

Prince George's County
Advisory Committee on Aging
November 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

- Kofi Impraim, Chair
- Diane Williams, Vice Chair
- Gretchen Lofland, Secretary
- Michelle Blanc, Assistant Secretary
- Margaret Baltimore
- Vanecia Davis
- Gwendolyn Drummond
- Ida Fletcher
- Deidre Jackson
- Eddie Jordan
- Kym Taylor

Members Absent:

- Shaunda Bellamy (excused)
- Claudia Dickens (excused)
- Eddimae Tisdale (excused)
- Mark Harrison
- Erica Noble

Department of Family Service Staff Present:

- Karen Sylvester
- Joann Carnathan
- Megan Vila Fasnacht

Others Present:

- E J Burroughs

Call to Order

Chair Kofi Impraim, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made by the Advisory Committee on Aging members and guest.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for the October 27, 2022 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Ida Fletcher to approve the minutes with recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Eddie Jordan. (Corrections to minutes – add meeting start time to indicate 9:30 a.m. and correct spelling of Chaplin on page two).

Aging Report

Karen Sylvester provided the Aging Report. Ms. Sylvester announced that effective August 11, 2022, that she was selected to serve as the Associate Director for the Aging and Disabilities Services Division.

Budget

- The Department of Family Services is preparing for the FY 2024 budget. The budget is due in November and the Aging and Disabilities Services Division is 87% grant funded.
- The Senior Nutrition program has an extensive waitlist for home delivered meals. The department is looking at other funding sources to provide more home delivered meals for seniors.
- Vanecia Davis indicated that the Camp Springs Senior Center receive calls from individuals requesting Grab and Go Meals. She questioned if volunteers were needed to help return some of the calls.
- The Department of Family Services received Cares funding during the pandemic. This funding is no longer available to provide Grab and Go Meals. The Aging and Disabilities Services Division looking at other funding sources to provide more home delivered meals.
- The Office of Procurement has scheduled a meeting on November 17, 2022 with several vendors regarding home delivered meals for home bound seniors.
- Mrs. Sylvester addressed some questions that were asked, during October 27, 2022 meeting, regarding the No Wrong Door System Initiative and the funding stream for the Aging and Disabilities Services Division. The No Wrong Door System initiative was implemented to streamline access to services and supports by creating a single point of entry into the long-term through Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers. This is the federal funding stream for programs and services for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Vacancies

- The Aging and Disabilities Services Division currently has a 40% vacancy rate. Vacancies include Options Counselors, Waiver Case Managers, Senior Health Insurance Counselor, Assisted Living Coordinator, Senior Nutrition staff and clerical staff.

Open Enrollment

- The Aging and Disabilities Services Division has received a large number of inquiries regarding Medicare plans during the health insurance open enrollment season.

Senior Picnic

- Approximately 1,400 individuals attended the senior picnic.
- Parking was a challenge. In the past, the County's Department of Transportation provided transportation for the seniors to and from the congregate meal sites. The Department of Transportation also provided buses and drivers to transport individuals from the fringe parking areas to the picnic area. The Department of Transportation is no longer permitted to provide this service.

- Kym Taylor indicated that the vender tables needed more visibility.
- Picnic attendees had to stand in long lines for food.
- Kym Taylor suggested that perhaps high school students could be utilized in the future to help out with the picnic and receive volunteer credit hours.
- Ms. Sylvester indicated that our department tried in the past to recruit students from the local high schools but it has always a challenge since the picnic is held in September at the same time of the start of school year.
- Chair Kofi Impraim suggested that perhaps sororities and fraternities members could volunteer to help out in the future.

Dementia Friendly

- The work plan and evaluation plan of the Dementia Capable Grant must be approved before you can move forward.

Old Business

- Chair Kofi Impraim thanked everyone who participated in the Alzheimer's Walk on October 29, 2022 at the National Harbor. The Advisory Committee on Aging Team exceeded its goal of \$500 by 130%. Donations can still be made to the Alzheimer's Association.
- Eight-five people have registered for the Caregiver Conversation virtual event that is scheduled for November 17, 2022.
- Joann Carnathan requested all subcommittees chairs to submit their reports from the Strategic Planning Session as soon as possible.
- A procedure manual is being prepared for the Department of Family Services boards and commissions.
- Chair Kofi Impraim read a section from the old procedure manual regarding the procurement of services for boards and commission. He reminded board members that all funding requests for food, travel, speakers, etc. must be approved in advance and the approval process could take three weeks or longer.

New Business

Vice Chair, Diane Williams, called on Chairs of Subcommittees to submit their reports.

Communication and Public Awareness - Gretchen Lofland

- Gretchen Lofland reported that Communication and Public Awareness Committee continues to meet monthly to plan relevant programs for seniors. Ms. Lofland indicated that the subcommittee members are excited about the virtual Caregivers Conversations event that will take place today. The speaker will address the concerns of caregivers as well as provide helpful resource information for caregivers.
- A Money Smart virtual session on Financial Exploitation is scheduled for March 23, 2023. Dr. Gybrilla Ballard Blakes will be the guest speaker.
- The subcommittee is still in the planning stages for the Older Americans Month and Law Day events.

The subcommittee continues to collaborate and plan programs to address the needs of older adults in Prince George's County.

Legislative Committee – Kym Taylor

- The County Council members will be sworn in December 5, 2022.
- The swearing in ceremony for Maryland Legislature will take place on January 11, 2023.
- One area of concern is rent stabilization.
- Kym Taylor expressed some concern with regards to serving as a Maryland Delegate and potential conflicts based on the County's preapproval process regarding elected officials meeting with boards and commissions. Joann Carnathan indicated that she will address these concerns with County officials to determine what is feasible.

Strategic Planning Committee - Deidre Jackson

- Deidre Jackson reported that the subcommittee will resume meetings in January 2023.
- Ms. Jackson indicated that she is still working formatting the Advisory Committee on Aging brochure.
- The subcommittee is also planning to meet with the States Attorney Braveboy.

Announcements

- Vice Chair Williams reminded all board members to turn on their cameras during the Caregivers Conversation virtual event.
- Chair Kofi Impraim indicated that during the virtual event that he would introduce the officers and members and that each member should indicate what subcommittee they serve on.
- Michelle Blanc stated that she is hoping that at least one person can come away with something valuable information from Caregivers Conversations. Ms. Blanc is looking forward to serving as the Moderator for the virtual event.
- Chair Kofi Impraim thanked Megan Vila for the Advisory Committee on Aging background screen..
- There will not be a meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2023.
- Joann Carnathan informed the group that the Department of Family Services wis sponsoring the "Adopt A Ward" program. Members of the Advisory Committee were asked to donate a sweater or blanket to help keep the seniors warm. Donations can be delivered to the Department of Family Services no later than December 15, 2022.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Meeting Minutes were prepared and submitted by Gretchen D. Lofland, EdD