



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
May 23, 2016

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Reg Avery
Angie Boyter
Barbara Catlin
Susan Hailman
Julia Mattis
Eletta Morse
SK Shin
Michael Willis

Not Present

Pete Brunner
Debbie Fleischmann
Jan Horan
Bob McLaughlin

Office on Aging

Starr Sowers
Peggy Hoffman
Barbara Albert

Call to order

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

Approve Agenda

Andrew Monjan moved to accept the agenda, and Barbara Catlin seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

Jennifer Asher moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, and Susan Hailman seconded the motion. Angie Boyter requested that her comments in the sharing from Commissions be amended to show that a friend passed along the comment regarding more benches on pathways and that TBoz has new menu items with smaller portions. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

The meeting began with introductions and welcome to new COA member Reg Avery.

Howard County Police Department Report

Andre Lingham provided a written update to the Commission.

Howard County Police have filed charges against a Washington, D.C. man for a road rage incident which occurred on Route 100.

Police have also charged two renters in a home on Tridelphia Road with running the largest indoor marijuana-grow operation ever discovered in Howard County. In addition to the growing operation, officers found suspected crack cocaine, heroin, prescription pills, and a shotgun onsite.

Howard County State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

Barbara Albert, Program Manager, presented on the SHIP program.

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (or Medicare counseling) was created by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. Grant funds are made available to states to support Medicare information, counseling, and assistance activities related to health insurance options such as Medicare Supplement insurance, prescription drug coverage, and Medicare Advantage Plans. Trained staff and volunteers provide information and counseling services that are free, unbiased, and confidential. The Howard County SHIP program is volunteer driven. Volunteers receive updates to training monthly. Our SHIP program sees 3-4,000 consumers each year.

In addition to one-on-one counseling appointments offered around the county, SHIP provides educational sessions each month, called Medicare 101 and Medicare 102.

SHIP also operates the State Medicare Patrol which fights fraud, waste, and abuse of Medicare.

Office on Aging Report

Jennie Rittenhouse shared that the date for the 50+EXPO has been changed due to a change in the Howard County Public School System's calendar. The new date is Monday, October 31, 2016.

Jennie also reminded COA members about the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Loan Closet on June 15.

Peggy Hoffman reminded members to register for the Elder Abuse Awareness Conference.

Department of Citizen Services Name Changes

Effective July 1, 2016, the Department of Citizen Services will begin using the new department and office names recommended in approved legislation.

Easier for people to find services and be connected to other programs

- Department of Citizen Services becomes **Department of Community Resources and Services**
- Office on Aging becomes **Office on Aging and Independence**
- Office of Consumer Affairs becomes **Office of Consumer Protection**
- Office of Children's Services becomes **Office of Children and Families**

The Department of Community Resources and Services will also incorporate the following new offices to provide expanded outreach and streamline operations:

- Office of Veterans and Military Families
- Office of Community Partnerships
- Office of Local Children's Board
- Office of ADA Coordination

Also on July 1, MAP will begin using a new, easier to remember number. MAP will be accessible by calling 410-313-1234. Be assured that the current MAP number will also still work.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee Vogel clarified questions regarding the Pilot Training mentioned at last month's meeting. A nurse will be supervising and the pilot will only take place in Montgomery County.

Sharonlee shared highlights from the Maryland Baby Boomer Initiative's Final Report. She will email the report to all Commissioners for review.

Reminder that the COA will hold their budget retreat on Monday, June 6 at 6pm at the Gateway Building. Dinner will be served.

CA SAC Update

The SAC shared their review of updated membership charges with the CA Board. SAC is also reaching out to villages that have had vacancies to seek representation.

Senior Issues Heard (Sharing from Commissioners)

Jennifer Asher shared that she attended Womenfest and found the event to be both well attended and well-staffed. Between the fitness classes, demonstrations, and vendor booths it was a great learning experience. Jennifer offered a suggestion for next year; seminars either need to be offered more than once so they don't conflict or they need to be held in larger rooms.

Michael Willis attended the Elkridge Groundbreaking and reported that he didn't realize just how small the current space was but that the members he met were great and really made the center come alive.

Barbara Catlin is seeing more long-distance caregivers that are reluctant to label themselves as caregivers. Bigger Conversations hopes to help them recognize how much they are giving.

Andrew Monjan added that there is significant research about how the stress on caregivers can significantly shorten their lives. Andrew also mentioned that anyone interested in helping plan for the 50+ EXPO can let him know at the June meeting. The group of volunteers will then meet in July to plan.

Eletta Morse shared that she was reappointed to be the Commissions representative to the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board and will be serving another two year term.

Susan Hailmain reported that The Village in Howard held "The Other Talk" for 8 attendees who expressed concern about the lack of housing in Howard County that lends itself to aging in place. This results in people moving out of the community sooner than they'd like to. The Village will be having their appraisal roadshow on June 18, tickets are \$15-20.

Angie Boyter shared information on the Livable Homes Tax Credit with a friend who was coming home from rehab and having hand rails installed. To make the Credit more visible on the Office on Aging's website, she suggested a link from the housing page. Additionally, it may be beneficial to make contractors more aware of the credit so that they can recommend it, although some may be turned off by the permit requirement. Angie also shared that she had met a physician about to retire who didn't know what they'd do with themselves in retirement. As a Commissioner she was able to serve as a resource about the opportunities that are available, even though websites like the MAP State website didn't have volunteer activities listed.

SK Shin presented to the Korean Senior Community about how Medicare works and found the presentation was a great way to learn!

Julia Mattis is working with a number of original owners who are having issues finding a way to stay in Howard County due to the lack of affordable housing for seniors. She's seen bidding wars start in senior communities; stock is severely limited for those who don't have more than 500,000 to spend.

Reg Avery shared details on the CA Board's new member structure. Current members who have a Package Plan Plus will have the option to upgrade to the new Aqua membership or downgrade to a Recreation/Fitness membership. The Board wants seniors to have more ability to use pools and are still working on this. Haven on the Lake will not be part of the restructuring. The Board is looking at pricing and hopes to be cost neutral.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

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

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: June 27, North Laurel Community Center, 7pm