

Prince George's County, Maryland
Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Prince George's County Advisory Committee on Aging meeting held on Thursday, November 17, 2011, at the Laurel/Beltsville Senior Center, Laurel Maryland 20707.

Committee Members Present:

Karren Pope-Onwukwe
Mary H. Budd
Jaqueline D. Byrd
Carolyn Butler
Camille M. Crawford
Albert M. Dickson
Patricia C. Fletcher
Jeanette E. Higginbotham
Spencer B. Howard
James R. Lyles, Sr.
Oliver Lee Myers
Darilyn Marinelli
Dorothy Powell-Allen

Committee Members Absent:

Leslie Adams (absent)
Christal Parker Batey (excused)
Trina Brown (absent)
Judith G. Cato (excused)
Elreta E. Edmonds (excused)
Ginny C. Lee (excused)
Ethel L. Mitchell-Rock (excused)
Betty S. Richardson (excused)
Byron Richardson (excused)
Carolyn G. Tyson (excused)

Department of Family Services Staff:

- Theresa Grant, Acting Director, Department Family Services
- Joann Carnathan, Program Manager, Department of Family Services, Aging Services Division
- Pamela Sharps, RSVP Coordinator, Department Family Services, Aging Services Division

Guest:

- Dora Myles-Moore, District 1, Constituent Service Aide for Councilwoman Mary A. Lehman

Call to Order – Chair Karren Pope-Onwukwe called the meeting of the Prince George's County Advisory Committee on Aging to order at 9:30 am.

Approval of Minutes – It was properly motioned and seconded that the minutes from the October 27, 2011 meeting be approved with the suggested corrections.

Aging Report – Theresa Grant presented the Aging Report.

- Ms Grant welcomed new members and thanked all members for their volunteer service and commitment.

- There may be a reduction in the Department of Family Services' FY 2013 budget. The department is preparing two budgets - a maintenance level budget and a budget with a 5% decrease in funding.
- Plans are underway to change the funding process for the Medicaid Waiver program for older adults to a fee for service billing process. The fee for service billing process is scheduled to be implemented in July 2012. The Adult Public Guardianship staff is also working with the Office of Law to seek authorization from the court to bill for case management services.
- The Secretary of the Maryland Department on Aging, Gloria Lawlah, has been successful in advocating for programs and additional federal funding for programs for seniors in the State of Maryland.
- The Senior Nutrition Program staff is making every effort to use funds wisely in order to provide services to more seniors.

County Swimming Pools

- County seniors who use the indoor swimming pool at the Allentown Fitness Center are concerned because the pool is currently closed due to renovations.
- The Theresa Banks indoor swimming pool is also closed.
- Carolyn Butler volunteered to draft a letter to Maryland Park & Planning Commission on behalf of the Aging Advisory Committee.
- The swimming pool located at the Sports & Learning Center is available and free to seniors on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- The swimming pool at the Prince George's Community College is available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. There is a \$50 charge for a 4 month period.
- Plans may be underway to build an indoor swimming pool in Brandywine.

Old Business

Brochure Update – Committee member Ethel Mitchell will provide copies of the completed brochure at the February 23, 2012 meeting.

Accessible Taxi Presentation – The County Council passed a Bill for 15 new wheelchair accessible vehicles that will provide quality service to Prince George's County senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. A presentation was made at the last meeting, by Howard Burnett and Mike Healy regarding Accessible Taxi Inc. The company is conducting program education and outreach to individuals in the County. Accessible Taxi Inc. will charge standard taxi cab fees and will accept taxi vouchers.

New Business

Red & Gold Gala – The Red & Gold Gala is scheduled for December 1, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at Martins Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

USM Legislative Forum – Arrangements have been made for a 20-passenger bus to provide round trip transportation from the Camp Springs Center to Saint John's College in Annapolis, MD, for Aging Advisory Committee members, on January 24, 2012 for the 2012 United Seniors

of Maryland Legislative Forum. The bus will depart the Harriett Hunter Center at 8:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 2:00 p.m. Committee members should contact Joann Carnathan at 301-265-8478 to reserve bus transportation.

Affordable and Accessible Housing Seminar – Patricia C. Fletcher will serve as chairperson for the Affordable and Accessible Housing Seminar. The Seminar will focus on the following housing options: private homes, apartments, and assistant living facilities. Mr. Brockington is working on securing a location for the seminar. Frank Greenberg will also be helping with the planning process.

Nominees for Claudius D. Walker Award – Committee members were given nomination forms for the Claudius D. Walker Award. This annual volunteer award is open to all Prince George’s County residents. Advisory committee on Aging members were requested to submit nominees for the award and return the nomination forms to Joann Carnathan no later than April 1, 2012.

