

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING

Meeting minutes from Thursday, April 28, 2022, held via Zoom

Committee Members Present

Kofi Impraim (Chair)
Margarett Baltimore
Michelle Blanc
Vanecia Davis
Ida Fletcher
Eddie Jordon
Kym Taylor

Dianne Williams (Vice Chair)
Shaunda Bellamy
Claudia Dickens
Gwendolyn Drummond
Deidre Jackson
Gretchen Lofland, Ed. D
Eddimae Tisdale

Committee Members Absent

Erica Noble (Secretary)
Mark Harrison

Department of Family Services Staff:

Joann Carnathan, Unit Manager, Aging and Disabilities Services Division
Megan Vila, Aging and Disabilities Services Division
Karen Sylvester, Acting Division Manager, Aging and Disabilities
Services Division

Guest: Michael Watson, Program Manager, Alzheimer's Association

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chair Kofi Impraim. Chair Impraim thanked everyone for participating in the April 27, 2022, Diversity Day Program. Each committee member present introduced themselves, as did the staff of the Department of Family Services. The Chair welcomed Michael Watson, Program Manager of the Alzheimer's Association to the meeting.

Chair Impraim asked Mr. Watson for a summarization of what he does in the Alzheimer's community. He introduced himself and advised that he was new to Prince George's County but not to the dementia and Alzheimer's programs. Mr. Watson said that his work includes memory cafes, community partnerships, training for caregivers, educational brochures, and work with several types of support groups. Mr. Watson said that he looked forward to partnering with the Advisory Committee on Aging on future events.

Approval of Minutes:

It was noted that Ms. Blanc's surname was omitted under Strategic Planning and that Ms. Taylor had invited Ms. Fletcher to join the Legislative Committee. Ms. Taylor motioned that the minutes be approved with those edits and Ms. Fletcher seconded the motion.

Aging Report:

Ms. Sylvester thanked everyone for participation in Diversity Day. She advised that the HHS Team presented their budget to the Council County and since there were no issues the budget was funded as presented.

The bill submitted to require Aging qualifications for the Secretary of the Department of Aging did not pass.

Prince George's County will receive additional funding for senior care, senior assisted living, and information and referral services.

Approval has been granted to host the Senior Picnic on September 16, 2022, in partnership with MNCP&P. There will be a Resource Fair on May 17, 2022. An Americans for Disabilities Coordinator has been assigned and will ensure that minutes are posted on the website from the County's Committees and Commissions.

The following questions from committee members were asked, and responses from Ms. Sylvester were: (1) Vice Chair Williams asked what the budget amount for the Advisory Committee on Aging was. Ms. Sylvester advised that there was no set budgeted amount but that there was a line item amount and each request goes forward for approval; Vice Chair Williams then asked what the line item amount was and Ms. Sylvester said she didn't have that amount at the moment but would research it and get back to the Committee; (2) Ms. Taylor asked since the budget had been approved would that lead to the hiring of staff for vacant positions. Ms. Sylvester advised that the process of being fully staffed is being addressed; (3) Ms. Fletcher questioned if Family Services addresses abuse/threats of older adults in Independent Living Facilities. Ms. Sylvester responded that her office has no authority over independent living facilities as they are private but have suggested mediation efforts and sought to oversee/intervene with those facilities that are federally funded. (4) Ms. Blanc asked about Resident Counselors similar to that in Montgomery County at senior facilities and Ms. Bellamy advised that in Prince George's County senior facilities have Service Coordinators.

Old Business:

Vice Chair Williams thanked everyone for their part in the April 27, 2022, Diversity Day Program. The Vice Chair noted that the cost for photos taken last year was \$110 and asked if payment for the photos could be taken from the budget. Ms. Carnathan

advised that requests for payment of goods/services should be submitted in advance and there is an approval process. Vice Chair Williams then asked the Committee Chairs to give their reports.

Strategic Planning:

Ms. Jackson advised that she and Mr. Jordan had met to discuss the upcoming nomination process. The Retreat will be virtual and will be held on June 23, 2022. County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy have been invited to speak. The brochure had been completed and will be sent to Chair Impraim and Vice Chair Williams shortly for review and approval before going on to the County Executive's office.

Communications and Public Awareness:

Dr. Lofland advised that the Communications and Public Awareness Committee is preparing for Elder Law Day on May 2, 2022, and the Prince George's Centenarians Seminar on May 25, 2022. She encouraged ACOA participation for all of the upcoming events.

Legislative:

Ms. Taylor discussed in detail the 2022 General Assembly Legislation bills that passed: (1) Tax Relief; (2) Budget; (3) Health Bills; and (4) Labor and Employment. Since the report is lengthy a copy of it is attached to these minutes.

New Business:

Ms. Bellamy advised that the Run of Show for the Centenarians Seminar would take place the week of May 9th. The question was asked if links to the Centenarians Seminar could be made available for all to see on the website. Dr. Lofland responded that she would have to defer to Ms. Carnathan who advised that waiver releases are different for Zoom than Microsoft Teams and she would further research it further as it involves informed consent.

Announcements:

There will be a Caregiver Support Program on May 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. and a Senior Health and Fitness Day on May 25, 2022.

Health Department – did not have an update

United Seniors of Maryland – did not have an update

Adjournment:

Chair Impraim asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made for adjournment and properly seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging will be Thursday, June 23, 2022.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Claudia W. Dickens