



## COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES April 25, 2022

**PRESIDING:** Reginald Avery, Chair

### **Members Attending**

Jennifer Asher  
Peter Brunner  
Wei Guo  
Susan Hailman  
Victoria Hathaway  
Elizabeth Edsall Kromm  
Stephanie Lyon  
Eletta Morse  
Mark Stinson  
Sue Song  
Michael Willis

### **Excused**

Julia Mattis

### **Office on Aging & Independence**

Jenna Crawley  
Donna Tugwell

### **Guests**

Tracy Novak

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

### **Approve Agenda**

Stephanie Lyon moved to approve the agenda. Michael Willis seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda approved.*

### **Approve Minutes**

Victoria Hathaway moved to approve the March minutes. Elizabeth Edsall Kromm seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes approved.*

### **Guest Speaker – Tracy Novak, Director of Population Health, Howard County General Hospital**

- Elizabeth Edsall Kromm introduced Tracy Novak, Director of Population Health, Howard County General Hospital. Tracy Novak gave a presentation on population health at HCGH.
- Three topics were discussed: 1) Health Promotion, 2) Integrated Care Management, and

### 3) Community Support Services.

- Health Promotion offers health screening, COVID testing and vaccinations, health education, SHIP's Medicare 101 and 102 classes, support groups, and employee wellness. Dates of upcoming community wellness screenings and health education classes were given.
- Information was given on the Community Care Team and advanced care planning.
- Behavioral health navigators provide screening that identifies non-medical needs, assists in scheduling post discharge appointments, and connects patients to community resources and support services.
- Community support services include the Claudia Mayer/Tina Broccolino Cancer Resource Center and volunteer services.
- HCGH has a Community Health Worker training program which is accredited by the State of Maryland.
- Examples of community partners are Community Action Council, Grassroots, Health Department, Local Health Improvement Coalition, Meals on Wheels, Neighbor Ride, and Office on Aging and Independence.
- Following the presentation Tracy Novak answered questions from the Commissioners.

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

- There are five new employees. Katy Lee Greeley who is the Ombudsman Program Manager. Cheryl Campbell, Daemir Dove, and Seojin Kim who are Nutrition Specialists. And in the Community Living Program a Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant, Andrea Bryant.
- The Grab & Go Program which has been operating for two years will be ending. The last date for Grab & Go meals is May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Congregate Meal Program will be resuming at many of the 50+ Centers. The program will look at serving meals that are culturally responsive, continuing the restaurant initiative, looking at what participants want, modernizing the meals, and using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to serve medically tailored meals.
- Older Americans Month begins May 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme is "Age My Way". Some of the Commissioners have been interviewed as to their "Age My Way" stories, which will be included in the Beacon 50+ Connections paper for May. There will be celebrations at the 50+ Centers.
- Last year Commissioners helped in reviewing the OAI Area Plan that is submitted to the State for approval. Jenna is awaiting the grant document that gives guidelines. The Area Plan when finished will be shared again with Commissioners for their feedback before it is submitted to the State. In 2023 a new Area plan will be written
- Now that in-person activities are starting again, we have name badges for Commissioners. Several more were ordered, and more will be ordered for those who need them.
- In honor of Volunteer Appreciation Month, Jenna expressed her thank you to Commissioners for their service as members of the Commission on Aging. Reginald Avery also expressed his appreciation of the Commissioners and their service.

### **Chair's Report**

- Schools are looking for people to take the part of judges in their simulated congressional hearings that 5<sup>th</sup> graders are participating in as they start studying the Constitution, our Bill of Rights, and our system of government. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be giving presentations. Reginald Avery will send the link if any Commissioners wish to serve as judges.
- Commissioners were asked if they would like to participate in a committee that would look at how the Commission could participate in Older Americans Month.
- It was brought up that the COA rack card, which was last update in 2019 for the Master Aging event, could be updated to be more of an outreach and solicit input from the community.

- The Commission on Aging advocates for older adults in Howard County and communicates with the County Executive on what is important to them and what they would like addressed.
- Commissioners were asked to look at what committees the COA has had in the past and what committees are needed now. Commissioners will look at the COA priorities when doing this.

### **New Business**

- Stephanie Lyon will be taking Eletta Morse's position on the Public Guardianship Review Board.
- It was suggested that presentations on the next upcoming meetings be limited or every other month, so the Commission has more time at the meetings for planning.
- May is AAPI month (Asian American Pacific Islanders Month). On May 1<sup>st</sup> there will be a festival from 11am – 4pm.
- The May COA meeting will be held by WebEx.

### **Adjournment**

Wei Guo motioned to adjourn. Stephanie Lyon seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Recording Secretary: Donna Tugwell

**2022 Meetings:** Fourth Monday of each month; May 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup>, August – no meeting, September – TBD, October – TBD, November 28<sup>th</sup>, December – no meeting