



COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
May 20, 2019

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Angela Boyter
Peter Brunner
Debbie Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Julia Mattis
Eletta Morse
Mark Stinson
Michael Willis

Excused

Reginald Avery
Bob McLaughlin
Sue Song

Office on Aging and Independence

Jenna Crawley
Donna Tugwell

Call to order

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

Approve Agenda

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

Approve Minutes

Jennifer Asher motioned to approve the minutes and Michael Willis seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
All in favor. Minutes accepted.

Sharonlee Vogel began the meeting with an update on Commission membership.

Presentation by Fire and Rescue on Hands Only CPR Training

The Hands Only CPR Training by Katie Larkins from Fire and Rescue scheduled, was cancelled as the training takes approximately one hour. The training will be possibly rescheduled for another time. Instead, Deborah Fleischmann will check on the monthly classes held at the HCGH through Population Health.

Workgroup Reports

Communications/Outreach

Susan Hailman reported there is nothing to report on the outreach to the Department of Technology and Communication Services or the Office of Public Information. Still waiting to hear back. Commissioners requested a meeting to be scheduled with IT/PIO representatives. Jenna Crawley agreed to contact DTCS to request their attendance at a Commission meeting.

Transportation

It was reported that Bruce Gartner, the new Administrator, Office of Transportation Howard County Government, is on board with the plan for making improvements to the transportation system. This would include expanding the multimodal transportation system through improved transit service, expansion of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, innovative Transportation Demand Management [TDM] programs, regional partnerships and more.

Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging

The former spokesperson for this workgroup is no longer on the Commission. A new spokesperson has not yet been identified. Sharonlee will discuss with the four committee members to determine if anyone is willing to fill the role of spokesperson.

Senior Tax Issues

Pete Brunner reported on two bills that passed during the legislative session:

1) The NANA Bill

The Maryland Department of Aging - Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs (Nonprofits for our Aging Neighbors Act - "NANA") was passed. The NANA bill authorizes the Maryland Department of Aging to make grants to certain nonprofit organizations and area agencies on aging to expand and establish certain aging-in-place programs for seniors, requires the Department to publicize the availability of the grants at least six weeks before the applications are due, establishes a requirement for an equal match for certain funds, requires the Department to notify an area agency on aging within two weeks after a grant award is made to a nonprofit located within the agency's jurisdiction. Pete requested for the Commission and OAI to work together in the fall when additional information is received as to how this bill will be implemented.

2) Aging in Place Tax Credit

The Commission recommends the eligibility requirements for the aging-in-place property tax credit bill to be expanded. Under the current law, few county taxpayers ever qualify for the benefit. The Commission on Aging recommended the following elements be incorporated: 1) portability among houses within the County; 2) a shorter timeframe such as 20 or 30 years. Pete Bruner shared a draft letter to be sent to County Executive Calvin Ball. A copy of a draft of the letter was distributed at the meeting. Commissioners were requested to provide input and/or suggested edits to Sharonlee. Sharonlee will send to the County Executive by the end of the week.

COA Summit

Planning for the summit in September continues. Sharonlee requested input around the afternoon sessions. Jenna Crawley agreed to reach out to those counties that Sharonlee has not been able to reach.

Office on Aging Report

Jenna Crawley reported that the OAI has been working on the FY2020-2023 Area Plan to be submitted to MDA by May 31, 2019. As part of the process and to solicit community feedback, an electronic survey was sent out to about 7,000 community members. It was acknowledged the sample is skewed due to utilizing DCRS Constant Contact distribution lists as it was sent to individuals who are known to the Department thus not as broad a sample as desired. It was noted that the survey has been shared by other community groups as well as Jenna Crawley agreed to send the survey to Commission members as they had feedback stating they were aware of other places it could be distributed. At the time of the Commission meeting, approximately 1,000 responses had been received.

The survey focused on the use of existing services, rating services and satisfaction with OAI's performance in the last 12 months.

It was suggested at the meeting that surveys in the future should also ask about what services people would like to see provided. Also, the Commission would like more involvement in drafting future surveys especially since this is part of its mandate required by law.

Jenna Crawley reported the East Columbia 50+ Center project continues in the design and development phase. There was discussion that the frequency of bus service needs to be at minimum every 30 minutes. Sharonlee noted that it is important for transportation planning to be part of the initial planning discussions.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is scheduled for June 15th. A shredding event will be held at OAI's administrative offices along with educational seminars.

Chair's Report

Michael McPherson's appointment to the Commission will be voted on at the next Count Council legislative session on June 3.

Training for Hands-Only CPR is still a possibility, either by Howard County Fire and Rescue or by HCGH's Population Health. Jennifer Asher, Mark Stinson, Sharonlee Vogel and Michael Willis expressed interest in taking the training.

New Business - None

Sharing from Commissioners

Angela Boyter shared that Facebook has a feature that allows you to choose a legacy representative/contact who can both be contacted by Facebook if you die. That representative/contact can do various things if your page is "memorialized", such as notify people of your passing and give information on memorial services and permit friends to post memories of you.

Jennifer Asher shared that Jan Horan mentioned that in western Howard County there was something like the Loan Closet coordinated by the Lions Club. The program was operating for several years but was disbanded. The reason was due to concerns about sanitation and liability issues. A suggestion was made that the Loan Closet could possibly help with sanitizing the equipment. The Commission recommended to the OAI work with and coordinate the Lions Club and Loan Closet to facilitate the continued program in western Howard County.

Deborah Fleischmann had shared earlier about Hands-Only CPR training at HCGH by Population Health.

Susan Hailman spoke about Maryland Communities for Life which delivers a number of services for older adults living independently in their homes, such as home maintenance, transportation and community access.

Michael Willis shared about the passing of his father who had moved to Delaware. One of the reasons his father moved to Delaware was because he felt Maryland was not a tax friendly state.

Adjournment

Eletta Morse motioned to adjourn. Susan Hailman seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Recording Secretary: Donna Tugwell

Future Meetings: June 24, July 22, August 26, Statewide Summit September 17, September 23, Legislative Breakfast October 15, October 28, November 25, no December meeting.