



**COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 27, 2021**

**PRESIDING:** Reginald Avery, Chair

**Members Attending**

Jennifer Asher  
Angie Boyter  
Peter Brunner  
Wei Gou  
Susan Hailman  
Geetha Jayaram  
Elizabeth Edsall Kromm  
Julia Mattis  
Sue Song  
Mark Stinson

**Excused/Absent**

Victoria Hathaway  
Eletta Morse  
Michael Willis

**Office on Aging & Independence**

Jenna Crawley  
Donna Tugwell

**Guests**

Stephanie Adibe  
Dr. Calvin Ball  
Carl DeLorenzo  
Terri Hansen  
Jennifer Jones  
Jim Sanders  
Jacqueline Scott

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

**Approve Agenda**

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

## **Approve Minutes**

Julia Mattis motioned to approve the July minutes. Elizabeth Edsall Kromm seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. July minutes accepted.* Angie Boyter motioned to approve the June minutes. Peter Brunner seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. June minutes accepted.*

## **Introduction of Dr. Calvin Ball**

Reginald Avery introduced Dr. Calvin Ball. Dr Ball thanked the Commission for their service and for being an important voice for the aging population. He also thanked DCRS and OAI. Dr. Ball stated that Carl DeLorenzo has helped with dealing with policy to ensure that the aging population's needs are met. Dr. Ball and his office have worked to provide critical resources and support for the aging population. He thanked the Commission and DCRS for their work on creating an Age Friendly action plan. The plan will be submitted to AARP for approval in a few weeks.

## **Example of County Government and Commission Cooperation – Tax Committee**

Peter Brunner gave a power point presentation on County Government and the Commission on Aging working together towards making an Age Friendly Howard County. Carl DeLorenzo, Jenna Crawley, Angie Boyter, Reginald Avery and Pete Brunner met and discussed taxes, legislation, and actions County Government can take. The Tax Committee has coordinated with Carl DeLorenzo and will filtered some of those suggestions to the County Executive's office.

## **Time Period for Questions to Dr. Calvin Ball**

Commissioners asked Dr. Ball various questions. Topics such as distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines, and the Age Friendly initiative and action plan. Also discussed was how OAI has engaged with the diverse population, one of those the Korean population. Working together to improve the inclusiveness in the community was discussed. Another point made was that the County should make some of the services that are offered less complicated to access and receive. Another topic was as people age, they may begin to need help with transportation. RTA and Neighbor Ride are available to help them.

## **Commission Priorities (from Retreat)**

- The four priorities of the Commission on Aging that were discussed during the retreat were shared with Dr. Ball. They were: 1) Reframing the Concept of Aging, 2) Reaching Howard County's diverse aging population, 3) Onboarding/mentoring new Commissioners, and 4) Ambassador's role of the Commission (what and how does that look to be a bridge to the OAI). Commissioners discussed the topics with Dr. Ball and asked Dr. Ball questions.
- Geetha Jayaram invited Dr. Ball to join the rotary club she belongs to. Dr. Ball is hoping to visit with the club this fall. Geetha Jayaram will send Dr. Ball a letter of invitation.

## **Office on Aging and Independence Report**

- The Age Friendly action plan is in the final stages of development and will be sent to the County Executive in the next few days. Then it will be submitted to AARP for acceptance. Terri Hansen will come and present to the Commission and share that action plan.
- Walktober which is a partnership with the Local Health Improvement Coalition that focuses on the State exercise of walking. There are a number of activities taking place in the County. There is a website with LHIC that lists all the Walktober activities.
- Open enrollment for the State Health Insurance Program will start October 15<sup>th</sup> and run thru December 7<sup>th</sup>. SHIP counselors are available to help people with Medicare plans and Part D

prescription plans. During this time period people have the opportunity to make changes to the plans they are signed up for.

- The Commission has been working with the OAI on The Beacon EXPO. OAI is partnering with The Beacon. It will be held virtually this year. The dates have been changed to November 1<sup>st</sup> thru January 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to the Commissioners who have helped with getting sponsorships. The money raised from these sponsorships will go into the Vivian Reid Fund.
- The Connections program is a social day program for people who experience memory and cognitive impairment. It has been inactive since March of 2020. The program will be resumed in a limited capacity beginning October 4<sup>th</sup> at one central location at the Ellicott City 50+Center.
- At 50+ Centers, people are starting to reengage, but it is a slow process. Virtual programming will be continued. OAI is trying to be creative in ways to draw people back to the centers.
- If anyone has questions about the booster shots and who is eligible and how to access one, the Howard County Health Department website is up-to-date.

### **Chair's Report**

- With Michael McPherson's resignation, a new Commissioner will be chosen. A committee to review the applicants has been formed and will give their recommendations. Up to four candidates will be selected. The committee will be Reginald Avery, Jenna Crawley, Angie Boyter, Sue Song, Jennifer Asher, and Eletta Morse. Their recommendations will be given to the County Executive. There is an October 8<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- Whether to hold in-person meetings or continue to do virtual meetings was discussed. The October and November meetings will remain virtual. In January, it will be discussed again whether to resume in-person meetings.
- The Federal government has found that 20 years beyond 911, the country is still ill prepared for a crisis. Recommendations are that seniors keep supplies on-hand incase there is an emergency. In the event of an emergency, it could be three days before help is sent to citizens.

### **New Business**

None

### **Adjournment**

Geetha Jayaram motioned to adjourn. Wei Gou seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Recording Secretary: Donna Tugwell

Future Meetings: October 25, November 22, no December meeting