COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 2022

PRESIDING: Reginald Avery, Chair

Members Attending
Wei Guo
Susan Hailman
Victoria Hathaway
Stephanie Lyon
Sue Song
Mark Stinson
Michael Willis

Excused
Jennifer Asher
Elizabeth Edsall Kromm
Julia Mattis
Eletta Morse

Office on Aging & Independence
Jenna Crawley
Donna Tugwell

Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm

Approve Agenda
Stephanie Lyon moved to approve the agenda. Victoria Hathaway seconded the motion. Motion was approved. All in favor. Agenda approved.

Approve Minutes
Stephanie Lyon moved to approve the April minutes. Victoria Hathaway seconded the motion. Motion was approved. All in favor. Minutes approved.

Commission FY-23 Planning Discussion (1 July new FY)
- Creating an annual report for COA was discussed. The report will include the Commission on Aging's goals and objectives. Commissioners should let Reginald Avery know what they would like included in the report. Among some of the possible topics are Age Friendly, Age Well, Tax Credits, the Pandemic and rebuilding, the Commission on Aging retreat, the year in summary, rebuilding of the 50+ East Columbia center, the recording for the Beacon's virtual 50+ EXPO, the AAPI festival, Guardianship review board, information on the individual Commissioners, vacancy rate, interviews of Sue Song and Victoria Hathaway by the media, AARP mental
health seminar, the Commission’s ambassador role, and the goals and the objective of the COA. It was decided that the report would be done on the calendar year ending December 31st, not the fiscal year 2022 which ends June 30th. Reginald Avery and Jenna Crawley will gather data and information and send it to the Commissioners for their input.

- Creating committees was discussed. Possibilities include tax relief for seniors, transportation, legislative affairs, Age Friendly, senior health concerns, and outreach ambassadors. Let Reginald Avery know what committees you would like to have formed and participate in. Given current vacancies, the number of committees possible are limited. Reginald Avery will create a list of 3 to 4 committees based on tonight’s discussion and email them to the Commissioners for their input.
- Improvements recently made to the County website were discussed.
- Recruiting new members and redefining the Commission on Aging’s roles is needed.
- There is a need for more long-term care, support for caregivers, and more nurses. There currently are workforce challenges in these areas.

Office on Aging and Independence Report

- Early in May, Office on Aging received the planning document for the Annual Area Report for FY2023. The plan needs to be submitted to MDotA next Tuesday. A draft has been done with a narrative that includes the code supplement statement. This is the 4-year plan that covers FY2020 – FY2023. Jenna Crawley will send this to the Commissioners for review. Any edits are due back by Friday May 27th.
- Next year’s Area Plan will start FY2024. This will be a 4-year plan covering FY2024 – FY 2027. Jenna Crawley will start working with Charles Smith, DCRS Planner/Analyst on drafting the plan. Jenna Crawley would like to engage the Commission on Aging in the planning of this next Area Plan.
- County Executive will be holding Lunch and Learns in June and early July. They are planned to be primarily in-person and during the day. Jenna Crawley will send the dates to the Commissioners. It was suggested that prior to the Lunch and Learns, the COA invite the County Executive to meet and discuss the Lunch and Learns.
- Over the past 3 months, OAI has receive 3 awards. One by USA Aging which is the association of all area agencies on aging. A second where OAI was recognized by the National Association of Counties for their Grab and Go Meal distribution and for modernizing the Congregate Meal program as it restarts. The Korean meals were the most distributed and popular. With the restaurants initiative, OAI partnered with 18 different restaurants to distribute diverse meal options. A third award was from the National Association of Counties for their virtual 50+ Centers.
- The COA rack card needs updating and the COA is working on edits. The edits need to be sent as soon as possible.

Chair’s Report

- Trying to get the County to look at the previous list of Commission on Aging applicants. Also need to advertise for new applicants. This needs to be done now and not after the election. Contacting the people at the Executive’s office who review the applications was suggested.

New Business

- Next meeting June 27th will be WebEx
Commissioner’s two-minute comments

- Workforce development needs to be addressed.
- At the AAPI event, OAI staff attended and helped people do the Age My Way Survey.
- There is a trend in Maryland, that out-of-state large companies are purchasing private-owned nursing homes in Maryland. This may not be beneficial to seniors.
- The Village in Howard are getting new volunteers through suggesting to friends that they come to presentations and events.
- The County Council needs to approve Stephanie Lyon for the Adult Guardianship review Board in July when Eletta Morse leaves.
- Commissioners can help at activities in the community. Commissioners could let one another know when they hear about activities coming up in the community. A couple examples of past activities are helping the Salvation Army pack up food for seniors and helping at a neighborhood bingo.
- Next month’s meeting in June will be Wei Guo’s last meeting. She is leaving the Commission on Aging as she is moving to another state.
- Reginald Avery will send the Commissioners the Area Plan paperwork tonight. Commissioners should send their feedback to Jenna Crawley by Friday and copy Reginald Avery.

Adjournment
Sue Song motioned to adjourn. Victoria Hathaway seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Recording Secretary: Donna Tugwell

2022 Meetings: Fourth Monday of each month; June 27th, July 25th, August – no meeting,
September – TBD, October – TBD, November 28th, December- no meeting