
COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
October 28, 2019

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Reginald Avery
Angie Boyter
Susan Hailman
Michael McPherson
Eletta Morse
Sue Song
Mark Stinson
Michael Willis

Excused

Peter Brunner
Julia Mattis
Bob McLaughlin

Absent

Deborah Fleischmann

Office on Aging and Independence

Jenna Crawley
Donna Tugwell

Visitors

Maura Rossman
Kelly Kesler

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

A spelling correction on a name was noted and will be corrected. Motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was second. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

Presentation by Maura Rossman, MD, Health Department, Needs Assessment 50+, CAREAPP for aging population

Howard County is a growing county, both in residents and diversity. There are now over 320,000 residents and development has increased. With development, comes both positive and negative aspects. The 50+ population is almost 34% of the total population. Cancer is the leading cause of death with heart disease second and stroke third. However, heart disease and stroke combined, out number deaths caused by cancer. The goal of the Health Department is to prevent disease. The leading causes of death are modifiable through reductions in: smoking, high blood pressure, overweight, obesity, physical inactivity, high dietary salt and high sugar consumption. Residents do fairly well getting preventative screenings and vaccinations. Over the years, the flu vaccine

availability has increased. About 50% of the Health Departments funding comes from the State of Maryland. The state puts restrictions on what needs to be done with the funding, based on data the state has. The other 50% of funding comes from the County. A small portion of that funding gets to be used in a very focused way. CAREAPP is a technology-based website that features 1) an updated searchable directory of community services, 2) a screening survey, 3) a two-way referral system and 4) reports on activity between community agencies. The CAREAPP network includes 35 private, public, government, and academic sectors, with more than 400 individual community providers trained to use the tool with their respective clients. CAREAPP connects clients to needed services. People call 911 for 2 reasons: 1) they have a health emergency and need to go to the hospital or 2) they have a health issue which is not an emergency. If the reason is a non-emergency, people need to be connected to the resources that will help them with these health issues. Urgent care centers are one alternative. The voluntary flagging program is being expanded by the Howard County Police Department. Information provided by the flagging program will help the police as they respond to a 911 call.

LHIC (Local Health Improvement Coalition) represents over 130 organizations in the County as well as over 350 individuals. LHIC has 4 areas of priority. These priorities are 1) Healthy Aging, 2) engaging directly with folks who are a part of communities, 3) a strategic plan for resolving different aging issues as well as the Safe Streets program and 4) connect with organizations to help connect people to resources. Although people have resources, the problem is connection them to those resources.

Legislative Breakfast

The Legislative was very successful and one of the best held. Sharonlee Vogel contacted the legislators to thank them and let them know to contact the Commission if they needed more information on any of the topics.

Master Aging Event

More visitors stopped by the Commission on Aging booth this year than in previous years at 50+EXPO. Visitors filled out 49 Talking Point sheets. Most of the sheets were filled out by longtime residents. Most stated that they plan to stay in Howard County. Reasons given for staying were the services offered, great location, diversity, open space facilities, convenience, and a great community. Tax credits are catching on. Some feel the community is changing and that there is too much development and deforestation. Traffic, noise and transportation were listed as issues that need to be addressed. People are also concerned about higher taxes. People stated that they were not aware of services that are offered. They said there is a need for more geriatric medical care. At the event, people did not like having to travel between buildings and said they had trouble trying to find some of the things.

Communications/Outreach

The constituent portal is in the testing phase. Commission on Aging members will be able to test the portal before it goes live. The Website is also under development. Bids have been put out. The early part of the new year is the tentative go-live date for the revised website.

Senior Tax Issues

Nothing new to report.

Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging

No meetings recently. Will decide on a spokesperson soon and possibly rename the group.

Transportation

Nothing to report, except that in general, people want more on-demand transportation available in the County. Also, it was brought up that transportation was somewhat of an issue at the Master Aging event.

Office on Aging and Independence Report

The 2020 Resource Guide is now available. The Loan Closet successfully moved and is open at the new location. A new rack card is available with their information. They are partnering with Equipment Connections for Children

to help make equipment available for children. Rebuilding Together is also at The Loan Closet. The 50+ Center Brochure has been revised and is now available. The rack card for The Commission on Aging has also been revised and is available. The Thanksgiving Luncheon is scheduled for November 14th from 10:30am to 1:30pm at the Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville. Lunch will be served at 12:00pm. The Police Department has identified a new Community Officer, but they have not been transferred yet because there is a shortage of officers on patrol. Reginald Avery is getting a breakout of crime against seniors in the County. The Age-Friendly initiative will have a launch event on December 3rd at 9:00am at The Interfaith Center at Wilde Lake. Dr. Ball will attend.

Nominations for Chair

Reginald Avery is coordinating the search for a new Chair for the Commission. The new Chair will start in June 2020. Sharonlee Vogel will serve as Chair through May 2020 and work with the new appointed Chair prior to June. The Chair runs meetings, gets speakers, and communicates with the County Executive's Office and gives feedback to the Commission. It was motioned and approved that Sharonlee stay until a new Chair is selected.

Chair's Report

Covered in other areas.

Sharing from Commissioners

Michael Willis shared that on October 30th, Baltimore County is having their Aging Event at Timonium Fairgrounds. The nursing home facility he works at was without gas for 67 hours.

Sue Song shared that she was at the LHIC meeting and they talked about Healthy Aging. The YMCA has free membership for seniors in need. They talked about safety for seniors.

Eletta Morse shared that The Howard County Police Department has a 911 flagging program for individuals with autism, disabilities, dementia and other conditions. She shared a copy of the new release with Commission members. The information about the flagging program will be on the police department website.

Reginald Avery shared that Federal Law Enforcement alerted seniors to an IRS scam. The IRS will not ask you for apple cards or does not call you. He enjoyed the Capitol Steps performance at the Master Aging event.

Susan Hailman shared that she attended a lovely tea. The A & W had their first Distinguished Women tea and Sue Song was named the first Distinguished Woman. The Village is having a Basket Bingo on November 15th.

Sharonlee Vogel shared that on November 20th from 2pm-3:30pm, the Office on Aging and Independence will hold Focusing on the Future of Howard County Senior at The Village in Howard offices. Jenna Crawley will be presenting.

Angie Boyter shared that someone she knows used SHIP's services and was very pleased with the help she received. There is an SSA scam which calls and says your SSA number has been compromised. SSA will not call you. There also currently a Microsoft scam as well.

Adjournment

Motioned to adjourn, and the motion was second. The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Recording Secretary: Donna Tugwell

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