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## COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes

August 26, 2019

**PRESIDING:** Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

**Members Attending**

Jennifer Asher  
Reginald Avery  
Angela Boyter  
Peter Brunner  
Debbie Fleischmann  
Susan Hailman  
Julia Mattis  
Michael McPherson  
Eletta Morse  
Michael Willis

**Excused**

Bob McLaughlin  
Sue Song  
Mark Stinson

**Office on Aging and Independence**

Jenna Crawley  
Donna Tugwell

**Guests**

Jennifer Jones  
Cheryl Mattis  
Jacqueline Scott

**Call to order**

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

**Approve Agenda**

Reginald Avery motioned to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

**Approve Minutes**

One change was noted for the minutes for July. After the change was made, Peter Brunner motioned to approve the minutes, and Jennifer Asher second the motioned. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

### **COA Summit Planning & Volunteers**

Responses are still being received. Montgomery County will be at the Summit and have two people on the panel. Sharonlee will email Commissioners asking them to be at the Summit unless they are working.

### **Conversation with Executive staff on Administration plans on working with the Commission and Commission priorities**

Jennifer Jones from the County Executive's office attended the meeting to discuss the Administration's plans for working with the Commission on shared priorities, working together in a more collaborative way, and improving communication. Aging in Place was mentioned as a known priority. The Commission is still awaiting the County Executive's response to the letter that was sent on May 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year regarding tax credits and affordability. Ms. Jones said that the Finance office reported that the cost would be \$19 million; it was not affordable for the County. There was discussion about how the affordability of the tax credits was determined. There will be a follow-up on the tax credits from Dr. Ball's office. A slide show on tax credits and aging in place was presented that will be shown at the Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30am-9:00am. Topics for the Legislative Breakfast are being determined.

It was noted that when Commission members step out of their role as a commissioner, and contact elected officials, they are contacting them as a private citizen, not a Commission member.

The Office on Aging and Independence has started an initiative to make Howard County an Age-Friendly Community. A letter of intent has been received from the County Executive's office and submitted to AARP. The application process will be started in the near future.

Carl DeLorenzo will be attending the Commission on Aging Statewide Summit on Tuesday, September 17th.

### **Master Aging Event in October**

The Commission on Aging will have a booth at the Master Aging event. Booth planning is underway. Help is needed to staff the booth. Scheduling will be done so two commissioners will always be at the booth. The event is Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 3pm.

### **Senior Tax Issues**

This was covered in the discussion with Jennifer Jones.

### **Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging**

Members of the committee discussed that silos exist between the Health Department and Office on Aging & Independence. It was stated that the Health Department and the OAI do not communicate that often; however, collaboration between both agencies occurs regularly. Commissioners were encouraged to participate in more OAI activities to increase understanding of the various activities and collaborations across the office. Commissioners noted they act as ambassadors helping people find services.

### **Transportation**

Ride sharing services are being researched. The Residences at Vantage Point, formerly Vantage House, has its own bus service. RVP also uses Lyft. Some of their residents that are text savvy use Uber as well as Lyft. A bus system might work for some people; however, some people need assistance of some kind. Also, bus service availability can be limited. Taxi services in some areas give discounts to seniors who are regular customers.

### **Communications/Outreach**

Nothing other than what was already discussed.

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

The Loan Closet move to the new location is planned for October 7<sup>th</sup>. There are discussions with the Lions Club as to how they can help serve community members in the Western part of the county to include helping to deliver equipment in need. The equipment donation shed at the Alpha Ridge Landfill has been very successful so far.

Wei Guo has been selected as the candidate for the Commission on Aging. Approval process takes place in October and November. His first meeting would be in November.

NAACP is having an Elder Empowerment Summit at the North Laurel Community Center on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners were invited to attend.

### **Chair's Report**

Nothing to be report other than what was discussed already.

### **New Business**

None

### **Sharing from Commissioners**

Jennifer Asher shared that she attended a Hands Only CPR training. It was well presented, and she would recommend taking it.

Julia Mattis shared that she saved her husband's life using the CPR training that she had taken.

Deborah Fleischmann shared that a new chief nursing officer has started at HCGH. The position had been vacant. HCGH is exploring a relationship with Lyft to help patients being discharged with no way home. The Emergency area at the hospital is undergoing relocation and improvements. There is a new award for nurses called the DAISY award. Anyone can nominate a nurse for the DAISY award.

Pete Brunner shared that The Village in Howard has returned to the Stevens Forest Village Center. In January, TVIH is doing a workshop to help people understand tax assessments and report errors in assessments. Reporting errors in person gets better results than by sending a letter to report errors. There was a suggestion that the Commission on Aging could partner with Consumer Protection and do a workshop on understanding tax assessments.

Angie Boyter shared that Medicare has different contracts with pharmacies, so quantities and prices will vary from pharmacy to pharmacy. CVS now delivers to the homebound if you wait one or two days for delivery.

Reginald Avery shared that the Veterans Commission is dealing with suicides among both younger and older veterans. In April 2020, a seminar, Shell-Shocked will be held. Dr. Calvin Ball will be at the Long Reach Village Center on Tuesday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> to talk about renovating the center. Plans to renovate the center have been put on hold due to objections from the church, the liquor store and the deli. The African American Museum may be moved to the center.

Michael Willis shared that his nursing facility often uses Uber or Lyft, even though they have a van service. He saw Andre Lingham at an award ceremony for Peter Franchot. Both Michael and Jenna Crawley ran the Annapolis 10 mile run and finished.

### **Adjournment**

Reginald Avery motioned to adjourn, and the motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Recording Secretary: Donna Tugwell

Future Meetings: Statewide Summit September 17, September 23, Legislative Breakfast October 15, October 28, November 25, no December meeting.