



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes

November 27, 2017

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Peter Brunner
Barbara Catlin
Deborah Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Julia Mattis
Andrew Monjan
Michael Willis

Excused

Reg Avery
Angie Boyter
Jan Horan
Bob McLaughlin
Eletta Morse
Sue Song

Office on Aging and Independence

Terri Hansen

Department of Community Resources and Services

Jackie Scott
Cheryl Mattis

Howard County Police Department

Andre Lingham

Call to order

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

Approve Agenda

Michael Willis motioned to approve the agenda and Pete Brunner seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
All in favor. Agenda accepted.

Approve Minutes

Michael Willis motioned to approve the minutes, and Pete Brunner seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
All in favor. Minutes accepted.

Office on Aging Budget Discussion

DCRS Director Jackie Scott lead the Commission through a review of the Office's budget proposal. She reviewed the budget process and then took questions from the Commission. The Commission asked how it was possible to tighten the Office's budget when there were so many fixed costs. Jackie agreed that most of the budget is staff dollars, but stressed the need to think innovatively while also being realistic and creative; perhaps programs that are not meeting their goals could be defined or redesigned.

The Commission also questioned flat funding for the Office on Aging when studies tell us the silver tsunami is coming and the older adult population is growing. They stressed that this is a time to education and prepare for new demographics. Jackie agreed that growth in the older adult population is inevitable but reminded the COA that the Department serves all ages and that the goal is to balance need. The Commission also felt that the budget reflected a reactive budget not a proactive one that doesn't lay out a vision of where we want to be; the Commission stressed the need to play a long game and work to better align with the County Executive's priority areas.

The Commission also stressed their desire to be a part of the solution and expressed willingness to testify before the County Council should there be need.

Following the budget specific discussions, dialogue shifted to include other priority areas for the OAI. Jackie shared that the newly remodeled Elkridge 50+ Center would be opening in March and that the county is exploring renovations for the Bain 50+ Center as well as conducting a feasibility study for expanding the East Columbia 50+ Center. Sharonlee suggested talking to Orchard Development to see if there could be partnership potential in Long Reach. Susan Hailman stressed the value of technology and offering programs using technology. Barbara Catlin and Debbie Fleischmann reminded the Commission that there's a still a portion of the population that does not utilize technology. Debbie recounted the hospital's experience trying to provide videos for smart phones or tablets; the hospital was surprised by the lack of positive response. Jackie stressed that the Office and Department would be cognizant of reaching people through multiple means of communication.

Committee Reports

Howard County Police Department

Andre Lingham reported that the Police Department has increased patrols for the holiday seasons and will be holding DUI checkpoints.

The Department is partnering with the Elkridge 50+ Center to hold the CARFIT program in the spring. The tentative date is May 16.

Andre is working to combine an Alzheimer's and Dementia Program to track wanderers with the already established student program. The program, called Return Me Home, works well in San Diego and requires a full body and facial photo to assist with recognition. Cost of the program is dependent upon the computer/dispatch system in use.

Caregiving

Barbara Catlin attended the American Public Health meeting in Atlanta and found that there are a good number of graduate students interested in caregiving. The Caregiving committee is still focused on finding caregivers in the community.

Budget/Government Relations

The Commission reviewed a proposed letter to Delegates Turner and Ebersole as a follow-up to discussions at the Legislative Breakfast. The goal of the letter was to educate Del. Ebersole on the goal of liberalizing the Aging in Place Tax Credit and reducing the residency threshold from 40 years to 25. Barbara Catlin motioned that the

letter be presented to County Administration for approval and then be sent to the delegation. Andrew Monjan seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion accepted.

Jennifer Asher asked if there was any other follow-up from the legislative breakfast needed. Sharonlee said this letter was the biggest area for follow-up but that the Commission would be keeping on top of the death with dignity issue.

Health and Wellness

The Health and Wellness Committee met at the end of October. The committee discussed the importance of exercise in older adults and stressed that people don't have to use gyms as a lot of exercise can be completed in the home or community.

The committee also talked with the manager of the Roving Radish about the importance of visiting areas with a high density of older adults. Currently the Roving Radish visits both the Bain 50+ Center and the Health Department at the North Laurel Community Center. The manager let the committee know that current resources are tapped but their suggestions would be kept in mind for future locations.

Aging in the Community

No report.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee requested that Commissioner send ideas for potential retreat topics to her by December 15.

As updates on the letter to Del. Ebersole and Turner are available, Sharonlee will share them with the Commission.

MDCOA Report

Sharonlee shared that she would be reporting back soon on the Senior Care Subcommittee Report.

Secretary Kramer announced the Communities for a Lifetime initiative which will provide services to the those who have paid a membership fee. This is meant to be a self-sustaining program and targets CCRCs as potential partners.

Funding for Senior Call Check and Notification is in place and the program is expected to launch next year.

New Business

None.

Senior Issues Heard (Sharing from Commissioners)

Debbie Fleischmann shared that the hospital has kicked off the Home Health Partners Program. The Community Care Team is expanding and hiring additional staff to serve people in the community better. The hospital has partnered to add an out-patient psych practice which includes specialists in women's mental health. Construction at the hospital has begun with the relocation of the emergency room and triage areas.

Susan Hailman shared issues working with the Community Care Team and a member of The Village in Howard; if the patient gets confused and cancels an appointment with the care team there is no recourse. Susan also attended the Village to Village Conference and found great value in seeing the different models in use around the country.

Jennifer Asher directed the Commission to an article in Baltimore Sun on the Lorien Health Korean Wing; the article credits Commissioner Sue Song with the idea.

Michael Willis shared that as of November 28 new CMS regulations will be in effect with the focus on making care more patient centered.

Barbara Catlin offered the Commission a book recommendation; The Five Invitations by Frank Ostaseski has been well received by a group she is working with and they've enjoyed the mindfulness exercises.

Julia Mattis shared that she is seeing the first wave of foreclosures in age restricted, 50 and up communities. She has also seen several cases of foreclosure due to reverse mortgage and not realizing taxes needed to be paid.

Pete Brunner attended the Village to Village Conference and learned of a vendor called Silver nest that works to facilitate house shares for older adults. The company not only interviews and vets people but performs administrative functions like collecting rent.

Andrew Monjan also provided a book recommendation; The End of Alzheimer's by Dale Bredeisen, the former director of the Buck Center for Aging. The books discusses treatment for Alzheimer's by normalizing a set of 20 parameters either through pharmaceutical or behavioral changes.

Adjournment

Debbie Fleischmann motioned to adjourn. Pete Brunner seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: January 29, 2018, Gateway Building, Room 2 (first floor), 6pm