



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes

November 26, 2018

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Reg Avery
Angie Boyter
Pete Brunner
Deborah Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Mark Stinson
Michael Willis

Excused

Jan Horan
Julia Mattis
Eletta Morse
Sue Song

Office on Aging and Independence

Jenna Crawley
Terri Hansen

Call to order

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

Approve Agenda

Bob McLaughlin motioned to approve the agenda and Jennifer Asher seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

Mark Stinson requested the minutes be amended to show his attendance. Angie Boyter motioned to approve the minutes and Bob McLaughlin seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

The meeting began with the introduction of the new Office on Aging and Independence Administrator, Jenna Crawley.

Legislative Breakfast

Sharonlee reported that the Commission's Legislative Breakfast was a well-attended success. Follow-up meeting with some of the delegation have been scheduled to further discuss tax issues. Members of the Senior Tax Issues Work Group will be meeting with Katie Hester and Clarence Lam later this week.

Following discussion at the Legislative Breakfast, Sharonlee asked for additional information on the database solution the Office on Aging is considering. Jennie Rittenhouse provided a summary of Service Point, the database solution being considered by the Department of Community Resources and Services. Service Point will provide the Department with a single database across all offices, allowing all contacts with the Department to be visible in case notes for each client. The system is currently in use in the Department's Homeless Information Management Program. Programs will be coming on board individually; the first OAI program to adopt Service Point will be Maryland Access Point (MAP).

Workgroup Reports

Transportation

Bob McLaughlin shared that a transition team on transportation would be formed to assist with the transition between administrations and that the workgroup looks forward to hearing what the priorities for the new administration are.

Bob reminded the Commission that the Office of Transportation completed a fully inventory of existing routes and stops and found both to be lacking. The County is currently in the process of creating new routes and updating stops to include shelters. Additionally, the County is examining the possibility of on-demand options for both paratransit and general ridership.

Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging

Andrew Monjan reported that members of the workgroup had met with the Howard County Police Department regarding safe havens for older adults. The workgroup is looking for data on safe residences and has the goal of creating a white paper.

Members of the workgroup are scheduled to meet with Ruth Coleman of Howard County Recreation and Park to discuss potential partnerships. The first partnership between the Commission and Recreation and Parks, Authors in Action, is in the winter activity guide.

Communications/Outreach

Susan Hailman stated that the workgroup's goal was to promote inclusiveness of all ages in programming across the county. The Commission continues to be a valuable resource to the community when it comes to finding information on the County's website. The state's MAP website continues to be difficult to navigate and doesn't seem to be improving.

Senior Tax Issues

Pete Brunner reviewed the information presented at the Legislative Breakfast and shared information on how the figures for valuing the tax contribution of seniors in Howard County were determined.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee presented a letter from the Montgomery County Commission on Aging regarding creating a Maryland Association of Commissions on Aging. The newly formed organization would work to propose or support legislation and could potentially testify before the Maryland General Assembly. The Commission discussed the proposal and agreed further clarification on the organization's goals was necessary. The Commission was not in favor of participating in a lobbying organization and Commissioners were not in favor of joining if the new organization is focused on legislation.

Sharonlee also requested Commissioner send her ideas on the proposed educational summit for fall 2019. Ideas for topics can be sent directly to Sharonlee.

Office on Aging Report

Terri Hansen shared that the Commission on Disability Issues are working to gather information on the disability community within Howard County. The Commission on Disability Issues has requested input from the Commission on Aging and would like to forward members questions to answer. COA members agreed to provide written responses to the Commission on Disability Issues.

Jenna Crawley shared that the Office completed and submitted the annual NAPIS (National Aging Program Information System) Report which defines how we have spent Older Americans Act funds.

New Business-None

Sharing from Commissioners

Michael Willis thanked Terri Hansen for her contributions to Commission meetings over the last year.

Mark Stinson met with an Aging Care Manager in Montgomery County and he learned about their community college internship program as well as their lending closet. Commissioners shared that Howard County also has a Loan Closet serving a similar function.

Reg Avery shared that the Long Reach Village Board is considering including programming for older adults in the Village Center after the renovations are complete.

Jennifer Asher shared information from a Washington Post article on trackable bracelets which contain GPS data; while the technology is not new, there is a new program using the bracelets to help with wandering older adults.

Debbie Fleischmann is leading a workgroup at Howard County General Hospital to improve care to older adults 65+ presenting with delirium. The group has submitted two research proposals and is focused on making correct diagnoses of delirium as opposed to dementia. The workgroup is also focused on fostering healthy sleep for patients and ways to reduce use of counter indicated medication. Debbie also shared that the hospital has hired two behavioral health navigators.

Angie Boyter reported that the Revenues newsletter from the Comptroller shared information on the Independent Living Tax Credit which passed last year. Currently requirements for the credit are not written so while the credit is available, an amended return would have to be filed.

Pete Brunner shared that The Village in Howard's annual meeting will be held December 6. Pete also shared that he received a scam email about six weeks ago and reported it to Andre Lingham without a response. Pete also reported the scam to the State's Attorney's office without a response.

Bob McLaughlin reminded the Commission that fixed route bus transportation is available to those over 60 for free.

Adjournment

Susan Hailman motioned to adjourn. Michael Willis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: January 28, 2019, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm