

<b>MEETING MINUTES</b>	<b>COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING</b>		
<b>Date</b>	November 10, 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.	√	Kathe Hammond	√
Barbara C. Brody		Erika McClammy	√
Betsy Simon	√	Molly Martin	√
David L. Roth, Ph.D.	√	Raia Contractor	√
Elizabeth F. Johnson	√	James "Jim" Macgill	√
Elizabeth "Ibby" Tanner, Ph.D.	√	Jose Jimenez	√
Bishop Dr. J. L. Carter		Christian Dambreville	√
Rev. Lee Michaels		Manija Mack	√
Sarah Matthews	√	<b>EX-OFFICIOS</b>	
Hon. Sharon Middleton, Councilwoman	√	Letitia Dzirasa, M.D.	√
Stephanie Brooks-Wiggins		Christopher Ryer	
Susan Francis, Esquire	√	Michael Braverman	
Thomas Cudjoe, M.D.	√	Michael S. Harrison	
Tracey Murray, DNP	√	Randi Walters, PhD	
W. Daniel Hale, Ph.D.	√	Reginald Moore	
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>		<b>REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
Elizabeth Briscoe, MPN	√	Sean Bloodsworth, DSS	
Lauren Averella, Civic Works	√	Holly Freishtat, Planning	
Michael Friedman, AARP	√	Alice Huang, Planning	√
Margaret Pittman, MSU	√	Leslie Yancey, Rec & Parks	√
Nichole Battle, GEDCO		Nicole Hart, Housing	√
Niki Barr, Myerberg Senior Center	√	Monique Brown, BPD	√

## I. Welcome and Call to Order

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

## II. Chairperson Report

Chairperson Cornman thanked the Health Commissioner, Dr. Letitia Dzirasa for attending the meeting. She then announced that the next scheduled meeting was the same day as the Mayor's Swearing In, December 8. She asked for a motion to move the meeting up one week to December 15. The motion was seconded and approved. Chairperson Cornman asked for a motion to establish a Legislative Committee to work on establishing an enriched legislative agenda for older adults.

There was discussion about whether the Commission's legislation permitted the establishment of committees. It was agreed upon that the new entity would be a work group instead. Commissioner Francis has agreed to chair the work group. Commissioner Simon asked about the timing of establishing a new group at the end of an administration. Commissioner Roth emphasized the importance of continuity in the Commission's work. The group would include Mr. D'Paul Nibber who would present a strategy moving forward and who would create a legislative agenda. Commissioner Jensen wanted to be certain the work group expressed the concerns of the Commission. Deputy Commissioner Tan asked if there were any others interested in becoming chair. No one else expressed interest. Commissioner Tanner would like to be added to this work group.

Commissioner Cornman has signed the cover letter for the Annual Report. Another letter with the Report will be sent to the incoming Mayor after he is sworn in.

## III. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the October meeting minutes were made by Commissioner Matthews and seconded by Commissioner Hale. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

## IV. Report by Area Agency on Aging

Fabienne Dorceus from the Baltimore Police Department has offered to make a presentation to the Commission at the December meeting on the Department's plans for community policing in accordance with the Consent Decree. Commissioner Matthews moved that the Commission accept Ms. Dorceus's offer; Commissioner Roth seconded, and the Commission voted in favor.

Deputy Commissioner Heang Tan reported that

- there have been 80 flu vaccine clinics in senior housing buildings in a six-week period.

- Medicare Open Enrollment has been conducted by phone appointment this year, given the restrictions required by the pandemic. The Department has mounted an outreach campaign to encourage Medicare beneficiaries to call Maryland Access Point to schedule counseling appointments with State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) volunteers.
- Feedback from the Maryland Department of Aging indicates that no date is set for reopening of senior centers. In fact, the date will be delayed with the increase in COVID cases. Commissioner Simon asked about any updates on more virtual interactions. Deputy Commissioner Tan said there are plans to expand platforms for more virtual events.

#### IV. Agency Reports

Ms. Leslie Yancey reported on behalf of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Virtual classes are still underway on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Produce boxes are distributed on Thursdays. Also, Mr. Daniel Carpenter was named the new Deputy Director.

Ms. Alice Huang reported on behalf of the Department of Planning. The City's food response continues with distribution of produce boxes to 66 sites. 30+ sites distribute mixed boxes which include meats, produce and dairy. The Department is working with the schools to continue to look for areas where there is great need. Commissioner Matthews raised concerns about poor planning of food distribution, resulting in people throwing food away. It has been communicated to her that the food received is sometimes rotten and inedible. Commissioner Simon agrees that there needs to be more coordination. Chairperson Cornman will speak with Ms. Huang requesting more information. Ms. Huang will forward additional information under separate cover and encouraged the Commission to join in the Food PAC call today at 4:00 PM. Commission members should refer any partners who want to join the Food PAC to Ms. Huang. Assistant Commissioner James Macgill shared that the food box distributions are made only in response to calls from persons requesting them.

#### V. Report from Ageism-Racism Work Group – Drs. Dan Hale & Margaret Pittman (co-chairs)

The Group has had several meetings, with the most recent on October 30. The Group is recommending the following action items to the Commission:

- Research Component – Look into lived experiences (older adults over 65) and examine their medical experiences and food insecurities (Dr. Pittman is heading up this project).
- Use the framework adopted by Baltimore County that had been previously sent to the Commission.
- Have internal discussions about unconscious biases. Dr. Pittman will suggest a colleague to facilitate. She asked if a date has been set for this discussion. Chairperson Cornman suggested a date be set after the first of the year.

#### VI. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.