
COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
January 27, 2020

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Reginald Avery
Angie Boyter
Pete Brunner
Wei Guo
Susan Hailman
Julia Mattis
Michael McPherson
Eletta Morse
Mark Stinson

Excused

Jennifer Asher
Sue Song
Michael Willis

Absent

Deborah Fleischmann

Office on Aging and Independence

Jenna Crawley
Donna Tugwell

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Approve Agenda

Motioned to approve the agenda and the motion was second. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

Motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was second. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

Workgroup Reports

Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging

- The change of the name of this workgroup is under consideration.
- The group is planning to meet with the Fire Department to discuss ways to reduce the number of 911 calls.

Transportation

- Bob McLaughlin has resigned from the Commission for health reasons.
- Names or adjectives for transportation service can suggest a certain connotation such as “On Demand” transportation and “Personalized” transportation, and whether the services are unscheduled or scheduled.

Communications/Outreach

- No report.
- Wei Guo is considering joining this work group

Senior Tax Issues

- The slide show presentation on senior tax relief, that was presented at the Legislative Breakfast held on October 15, 2019, was discussed.
- It was suggested that the Commission send a letter to County Executive Calvin Ball suggesting he support legislation drafted by the State Delegation for revising the pension benefit exclusion and other tax relief for seniors. Pete Brunner will draft a letter.
- In a magazine article listing the best states to retire in, Maryland was listed as the 50th. The reasons were taxation and cost of living.

Office on Aging and Independence Report

- Age-Friendly Howard County was launched on December 3rd. A survey will be launched on February 3rd in four languages on Survey Monkey. Meet with Michelle Miller at CA. The goal is to not duplicate efforts and to have the actual plan ready by December 2020. Age-Friendly work groups started meeting this week.
- DCRS is leading the census effort in Howard County. On or around March 12th, everyone will be receiving information on the census.
- SHIP served 540 people during the open enrollment period from October 15th through December 7th.
- Project Holiday served 300 individuals in assisted living facilities with gift packages.
- The Ellicott City 50+ Fitness Center won Best of Howard 2019 edition for Best Gym and Michelle Rosenfeld won for Best Personal Trainer.
- A partnership has been started with AARP to start a walking club. The Village in Howard has two walking clubs that are open to anyone, at Lake Kittamaquundi on Saturdays and at Lake Elkhorn on Mondays.
- Through the Mobile Integrated Community Health Project, the Dept. of Fire and Rescue, the Health Dept., HCGH and the Office on Aging and Independence are trying to reduce the high utilizers of the 911 system. Two buildings on Cradlerock have been identified. Project Hot Spot will be launched on February 11th. Outreach and evidence-based programs will be used to try to reduce the number of calls.
- AARP tax assistance will be available February 3rd through April 15th at 50+ Centers. Appointments are required, and hours and days vary per center.
- The Ellicott City 50+ Center will be one of the locations for the special 7th congressional district election.
- The Bain 50+ Center renovations have begun and are in phase one, which should be completed by March 2020. Phase two will begin April 2020. Renovations are planned to be completed late July 2020.
- Low vision consultations with MDTAP are available by appointment at The Loan Closet and started on January 16th.
- The East Columbia 50+ Center is in the design phase. Groundbreaking is expected to start this fall.
- On January 6th, there was a prescription drug forum held to kickoff introducing the lower prescription drug form and discuss recommendations on how to lower prescription drug prices making them more affordable.

Chair's Report

- Reginald Avery was nominated and approved as the new chair of the Commission on Aging starting May 2020.
- The revised COA Handbook for 2020 is being reviewed for approval.
- The Commission requests and thinks it would be helpful to have someone from Howard County General Hospital serve on the Commission.
- The Commission requests and thinks it would be helpful to have someone from Howard Community College serve on the Commission.
- William Kreitzer will be serving as the Police Department Ad Hoc Member on the Commission.

New Business

- An update is needed on the new web design. DTCS could be invited back to speak at a future COA meeting.
- At the Ellicott City 50+ Center, the music volume during exercise classes is generally too loud. This is also true at other 50+ Centers and exercise facilities, restaurants, etc.

Sharing from Commissioners

Commissioners shared information on various topics.

- Jenna gave a presentation two weeks ago at a Real Estate organization meeting.
- This year on Housing Day, Howard County Leadership, will have Terri Hansen give a presentation pairing an art idea with Livable Communities.
- There are many people who only need in-home services for 2-3 hours a day. However, services are mostly done in 4-hour blocks. Cluster care, which coordinates home health care needs in a geographical area, could be an alternative.
- Senior Center Without Walls program is a public/private partnership that brings local government together with residents, businesses and houses of worship to provide all the benefits in programming and activities for older adults in communities where a senior center facility is not located.
- RTA has small buses that provide transportation for travel if an individual qualifies.
- The Independent Living Tax Credit is not listed in the current Resource Guide. It is a relatively new tax credit that gives a tax credit of 50% of the cost of the renovation up to \$5,000.
- The Administration for Community Living from Health and Human services has awarded a contract to an organization called Oasis, which is issuing an RFP for grants called Senior Volunteer Core. The specific grant is called the Community Care Corporation grant. The Village in Howard is looking into partnering with someone, perhaps Montgomery County or OAI to apply collectively for the grant.
- The Village in Howard is nearing completion of its financial review. This will allow them to apply for various grants that require this and see if they qualify.
- Repairs need to be done to the lockers at the Ellicott City 50+ Center.
- There may be a registry that pairs caregivers with people who need care. MAP will be contacted to get more information on this topic.

Adjournment

Motioned to adjourn, and the motion was second. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Recording Secretary: Donna Tugwell

Future Meetings: February 24, March 23, April 27, May 18, June 22, July 27, no August meeting, September 21, October 26, Legislative Breakfast November 17, and November 23 or 30.