

MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON AGING  
Virtual

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Present: Fran Bond, Lisa Budlow, Don Gabriel, Natasha Itheme, Jim Lightner, Roy Moreland, Mindy Morrell, Al Muehlberger, Fred Murphy, Mabel Murray, Sheila Roman, Marlene Siegel

Absent: Lou Marino, Sherita Thomas

Staff: Dayna Brown, Phyllis Myers, Mary Wontrop

**I. Start Time – 9:05 a.m.**

**II. Approval of the Agenda and the Minutes**

- Agenda and minutes were approved as submitted

**III. Announcements**

- No birthdays in April
- No additional announcements

**IV. Employee Spotlight**

Mary Wontrop – Special Projects Coordinator – Age Friendly Baltimore County

- An age-friendly community focuses on making the community livable for residents of all ages and abilities so that they can actively live, work and age in the community
- There are eight domains of livability in an Age Friendly Community
  - Community and Health Services
  - Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
  - Transportation
  - Housing
  - Social Participation
  - Respect and Social Inclusion
  - Civic Participation and Employment
  - Communication and Information

- County Executive John Olszewski, Jr. committed to actively work with residents and local advocates to make Baltimore County an Age-Friendly place to live through enrollment in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities!
- Advisory Committee was formed consisting of County Leaders and stakeholders
- Work Groups for three domains were created
  - Transportation
  - Housing
  - Community and Health Services
- An Age-Friendly Action Plan was written and submitted to World Health Organization/AARP; Baltimore County received approval of Action Plan in December 2021
- Action Plan – Housing
  - Create opportunities to improve the County’s housing stock and new developments so they are accessible for people with disabilities
  - Enhance and create opportunities that promote interaction between different age groups within communities
  - Enhance and expand a variety of affordable housing options
  - Support and advocate for visitability concepts and practices
- Action Plan – Transportation
  - Improve pedestrian safety in the County
  - Expand existing paratransit to meet the demand and identify alternative options beyond CountyRide for riders with disabilities
  - Increase connectivity transit options between the east and west parts of the County
  - Create materials and a public education campaign to encourage more people to ride public transit
- Action Plan – Community and Health Services
  - Encourage inclusion and equity principles among health care providers in the County
  - Increase coordination of services across the health care continuum
  - Improve utilization and access to care through telehealth
  - Identify gaps in services and increase access to mental, trauma-related and behavioral health services for County residents
  - Expand social participation opportunities that address isolation, preventative health and provide support for individuals and their care partners
  - Increase consumer knowledge on legal, financial and disability planning

## V. Old Business

### BCDA Management Team Update

- No Updates

### Senior Center Visits

- Fran's November 4, 2021 visit to Overlea Senior Center - there were numerous activities in progress: a dance class conducted by a volunteer, an art class conducted by a volunteer, a group of women playing cards and games, men playing pool and women sitting and talking; members spoke highly of the center; The *Shooting Star News*, the monthly publication of the Center lists information about upcoming events and the OPAL Center On-Line Programs
- Fran's March 28, 2022 visit to Overlea Senior Center – Innie Neun is no longer the Director there. She was replaced by Paula Skleres. Paula spoke about the organization of the center that included volunteers and paid contractors who teach several classes. The travel office had a few interesting trips planned - lunch and tour of Kreider Farm, tour to Lancaster for shopping and smorgasbord luncheon and a trip in June to Niagara Falls. Fran spoke with some of the participants and they seemed very pleased with the activities in the Center.
- Marlene visited Pikeville Senior Center – overall members seemed happy with their center.
- Roy visited Fleming – everything seemed to be going well; activities were posted in the local newspaper.

### Update on Marketing BCDA programs and services –

- Mindy suggested targeting audiences that are not members of senior centers; use different venues to publicize BCDA services
- Marlene suggested television
- Sheila suggested Public Service Announcements for the larger events and local papers for the smaller events
- Fran suggested having a series of programs on BCDA's cable TV show
- Don added that some seniors may not want to come to centers because of the rise of crime in Baltimore County
- Roy suggested spreading the word through the local churches and events (farmer's market)
- Dayna will speak with Ethel about the COA's suggestions

**VI. New Business**

- No new business

**VII. BCDA Updates**

- County Executive Johnny Olszweski will make his Budget Announcement on Thursday, April 14
- The second part of the Senior Solutions Conference will be held virtually on Wednesday, April 13
- Senior Expo will be in person this year at the Timonium Fairgrounds in October
- The Volunteer Appreciation event will be held in combination with BCDA's Concert in the Park at Oregon Ridge on Thursday, May 19
- BCDA hired a Tutoring Program Coordinator. She will be developing a program for older adults who will volunteer to tutor school aged children. She began on April 4, 2022.
- Al invited COA members to attend a Cultivating a Brighter Tomorrow event on Friday, May 27 at 10 a.m. The event is being held at Meadowood Park. Al, Marlene, Sheila and Fran are all members of the Cultivating a Brighter Tomorrow committee.

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 10:25 a.m.**