Innovations in Aging Conference /Baby Boomer Conference and Senior Expo - On November 14, 2011, the Innovations in Aging Conference Committee decided to reach out to the faith based community. Ginny Lee requested that Advisory Committee on Aging members help in identifying 10 churches or more that may be interested in getting involved. Committee members were asked to submit the following formation to Ginny Lee by Friday, December 9, 2011: needs the name of the church, name of the pastor, minister, or priest, church address, name of contact person, telephone number and e-mail address.

By-Laws Committee – Jacqueline D. Byrd was appointed to serve as chairperson of the by-laws committee. Camille M. Crawford volunteered to serve on the by-laws committee. The by-laws committee will review the by-laws and make changes/updates as needed.

Nominating Committee – Mr. James Lyles serves as the chairperson for the nominating committee. Other members on the committee are Albert Dickson and Mary Budd. The nominating committee will be submitting a new slate of potential officers at the February 23, 2012 meeting.

Law Day – Karren Pope-Onwukwe has been asked to serve as the state-wide co-chair for the Maryland Law Day. The event is scheduled for May 1, 2012. Ms. Pope-Onwukwe will be responsible for coordinating law day events in Prince George’s, Calvert and Charles Counties. Ms. Pope-Onwukwe spoke with Karen Piper in Saint Charles County about offering a Free Legal Clinic in Charles County. Ms. Pope-Onwukwe will also be soliciting volunteer attorneys in Calvert County. In Prince George’s County, Free Legal clinics will be held at 8 locations. At least 2 volunteers and 2 attorneys are needed at each location. Following is a listing of the volunteers for the Prince George’s County Free Legal Clinic locations:

<u>Free Legal Clinic Location</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>	<u>Volunteer Attorneys</u>
1. Greenbelt Community Center	Christal Parker Batey	
2. Bowie Senior Center	Spencer Howard Dorothy Powell-Allen	Jacqueline Byrd

<u>Free Legal Clinic Location</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>	<u>Volunteer Attorneys</u>
3. Camp Springs Senior Center	James Lyles Albert Dickson Oliver Myers	
4. Evelyn Cole Senior Center	Mary Budd Betty Richardson	Byron Richardson
5. Gwendolyn Britt Senior Center	Ginny Lee	
6. Langley Park Senior Center		
7. New Carrollton Senior Center	Jeanette Higginbotham	
8. Laurel Beltsville Senior Center	Darilyn Martinelli	

Bowie Bay Sox Senior Day at the Ball Park – The Aging Advisory Committee voted to attend Senior Day at Bowie Bay Sox Stadium on April 11, 2012 at 11:05 a.m. The cost per person is approximately \$24.00 and includes the baseball game (*Bowie Baysox vs. Richmond Flying Squirrels*), buffet lunch and Bingo. The buffet lunch includes unlimited servings of: tossed salad, chicken salad, pulled barbeque chicken, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, popcorn, ice tea and lemonade. Payment should be submitted by March 9, 2012.

Mary A. Lehman, County Councilwoman, District 1 – Mary A. Lehman, County Councilwoman was unable to attend the meeting. In Ms. Lehman’s absence, Dora Myles-Moore, constituent Services Aide, relayed the message that Councilwoman Lehman and her staff are advocating for seniors and are available to help. Ms. Myles-Moore expressed excitement about the Aging Advisory Committee’s work and requested that we keep Councilwoman Lehman apprised of the committee’s progress and upcoming community events.

Pamela Sharps, Coordinator, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) – Provided an overview of the RSVP. RSVP helps people age 55 and older who have gained a lifetime of experience put their skills and talents and skills to work through volunteerism in the community.

To qualify, an individual must be:

- Age 55 or older;
- Be willing to use their gifts and talents to help others;
- Be willing to serve in the communities of Prince George’s County; and
- Be willing to help people of all ages and ethnicities.

RSVP program benefits are as follows:

- Monthly mileage reimbursement;
- The opportunity to network with people of all ages;
- A secondary accidental and personal liability insurance; and
- Orientation and on the job training.

For additional information, contact Pamela Sharps, RSVP Coordinator at 301-265-8486. You can apprise Ms. Sharps of potential new host sites that may need volunteers.

Announcements:

- November 21, 2011, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon - **United Seniors of Maryland (USM) Meeting**, 2666 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401
- December 1, 2011, 11:00 a.m. – **Red & Gold Senior Holiday Gala**, Martins Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770
- January 24, 2012, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., **United Seniors of Maryland Legislative Forum**, Saint John’s College, Francis Scott Key Auditorium, 60 College Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401
- February 23, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – **Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting**, Bowie Multi-Purpose Senior Activity Center, 14900 Health Center Drive, Bowie, MD 20716
- March 22, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – **Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting**, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Room 114, Greenbelt, MD 20770

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2012, 9:30 am
Bowie Senior Center
14900 Health Center Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20716

Submitted by: Jeanette E. Higginbotham, Secretary