



## COMMISSION ON AGING

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### COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes  
April 24, 2018

**PRESIDING:** Jennifer Asher, Vice Chair

#### **Members Attending**

Pete Brunner  
Deborah Fleischmann  
Susan Hailman  
Julia Mattis  
Bob McLaughlin  
Andrew Monjan  
Eletta Morse  
Sue Song  
Michael Willis

#### **Excused**

Reg Avery  
Angie Boyter  
Jan Horan  
Sharonlee Vogel

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

Ofelia Ross

#### **Howard County Police Department**

Andre Lingham

#### **Guests**

Steve Plakitsis, Department of Social Services

#### **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**

Bob McLaughlin motioned to approve the minutes, and Sue Song seconded the motion. Motion was approved.  
*All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

## **The Role of Adult Protective Services (APS) in Howard County**

The meeting began with a presentation from Steve Plakitsis, Department of Social Services on the role of Adult Protective Services in the County.

APS provides assistance to vulnerable adults who lack the ability to meet their daily needs through investigations and assessments, referrals, and service plans. APS commonly receives referrals from a variety of community partners, including the Office on Aging and Independence, the Police Department, and Howard County General Hospital. Services provided by APS are voluntary, though when a client indicates they do not wish for assistance from APS, workers will try a variety of strategies to engage the client before moving on. While it can be hard to accept, APS cannot force or make a client accept assistance.

Ofelia Ross shared information on the numerous ways the Office on Aging interacts with APS through programs including the Ombudsman and Guardianship program as well as through Crimes Against Vulnerable Adults (CAVA), a County-wide committee led by the State's Attorney's Office.

Steve Plakitsis also provided guidance to Commissioners with specific case examples and answered questions about the training staff receive as well as how the Department of Social Services accommodates clients with limited English proficiency.

## **Workgroup Reports**

### **Transportation**

Bob McLaughlin reported the workgroups three recommendations: 1) advocate for more user-friendly, on-demand transportation options, 2) investigate how other jurisdictions use one-demand transportation, and 3) increase awareness of research and use of driverless cars.

In order to further research these recommendations, the workgroup will be reaching out to the Washington Post's transportation team. The workgroup also shared information on an on-demand ride share program being used in Arlington, Texas.

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

Andrew Monjan provided an update on the Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging workgroup. The workgroup is suggesting the Commission hold two outreach events on healthy aging this year, potentially by partnering with community organizations. The workgroup will be researching available intergenerational activities and will explore partnering with the Office on the Age and Dementia Friendly Communities initiatives.

### **Communications/Outreach**

Susan Hailman shared that the workgroup will be meeting with the Office on Aging and Independence to follow up on the website. The workgroup has reached out to the National Institute on Aging to see if their web-standards can be shared.

### **Senior Tax Issues**

Pete Brunner reported that the workgroup is working on researching sources of information on cost of services provided to seniors as well as determining mean taxes paid by seniors. Additionally, the workgroup would like to identify all tax credits which may be useful to older adults at a local, state, and federal level, while continuing to advocate for relaxing the residency requirements on the Aging in Place Tax Credit.

The workgroup also suggests examining the Livable Homes Tax Credit to see if specific projects could be exempted from the inspection process.

### **Office on Aging Report**

Ofelia Ross shared that Secretary Kramer will be holding a Town Hall Meeting at the Elkridge 50+ Center on Thursday, May 10 at 1:30pm.

Jennie Rittenhouse shared that the Office's move has been scheduled for the weekend beginning Friday, July 13.

### **New Business**

Susan Hailman shared information from the AARP's website regarding the gap between funds allocated and population growth, an area where Maryland is lagging behind.

Andrew Monjan encouraged commissioners to check out Clean Water Howard.

Debbie Fleischmann shared a Washington Post article on a DC program that puts nurses in their 911 call center to triage calls to reduce inappropriate ambulance use and reduce crowding in emergency rooms. The service partners with Lyft to provide callers transportation to urgent care centers or followup medical appointments as appropriate.

### **Adjournment**

Sue Song motioned to adjourn. Bob McLaughlin seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: May 21, 2018, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm