
COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
September 23, 2019

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Reginald Avery
Peter Brunner
Susan Hailman
Julia Mattis
Michael McPherson
Mark Stinson

Excused

Angie Boyter
Bob McLaughlin
Eletta Morse
Sue Song
Michael Willis

Absent

Deborah Fleischmann

Office on Aging and Independence

Jenna Crawley
Donna Tugwell

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

Motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was second. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

COA Summit – Comments, kudos

The Summit went well and was well attended. Many attendees gave compliments. A writeup/story was sent to Generations about the Summit and Ben Cardin spoke at the Summit. A wealth of information was presented on Age-Friendly Communities. It was suggested that a statewide effort should be initiated in Maryland. Maryland currently is not rated highly as age-friendly. If anyone wants copies for the presentations let Sharonlee Vogel know.

Legislative Breakfast

At last year's Legislative Breakfast, 2018, four issues of greatest interest to constituents were identified: 1) Tax Issues, 2) End of Life Bill, 3) Strategic Planning, and 4) Transportation. A draft of the slide show on Tax Issues for this year's Legislative Breakfast was shared. The slide show includes the Aging in Place Tax Credit and NANA (Non-profits for our Aging Neighbors), observations about senior taxpayers, and in and out migration from the state and county. The presentation includes research that highlights ways Maryland can optimize revenue from seniors and develop more lenient taxation policies. Topics of discussion at the breakfast include Senior Taxpayers as an Asset, State Tax Provisions Affecting Seniors, Senior Housing Options and Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program. The Older Americans Act is up for reauthorization on September 30th. If it does not get reauthorized, it needs to be included as a topic at the breakfast.

Master Aging Event

Commission on Aging will have an exhibit booth at the Master Aging Event on Saturday, October 19th. A display board listing/detailing the Commission's role and focus is being created updated. Also, an updated rack card giving information on the Commission is being developed in place of an outdated brochure. At the booth, information will be available on tax credits, MAP, and services available. More volunteers are needed to staff the booth at the event. Creating a survey is being considered.

Transportation

Nothing to report.

Communications/Outreach

Nothing to report.

Senior Tax Issues

Covered already in Legislative Breakfast discussion.

Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging

No one in attendance from this committee. They are considering reorganizing the workgroup and revising the focus and name.

Office on Aging and Independence Report

Officer Mercer has been assigned to another position, we are awaiting word from the police department of a new officer who will be assigned to work with the Commission.

The Loan Closet will be close the week of October 7th, moving and reopening on October 15th to Riverwood Drive in Kings Contrivance. The role of The Loan Closet is being expanded to include pediatrics and children in need of equipment. MDTAP is going to have a loaning library so people with low vision can test out equipment before purchasing it. The Department is establishing another office, the Office on Disabilities. The Loan Closet will be moved to under this office.

The New Resource Guide will be delivered the week before the Master Aging Event.

On December 3rd, an Age-Friendly initiative will be launched in Howard County. It is about aligning our policies to create an age-friendly community. Also looking at what is available and making it more accessible, and hearing from the community as to what they want. A survey will be used to identify some of these things.

Upcoming event NAACP Elder Empowerment Summit at North Laurel on Saturday, September 28th. Walk to End Alzheimer's is also going on that Saturday at Centennial Park. Virtual Dementia tours will be held at North Laurel on October 23rd and Patuxent Woods on November 11th.

Chair's Report

A nominating committee is needed for the Chair's position. Speak with Reginald Avery if you are interested in being considered for the Chair or the Vice Chair. Next month at the meeting, Maura Rossman is giving a presentation on community health care needs data and the Health Department's plans for the aging community. She will give information on the CARE APP for the aging population and coordination for aging services.

Send any ideas you have for future presenters to Sharonlee Vogel. It was requested that Terri Hansen present about the Age-Friendly Community. November is being considered.

It was requested that next time Jenna Crawley is at the County Executive's cabinet meeting, that she mention to Dr. Ball and Jennifer Jones that the Commission is still waiting for the analysis on how it was determined what the tax changes would cost the County.

For January, it was suggested that MDTAP give a presentation on using the lending library they operate north of Baltimore City. MDTAP will be at the Loan Closet a few times a month bringing equipment from their lending library for people to try out.

The constituent portal is in the final stages of development. Jenna is trying to coordinate that the Commission on Aging and the Commission on Disabilities be able to view and test the portal when ready.

A future meeting could be at The Loan Closet giving the Commission a chance to see and visit it.

New Business

None

Sharing from Commissioners

Michael McPherson shared that people are confused about the 50+EXPO and Master Aging, particularly about the flu shots. Jenna Crawley reported there will be a flu clinic at the Bain 50+ Center in November. At the Master Aging Event more information about future flu clinics will be given.

Susan Hailman shared that this year the Columbia Association did not put out a grant proposal request to The Village as they have in the past. Therefore, The Village was not able to request a grant from them. In the past, they have been given \$25,000. The Village is doing a fundraiser bingo at the Fraternal Order of Police, just outside of Ellicott City, on November 15th. Doors open at 6pm. The bingo is from 7pm-10pm. Tickets are \$20.

Mark Stinson asked if other counties have hosted the COA Summit. Previous ones have been hosted by the Maryland Commission on Aging, sometimes in Howard County since it is centrally located.

Jennifer Asher thanked people for volunteering for the Master Aging event. She will be there at the start of everyone's shift to let them know what materials are there and about the survey.

Adjournment

Motioned to adjourn, and the motion was second. The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Recording Secretary: Donna Tugwell

Future Meetings: Legislative Breakfast October 15, October 28, November 25, no December meeting.