



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
April 22, 2019

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Reg Avery
Peter Brunner
Debbie Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Eletta Morse
Sue Song
Mark Stinson
Michael Willis

Excused

Debbie Fleischmann
Julia Mattis

Office on Aging and Independence

Terri Hansen

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Approve Agenda

Bob McLaughlin motioned to approve the agenda and Pete Brunner seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
All in favor. Agenda accepted.

Approve Minutes

Pete Brunner motioned to approve the minutes and Bob McLaughlin seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
All in favor. Minutes accepted.

Sharonlee Vogel began the meeting with an update on Commission membership. Jan Horan resigned from the Commission for personal reasons. This meeting is Andrew Monjan's last meeting as a member, but Andrew will continue to be involved in the COA Summit this fall.

Presentation by Encore Howard County

The meeting began with a presentation by Encore Howard County, a group focused on re-envisioning ideas and attitudes about retirement and aging in Howard County through an integrated platform of resources to support adults during their transition to retirement. The group looks to redefine aging and terms like retirement to

change the narrative of aging within the county. Encore will officially launch their platform on Thursday, April 25 at Belmont Manor.

Workgroup Reports

Transportation

Bob McLaughlin shared that the RTA will begin serving the new and revised routes that were approved on Sunday, May 5.

As today, there has not been a replacement named for Clive Graham's position.

Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging

Eletta reminded the Office about the Emergency Respite Funding that the Department of Social Services administers.

The workgroup will be meeting next month to talk about loneliness.

Communications/Outreach

Susan Hailman provided the Commission a list of questions for both the Department of Technology and Communication Services as well as for the Office of Public Information; the hope is providing questions in advance will lead to a focused presentation from each office. Commissioners are asked to provide Susan and the committee any additional questions they believe should be covered.

Senior Tax Issues

Pete Brunner shared that Senate Bill 654 has passed unanimously in both the House and Senate. This legislation allows individual counties to establish the residency threshold for the aging in place tax credit. Pete also shared that he had spoken with his councilperson regarding the bill and there was an openness to reducing the residency threshold for Howard County.

Senate Bill 279, which supports proactive programs for aging in place has also passed. While the bill has passed, MDOA will be administering the program and will have to establish regulations before applications could be submitted.

Pete attended the ACS annual meeting with County Executive Ball and a question was asked about age-friendly communities. The County Executive indicated that he has spoken with AARP and seemed on board with the concept.

COA Summit

Sharonlee shared a working agenda for September's Summit. The committee is looking for suggestions on structuring the afternoon; the goal is to have attendees interact and report back to the large group. The Commission was asked to consider two possible structures; breaking into five tables, each with an assigned questions or discussion groups focusing on sharing age-friendly initiatives which are in place in their community along with any improvements needed.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee shared two changes to the workgroups: Michael Willis is moving to the Healthy Aging Workgroup and Mark Stinson will join the Senior Tax Issues Workgroup.

Office on Aging Report

Terri Hansen shared that the May Commission meeting will include an overview of the Office's Area Plan, the document used to quantify how Older Americans Act dollars will be spent in the upcoming year.

June 15th is the World Elder Abuse Awareness Event at Patuxent Woods. The Office is partnering with AARP to hold a shredding event paired with education.

The Office's Caregiver Conference will be held this weekend; tomorrow is the last day to register and respite is provided.

The Police Department has identified a new Senior Liaison, Pfc. Macer.

New Business-None

Sharing from Commissioners

Susan Hailman shared that The Village in Howard has created a social phone call program amongst members; while calls aren't a daily check-in, members have reported that they're enjoying the program and have felt positive about knowing there was someone available for them to call.

Michael Willis reported that the patient driven payment model has represented a major change in his work and requires a great deal of training and education for staff.

Andrew Monjan shared that the proposed County budget includes increased funding for Recreation and Park's Encore programming.

Jennifer Asher provided an update on the opioid crisis signage on Route 103; in February, there were 34 overdoses and 4 deaths and currently the signage shows 53 overdoses and 5 deaths.

Reg Avery shared that Longreach Village Center will hold a shredding event this Saturday. Non-residents may shred for a nominal fee. The proposed plan for the renovation and redevelopment of the Longreach Village Center will need to be redesigned.

Mark Stinson shared that colleagues have lamented the lack of resources available in Elkridge, specifically housing resources.

Angie Boyter shared troubling news financial abuse of a neighbor with dementia. It's a fine line when guarding privacy but also receiving outside assistance.

Sue Song shared an update from the task force looking at post-acute care after hospitalization; 36% of people with nowhere to go after being hospitalized are seniors, most with a dual diagnosis. The task force is looking for less restrictive and less costly alternatives to hospital settings and their recommendations are due by June.

Bob McLaughlin offered thanks and kudos to Andrew Monjan for sharing his vast knowledge of healthy living in older adults during his time on the Commission.

Adjournment

Andrew Monjan motioned to adjourn. Reg Avery seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: May 20, 2019, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm