

Prince George's County
Advisory Committee on Aging
June 22, 2022 Retreat Minutes

Members Present:

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| • Kofi Impraim, Chair | Gwendolyn Drummond |
| • Diane Williams, Vice Chair | Ida Fletcher |
| • Gretchen Lofland, Secretary | Deidre Jackson |
| • Margaret Baltimore | Eddie Jordon |
| • Shaunda Bellamy | Erica Noble |
| • Michelle Blanc, Assistant Secretary | Kym Taylor |
| • Vanecia Davis | Eddimae Tisdale |
| • Claudia Dickens | |

Members Absent:

- Michael Harrison

Department Family Services Staff Present:

- | | |
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| • Karen Sylvester | Megan Vila |
| • Joann Carnathan | |

Meal Distribution and Photo Session

Boxed breakfast and lunch meals and other meeting materials were distributed to Advisory Committee on Aging members on June 21, 2022, following the photo session. The group photo will be placed on the Advisory Committee on Aging website.

Call to Order

The meeting was held by way of Zoom. Kofi Impraim called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made: The Advisory Committee on Aging members, Department of Family Services staff and guest speaker, State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy.

Presentation by State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy

State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy shared a presentation about elder abuse. She described different kinds of abuse—physical, financial, elder, the presentation provided strategies that are utilized to prosecute financial exploitation cases. She provided a summary of two cases. She indicated that the state's Attorney's Office prosecutes abusers when possible. She ended her presentation by saying that she is eager to partner with the Advisory Committee on Aging in the future.

Aging Report

Karen Sylvester, Acting Director, Aging and Disabilities Services Division, provided the Aging updates. She informed the group that the Aging and Disabilities Services Division provided assistance to the residents at the Larkin Chase Rehabilitation Center following a fire that occurred on June 14, 2022 that damaged the building and resulted in 112 seniors to be relocated to other facilities. Medical supplies were provided to residents who were temporarily relocated to a Bowie gymnasium. Aging and Disabilities staff members were also on site to provide assistance as needed.

The FY 2023 Aging Plan Update was submitted to the Maryland Department on Aging.

The Senior Nutrition Program currently has three vendors that deliver meals to home bound seniors. There are approximately 900 individuals on the waitlist for home delivered meals.

Interviews have been conducted for the Director for the Aging and Disabilities Services Division. A final decision will be made in the near future.

The Maryland Department on Aging will be conducting a monitoring of the federal funded programs in September. The monitoring will cover FY 2020 and FY 2021.

The Department of Family Services will be partnering with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning commission for the Bingo Fest event that is scheduled for August 12, 2022. The event will be held at three senior centers in the County. Participants are asked to bring school supplies that can be donated to schools in the community.

Ms. Sylvester expressed a special thank you to Joann Carnathan and Megan Vila for the assistance that they have provided to the Advisory Committee on Aging in addition to their regular assigned duties.

The Senior Health and Fitness Picnic will be held at Watkins Park on September 16, 2022.

FY 2022 Committee Highlights

Chair Kofi Impraim informed the group that the Advisory Committee on Aging was enacted in 1991 and has been in existence for 31 years.

Chair Impraim reviewed the following highlights from meeting and events that were held during FY 2022:

- ❖ October 28, 2021 - The Advisory Committee on Aging held its monthly virtual meeting. Guest speakers were Vikki Kalitsi, owner of Visiting Angels and Ethel Lockerman and Bella Wright of Loving Hands. Ms. Kalitsi informed the group that Visiting Angels has been in business for 20 years. Visiting Angels is a personal care agency that provides in-home aide and chore services. Ms. Lockerman and Ms. Wright established Loving Hands in 2018. Loving Hands is a volunteer organization. The volunteers crochet blankets and donate the blankets to individuals in the community who are recovering from breast cancer.

- ❖ November 18, 2021 – The Advisory Committee on Aging held its monthly virtual meeting. JoAnn Gerald, Caregiving program Coordinator, was the guest speaker. Ms. Gerald provided an overview of the Caregiving program and available services.

The Advisory Committee on Aging held a virtual event in celebration of National Family Caregivers Month. The guest speakers were Reginald A. Lawson, author of *At Home With Dementia* and Patricia J. Morris, founder of Hands of Hope Caregivers Foundation.

- ❖ January 27, 2022 – The Advisory Committee on Aging held its monthly virtual meeting. Jennifer Hawkins and Julius Turner of the Office of Community Relations provided an overview of the County’s 311 Initiative.

- ❖ February 24, 2022 – The Advisory Committee on Aging held its monthly virtual meeting. Nationally recognized author, Loretta Veney, was the guest speaker. Ms. Veney served as the caregiver for her mother who suffered with dementia for 16 years. Ms. Veney’s presentation focused on her books entitled: “Being My Mom’s Mom and “Refreshments for the Caregiver’s Soul”. The books focus on caregiving, forgiveness, patience, preparation, financial planning and legal planning.

Four new appointees and six re-appointees for the Advisory Committee on Aging provided members of the County Council with an overview of their respective background and qualifications. The County Council members favorably recommended the new members and re-appointees.

- ❖ March 8, 2022 – The County Council held a virtual public hearing to appoint the following new members: Michelle Y. Blanc, Ida R. Fletcher, Mark A. Harrison and Eddie R. Jordon and reappoint the following members: Margaret Baltimore, Vanecia L. Davis, Gwendolyn A. Drummond, Gretchen D. Lofland, Erica E. Noble, and Kym D. Taylor to the Advisory Committee on Aging. The Advisory Committee on Aging members were sworn in by the Clerk of the Court, Mahasin El Amin.

- ❖ March 24, 2022, The Advisory Committee on Aging held its monthly virtual meeting. A representative from the Office of Ethics and Accountability conducted an Ethics Training Session for the Advisory Committee on Aging members. The purpose of the session is to provide increased accountability and oversight of operations of the county government by identifying fraud, abuse, and illegal acts in government operations.

- ❖ April 28, 2022 – The Advisory Committee on Aging held its monthly virtual meeting. Michael Watson of the Alzheimer’s Association was the guest speaker.

- ❖ The Advisory Committee on Aging conducted a three-part virtual series for individuals in the community as follows:
 1. April 27, 2022 – Diversity Day, Celebrating Traditions Worldwide, How seniors Worldwide Celebrate Their Heritage
 2. May 2, 2022 – Motivational Legal Presentation on the Essential Documents Needed by Age 55
 3. May 25, 2022 – Prince George’s Centenarians Seminar, What It Truly means to “Age My Way”

- ❖ May 17, 2022, the Advisory Committee on Aging participated in the Older Americans Month Information Fair that was held at the Department of Family Services, 6420 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Maryland. Kofi thanked the Advisory Committee members who helped with meals and providing books, brochures, and other informational items to individuals attending the information fair.

- ❖ June 15, 2022, the Advisory Committee on Aging partnered with the Department of Family Services to host a virtual viewing of *Last Will and Embezzlement* in observation of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The event will provide committee members an opportunity to get a better understanding of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse.

- ❖ June 17, 2022, the Advisory Committee on Aging held a special meeting to discuss the Advisory Committee on Aging’s role in assisting with the County’s Voter Registration Initiative.

- ❖ June 22, 2022, two members of the Advisory Committee on Aging attended a luncheon sponsored by Council Member Johnathan Medlock in “Recognition of Protect Week” (Kym Taylor and Gretchen Lofland)

Diann Williams, Vice Chair, expressed a special thanks to the Advisory Committee on Aging members for carrying out the mission of committee, uplifting, inspiring and improving the lives of older adults in Prince George’s County.

Sub-Committee Reports

Kym Taylor, Legislative Chair, provided an update for the Legislative Sub-Committee. Kym Taylor discussed future plans to collaboration with the Elder Law Section of the Maryland Bar Association. Ms. Taylor also stated that we needed to advocate for geriatric medicine and the geriatric hospital setting. She concluded by stressing the importance of getting out and voting.

Eddie Jordan, member of the Nominating Committee, provided an update for the Nominating Committee. Mr. Jordon reported that the following individuals had been nominated for FY 2023:

- Chairman- Kofi Impraim
- Vice chair- Diane Williams

- Secretary- Gretchen Lofland
- Assistant Secretary- Michelle Blanc

There was no further discussion regarding the nominations because all nominations were unopposed.

There was discussion about the Advisory Committee needing more visibility. It was suggested that we use our contact lists and possibly partner with churches, senior centers, public relations officers and legislators,

Gwen Drummond, member of the Strategic Planning Committee, provided an update for the Strategic Planning Committee. She reported that the rating for the following hospitals in Prince George's County: Doctors Hospital 2.4, University of Maryland 2.1 and Southern Maryland 1.9. She also indicated that It was mentioned that Holy Cross Hospital, which is located in Montgomery County, has a geriatric ward, but does not have the best rating.

Ms. Drummond advocated that all hospitals should have trained staff on how to work with older adults. There should be monitoring and follow-up for patients. She went on to say that there are 247 licensed assisted living facilities and 21 licensed nursing homes in Prince George's County. She expressed the following concerns: insufficient monitoring of residents and the need for more public awareness on preventing elder abuse.

She recommended that a "tip Line" be implemented for reporting abuse and neglect. She further stressed the importance of hosting more community seminars for the elderly.

Kofi suggested the possibility of collaboration between the Communications and Strategic Planning Sub-Committees to help bring awareness to health care and neglect.

Margrett Baltimore expressed that we need to visit some of the assisted living facilities and nursing homes to see if they are okay. She questioned whether the facilities are operating within the State guidelines and stressed that we must work toward being advocates for seniors.

Claudia Dickens and Deidre Jackson will prepare a calendar for 2023 which will focus on health care and caregiving.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.