

<b>MEETING MINUTES</b>	<b>COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING</b>		
<b>Date</b>	October 13, 2020	<b>Meeting Time</b>	10:00 AM
<b>Chairperson</b>	Barbara "Reba" Cornman	<b>Meeting Location</b>	Zoom meeting

Attendees:

<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>STAFF</b>	
Barbara 'Reba' Cornman, Acting Chair	√	Heang Tan	√
Allan Jensen, M.D.	√	Manija Mack	√
Barbara C. Brody		Erika McClammy	√
Betsy Simon	√	Molly Martin	√
David L. Roth, Ph.D.	√	Raia Contractor	√
Elizabeth F. Johnson	√	James Macgill	√
Elizabeth Tanner, Ph.D.	√	Jose Jimenez	√
Bishop Dr. J. L. Carter		Christian Dambreville	√
Rev. Lee Michaels		D'Paul Nibber	√
Sarah Matthews	√		
Hon. Sharon Middleton	√	<b>EX-OFFICIOS</b>	
Stephanie Brooks-Wiggins		Letitia Dzirasa, M.D.	
Susan Francis, Esq.	√	Christopher Ryer	
Thomas Cudjoe, M.D.	√	Alice Kennedy	
Tracey Murray, D.N.P.	√	Michael S. Harrison	
W. Daniel Hale, Ph.D.	√	Randi Walters, PhD	
		Reginald Moore	
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>			
Elizabeth Briscoe, Maryland Philanthropy Network	√	<b>REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
Lauren Averella, Civic Works	√	Alice Huang, Planning	√
Michael Friedman, AARP	√	Holly Freishtat, Planning	
Margaret Pittman, Morgan State University	√	Leslie Yancey, Rec & Parks	√
Nichole Battle, GEDCO		Nicole Hart, Housing	√
Stephanie Carideo, The Associated		Sean Bloodsworth, DSS	
Roshelle Kades			
Niki Barr, Myerberg Senior Center	√		

## I. Welcome and Call to Order

Ms. Cornman called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. She welcomed the Commission members and guests.

## II. Chairperson Report

Chairperson Cornman discussed the annual report that the Commission approved at its September meeting. The report will be submitted to the Mayor with a cover letter after it is put in final format.

Chairperson Cornman said she would like to have a discussion and a vote on the Commission's recommendations for revising its enabling legislation at the November meeting. The recommendations will be included in the November meeting packet.

## III. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the September meeting minutes were made by Ms. Sarah Matthews and seconded by Ms. Elizabeth Johnson. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

## IV. Report from Ageism and Racism Committee

On behalf of the Committee, Dr. Murray presented a document which includes draft statement on racism from the Advisory Committee on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the Maryland Department of Health. Dr. Murray wanted to present an example of some framework for the discussion. She said there needs to be a clear starting point with a framework and agreed upon definitions of terms.

The Commission and partners had a discussion about the work of the Committee. Some key points raised:

- Ms. Matthews expressed concerns were raised about lack of progress by the Commission in addressing these issues, and lack of responsiveness to needs in the community.
- Ms. Johnson suggested that other community members should be invited to the discussion.
- Councilwoman Middleton said it is positive that Commission members bring their lived experiences to this discussion.
- Dr. Murray said that it is essential that the Commission needs to have a vision statement or a framework before it can move forward.
- Dr. Jensen said that the Commission needed to focus on how to address the problem, and does not need to pursue further research and data gathering, which has already been done.
- Dr. Cudjoe suggested the work of the committee should include a phased approach, and that the partnership with Morgan be reflected in the Committee's plan.
- The entire Commission should be invited to attend the next Committee meeting.

Ms. Simon made a motion, seconded by Dr. Tanner that the Commission's suggestions be sent back to the Committee for incorporation into its scope, to include Dr. Cudjoe's recommendations. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

V. Update on Seasonal Flu

Assistant Commissioner Rebecca Dineen discussed a power point presentation regarding the Citywide strategy on flu vaccine. The power point was forwarded to the entire Commission and community partners. There was discussion on making the vaccination available in senior housing.

VI. Report by Deputy Commissioner

Deputy Commissioner Tan said that the State is now allowing visitation in nursing homes, but that not all facilities are open. The Department is preparing senior centers for re-opening, in what will be a hybrid/on-line model, given the continuation of the pandemic.

VII. Medicare Enrollment Update

Ms. Pamela Massie, the SHIP Program Manager stated that open enrollment for Medicare will run from October 15<sup>th</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup> this year. Please be sure to spread the word! SHIP services are free. She presented a flyer and one-page information sheet that was forwarded to the entire Commission and community partners.

VIII. Legislative and Policy Updates

Mr. D'Paul Nibber, the Department's Legislative Director discussed the Department's 2021 legislative agenda which includes addressing funding issues for the nutrition programs, and public guardianship. He said that the issue of social isolation among the elderly is also likely to be a concern in the upcoming General Assembly including the digital divide.

A meeting will be scheduled inviting the Commission and community partners to discuss the legislative agenda. Councilwoman Middleton said that as the President of Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), she is a resource to further discuss the digital divide. Mr. Nibber has also done some work with the Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO).

IX. Community Updates

Mr. Austin Davis with the Department of Planning Census Bureau stated the deadline for Census counting has been extended to October 31. (Note: due to a Supreme Court ruling, the Census count was subsequently terminated on October 15).

Ms. Kim Burton, representing Baltimore Neighbors Network encouraged all to continue to check up on older neighbors and friends. They are feeling lonely and anxious.

Events shared with the Commission:

- Dr. Dan Hale will be presenting at the Z-HAP event on October 14. There are virtual classes scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30 am.
- Ms. Liz Briscoe shared the Affinity Group on Aging at Maryland Philanthropy Network is hosting a conversation entitled, “Taking Care of Our LGBTQ Older Adults,” on November 5 at 3:30 pm.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.