

<b>MEETING MINUTES</b>	<b>COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING</b>		
<b>Date</b>	April 21, 2020	<b>Meeting Time</b>	10:00 AM- 11:12 AM
<b>Chairperson</b>	Barbara “Reba” Cornman	<b>Meeting Location</b>	Zoom meeting

Attendees:

<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>INVITED GUESTS (Continued)</b>	
Allan Jensen, M.D.	√	Amy Greensfelder, Pro Bono Center	√
Elizabeth Tanner, Ph.D.	√	Elizabeth Briscoe, MD Philanthropy Network	√
Barbara ‘Reba’ Cornman, Chair	√	Pamela Paige	√
Stephanie Brooks-Wiggins		<b>STAFF</b>	
Barbara C. Brody		Heang Tan	√
Lloyd H. Buckner		James Macgill	√
Bishop Dr. J. L. Carter	√	Raia Contractor	√
Susan Francis, Esquire	√	Amanda Smith	√
W. Daniel Hale, Ph.D.	√	Rebecca Dineen	√
Elizabeth F. Johnson	√	Omar McBee	√
Rev. Lee Michaels		<b>EX-OFFICIOS</b>	
Hon Sharon Middleton, Councilwoman		Michael Braverman	-
Tracey Murray, DNP	√	Michael S. Harrison	-
David L. Roth, Ph.D.	√	Randi Walters, PhD	-
Betsy Simon,	√	Reginald Moore	-
Sarah Matthews	√	Chris Ryer	-
Thomas Cudjoe, M.D.		Michael Braverman	-
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>		<b>REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
Lauren Averella, Civic Works	√	Sean Bloodsworth, DSS	-
Kim Burton, Mental Health Association of Maryland	√	Holly Freishtat, Planning	-
Stephanie Archer Smith, Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland	√	Alice Huang, Planning	√
Laura Bristow, AIM	√	Alice Kennedy, Housing	-
Niki Barr, Myerberg Senior Center	√	Leslie Yancey, Rec & Parks	√
Margaret Pittman, Morgan State University	√		
Michael Friedman	√		
Tiffany Nicolette, CHAI	√		

### **I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairperson Cornman called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. She announced that Commission Member Stephanie Brooks-Wiggins had experienced a death in her family; her son-in-law has died as a result of contracting the COVID 19 virus.

## **II. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Elizabeth Johnson moved that the minutes of the March 17 meeting be approved, seconded by Ms. Betsy Simon, and the minutes were deemed approved.

## **III. COVID 19 Response**

Deputy Commissioner Tan and the staff of the Health Department presented information on the Baltimore City Health Department's response to COVID 19. Key points made:

- The Department's response has four main goals:
  - Food access for older adults
  - Support and care coordination through Maryland Access Point expansion
  - Outbreak prevention in long term care facilities, assisted living facilities, and in senior housing
  - Continuity of operations
- COVID 19 cases are rising steadily in Baltimore City and in Maryland. The current data for Baltimore City indicates 1,511 positive COVID 19 cases and 51 deaths from the virus.
- The Department is using a four level public health "pyramid" approach to meeting the food needs of older adults in the City during the pandemic. The pyramid relies on families, friends and neighborhood organizations to provide support for most older adults in the City. The Department and its partners will concentrate its resources on older adults near the top and at the apex of the pyramid: older adults in subsidized apartment buildings and those who are homebound and have no support system for food.
- Maryland Access Point is serving as the point of contact for the most vulnerable older adults, and is referring them to resources, including Meals on Wheels.
- The Department is tracking key metrics, measuring performance of the MAP Center, and the volume of food delivered.
- The Department is launching a communication campaign; the LEAN On campaign, which encourages older adults to reach out to others for help, to encourage older adults to reduce their level of exposure to the virus.
- The Department is working closely with nursing homes, assisted living facilities and senior housing sites, to investigate outbreaks, provide advisories, and to trouble shoot problems related to the pandemic.
- The Department is expanding its inventory of resources. Commission members are encouraged to help the effort by engaging with various volunteer opportunities available such as the Baltimore Neighborhood Network, and the United Way volunteer portal.

## **IV. Updates by Commission Members and Partners**

Members of the Commission and representatives of community partners provided updates on activities and developments related to the pandemic response.

- Ms. Betsy Simon stated that ZHAP's weekly Wednesday conference calls have been very successful and will continue through May.
- Ms. Susan Francis stated that older adults caring for dependent children are eligible for stimulus payments of \$500 per child, but must file with IRS by Wednesday April 22. She said that Social Security recipients will receive a \$1200 stimulus payment.
- Bishop Carter stated that he is emphasizing to his congregation and to others who are listening in on-line that it is very important that people stay home: that the pandemic is very serious.
- Dr. Dan Hale stated that Call to CARE calls are continuing Monday and Friday. The speaker this coming Friday will discuss the relationship between COVID 19 and racial disparities.
- Dr. Iby Tanner said that Hopkins nursing students are available to help in the response. Ms. Tracey Murray stated that Coppin nursing students are also available. Amy Greenfelder said that students are assisting the Neighborhood Network in making calls.
- Ms. Stephanie Archer-Smith said that Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland is also calling participants, in addition to delivering meals. She also noted that <https://www.moveneedle.org/> is creating re-useable masks.
- Mr. Michael Friedman emphasized the importance of maintaining home health and behavioral health services during the pandemic.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM.