



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
June 25, 2018

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Angie Boyter
Pete Brunner
Debbie Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Jan Horan
Julia Mattis
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Eletta Morse
Michael Willis

Excused

Reg Avery
Jan Horan
Julia Mattis
Sue Song

Office on Aging and Independence

Terri Hansen

Howard County Police Department

Andre Lingham

Call to order

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

Approve Agenda

Sharonlee Vogel requested the agenda be amended to include a Chair's Report, following the review of the letter. Bob McLaughlin motioned to approve the amended agenda and Michael Willis seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

Bob McLaughlin requested the minutes be changed to reflect that he was in attendance instead of both attending and excused. Pete Brunner motioned to approve the minutes, and Eletta Morse seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

Workgroup Reports

Transportation

Bob McLaughlin reported that the Office of Transportation is moving into the second phase of their planning process, which is the phase in which new initiatives can be funded. The Office will be looking into funding an on-demand transportation pilot across age groups.

Bob also provided information on Arlington, Texas's on-demand transportation offerings. The program is now in its third year and is adding additional mini-buses to meet the need.

Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging

This Friday, the committee will meet with Robinson Nature Center to identify areas for potential collaboration.

The Committee is gathering data for future reports or white papers.

Communications/Outreach

No report.

Senior Tax Issues

The Committee met with the Department of Finance and DCRS on June 6. Parts of the meeting were very productive, and the Department of Finance provided a cost estimate of \$19million for reducing the residency threshold on the Aging in the Community Tax Credit. The Committee would like to pursue further research with groups like the National Association of State Budget Offices and AARP. Their premise is that senior tax payers are a solid asset to the tax base and that the county would find it hard to function without them, but a better understanding is needed regarding contribution versus utilization of funds.

One positive that came from the meeting was are resolution to address the issue of a military widow who had been denied a tax credit she was qualified for.

In the coming year, the committee hopes to continue to pursue changing tax credit legislation and would like to begin offering workshops on tax credits.

Discussion of Letter to be Sent to Delegation and Candidates

The Commission discussed the draft of the delegation letter. Specific wording concerns were discussed (use of "respite beds") as well as the overall structure of the letter. Sharonlee asked Commissioners who had thoughts about changes to wording to email them directly to her.

Following the primary, the Commission will gather contact info on all the winners and will also be sending the letter to those candidates.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee reported on the Maryland State Commission on Aging meeting. Most of the meeting was a presentation from the Health Department on a new way of paying groups of primary care physicians and doctors that will be rolling out in January. Sharonlee will forward additional information to the Commission.

The Legislative Breakfast date has been chosen; we will meet with the delegation on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:30am at the North Laurel 50+ Center.

Sharonlee also asked the Commission if they'd like to cancel the August meeting. All were in favor of cancelling.

Office on Aging Report

Jennie Rittenhouse reported that the Office is scheduled to move on Friday, July 13. While centers will be open, the main Gateway office will be closed to the public from Thursday, July 12 through Tuesday, July 17, when we will reopen in the new space. Our new address is 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD.

Terri Hansen shared that open enrollment this year will run from October 15 through December 7. While this is always a busy time for SHIP, an extra challenge has presented this year as state of Maryland retirees received a letter saying that their prescription drug coverage was being dropped. The initial letter advised these retirees to call SHIP, but has been revised to request they call Medicare or the state retirement office. In Howard County alone, this change effects more than 2,000 individuals. SHIP's goal is to serve as many people as possible each year, but this type of increase means not everyone will be able to have an appointment with a counselor or volunteer. To prepare, SHIP will be holding an increased number of trainings on how to use the plan finder. SHIP will also be sharing this info at the table at the 50+ EXPO.

New Business

None

Sharing from Commissioners

Andrew Monjan shared that the Horizon Foundation has a new strategic plan and have added encouraging healthy aging to their plan.

Angie Boyter shared an issue with Medicare and their timeliness; while she paid her husband's bill in February, the check has still not been processed.

Jennifer Asher shared a copy of the 5 Wishes booklet and discussed the differences between this information and the goals of SpeakEasy.

Susan Hailman shared a story from her work with TheVillage about a couple who found that the spouse providing care needed to be hospitalized suddenly and the spouse requiring care had nowhere to go.

Adjournment

Bob McLaughlin motioned to adjourn. Susan Hailman seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: July 23, 2018, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm