crawley and Reginald Avery are scheduled to meet with County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball for a brief 15-minute meeting via WebEx to discuss Dr. Ball's thoughts on the Commission on Aging.

## New Business

- No new business

## **Sharing from Commissioners**

- Eletta Morse had her first vaccination shot at the Health Department Flu clinic last week. It was painless, the clinic was well organized, and everything went very well.
- Michael Willis has had his second vaccine shot already, because he works in a nursing home and is in group 1A. CVS who did the clinic was given very short notice and had to schedule vaccines for numerous nursing homes. Each nursing home is getting three clinics. He mentioned that the rejection rate of employees refusing to get the vaccine is about 30%. It's based on mistrust and fear. This will be a big challenge.
- Peter Brunner shared that The Village in Howard received a small grant from the Community Foundation in Howard County. One of the things The Village in Howard will be doing with the grant, is exploring the use of Alexa Echo Show 8 device, which is a version of Alexa that has an eight-inch video screen. They are starting in a work group that is going to define who they can get the devices out to. It will feature a device that would really be helpful in terms of trying to address issues of loneliness and isolation during the pandemic. Also, how they can provide some assistance through this technology to various people, i.e. people who are visually and audio impaired.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Recording Secretary: Donna Tugwell

Future Meetings: COA Retreat February 20, February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, usually no August meeting, September 27, October 25, November 22, no December meeting