

**Prince George's County, Maryland  
Advisory Committee on Aging**

Meeting minutes from Thursday, October 28, 2021 held virtually on Microsoft Teams.

**Committee members present:**

Kofi Impraim (Chair)  
Diane Williams (Vice Chair)  
Erica Noble (Secretary)  
Margarett Baltimore  
Vanecia Davis  
Claudia Dickens  
Gwendolyn Drummond  
Deidre N. Jackson  
Gretchen Lofland, Ed. D  
Kym Taylor  
Eddimae Tisdale

**Committee members absent:**

Shaunda Bellamy

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**Department of Family Services Staff:**

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

**Guests:**

Vikki Kalitsi – Visiting Angels  
Ethel Lockerman – Loving Hands  
Bella Wright - Loving Hands

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kofi Impraim at 9:30 a.m. Each member present introduced themselves. Chair Impraim then introduced today's speakers: Vikki Kalitsi of Visiting Angels and Ethel Lockerman and Bella Wright of Loving Hands.

**Aging Report** (Karen Sylvester)

Ms. Sylvester advised that Prince George's County had applied for and was awarded a grant of \$786,775 in Community Opportunities to enhance the quality of life for persons with Alzheimer's, Dementia, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The grant is for three (3) years.

- **Visiting Angels** - Ms. Kalitsi advised that Visiting Angels is based in Largo, Maryland. It is a woman-owned minority business now celebrating 20+ years. The organization provides general supervision and companionship for anyone 18 years and older who needs assistance and provides sitter services for persons whose family members need assistance. Their services are through private-pay, and price ranges are from \$25 per hour depending on the level of care and number of hours needed. They service all of Prince George's County.
- **Loving Hands** - Ms. Lockerman and Ms. Wright of Loving Hands then spoke about their organization. They were organized in the Fall of 2018 and provide blankets to patients after breast cancer surgery. They have 25 ladies who crochet the blankets and so far, have delivered over 300 blankets to patients. They showed examples of the blankets and explained that the designs are often different. They need sponsors to donate for the purchase of yarn which are crocheted in various forms of pink.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

There were two sets of minutes for review (April 2021 & June 2021). There was no May 2021 meeting.

**April Minutes** - The only edit noted in the April minutes was a misspelling of Ms. Shaunda Bellamy's name (it was typed Shonda). Motion was made and seconded that the April minutes would be accepted with the edit of Ms. Bellamy's first name.

**June Minutes** – Ms. Jackson advised that no comprehensive recognition of the Strategic Planning Committee's facilitation of the Retreat, the brochure, or details of the Retreat was reflected in the minutes. Ms. Noble asked that any edits needed be emailed to her so minutes could be revised. After some discussion, it was moved that the committee would stay approval of the June minutes until such time as revisions are received and made.

### **Old Business**

Vice Chair Williams thanked Ms. Jackson for making arrangements for having the photos taken at the Retreat and asked that the photos be distributed to all members. There are 232 photos. Ms. Jackson said she would have the photographs put on a disk for all members of the Advisory Committee. She asked that the Chair and Co-Chair choose head shots so they can be used on the website.

### **New Business**

Vice Chair Williams shared that her vision for an amazing 2021 was being fulfilled. Her vision has been to inspire, uplift, empower and improve the quality of life for all Prince George's seniors. She then proceeded to call for the committee reports:

### **Communications and Public Awareness Committee**

Dr. Lofland advised that the committee last met on September 10, 2021, and developed a theme of, "We're Stronger Together" for focusing on the November 18<sup>th</sup> Caregiver

Session. She thanked Ms. Carnathan and her staff for the flyer that had been developed. The Committee is planning inspiration sessions for the Centenarians in Prince George's County in April 2022 and Older Americans Month in November 2022.

### **Strategic Planning**

Ms. Jackson advised that she would make certain that all mugs are distributed and have the misspelling of names corrected on the certificate given at the Retreat to those affected. She will ensure that a disk of photos is provided to everyone and again asked that photos are chosen for the brochure after which she will send it for review and approval. She is working on the website proposal and on social media pages. The theme of "We're Stronger Together" will be used for marketing and branding on promotional materials and submitted for review. Closing/Meeting Retreat is being planned for June 2022.

### **Legislative**

Ms. Taylor reiterated the Committee's goals for 2021-2022. She plans to continue partnering with United Seniors of Maryland although it is difficult to reach them. Ms. Carnathan advised that her office, too, has difficulty reaching them but will continue to try as dues have been paid. The Committee will continue to collaborate with the Elder Law Section of the Maryland Bar Association and with the National Active and Retired Federal Employees. She suggested asking the Maryland Senate President Pro Tem or Melony Griffin to speak at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Williams noted that the County Executive's approval for that to happen must be sought in advance and asked that such a request be worked on. After some discussion, it was suggested that Ms. Taylor update and educate the committee on upcoming legislative activities at a future meeting.

**Announcements** - Ms. Carnathan announced that the 2022 Agenda Books are in and asked that members make arrangements to pick them up from her office. Ms. Baltimore advised that flowers had been sent to Ms. Bellamy, and both Mr. Impraim and Ms. Williams thanked her for taking the lead on getting the flowers. Ms. Davis asked for copies of the minutes in advance. Mr. Impraim advised that copies of the minutes would be distributed to ACOA members.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Impraim asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and Chair Impraim adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging will be **Thursday, November 18, 2021**, on the Microsoft Teams Platform.

Submitted by: Claudia Dickens

