

<b>MEETING MINUTES</b>	<b>COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING</b>		
<b>Date</b>	December 15, 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>	
Stephanie Brooks-Wiggins		Kathe Hammond	√
Barbara C. Brody		Beverly Harris	√
Bishop Dr. J. L. Carter		Jose Jimenez	√
Barbara "Reba" Cornman, Acting Chair	√	James Macgill	√
Dr. Thomas Cudjoe	√	Molly Martin	√
Susan Francis, Esquire	√	D'Paul Nibber	√
Dr. W. Daniel Hale		Rochelle Purnell	√
Dr. Allan Jensen	√	Dr. Amanda Smith	√
Elizabeth F. Johnson	√	Heang Tan	√
Sarah Matthews	√	<b>EX-OFFICIOS</b>	
Rev. Lee Michaels		Dr. Letitia Dzirasa	
Hon. Sharon Middleton, Councilwoman	√	Michael S. Harrison	
Dr. Tracey Murray	√	Alice Kennedy	
Dr. David L. Roth	√	Reginald Moore <sup>[TH(1)]</sup>	
Betsy Simon	√	Christopher Ryer	
Dr. Elizabeth "Ibby" Tanner	√	Brandi Stocksdales	
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>		<b>REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
Lauren Averella, Civic Works	√	Fabienne Dorceus, Police	√
Nichole Battle, GEDCO	√	Nicole Hart, Housing	√
Elizabeth Briscoe, MPN	√	Alice Huang, Planning	√
Michael Friedman, AARP	√	Stacey Johnson, Police	√
Dr. Margaret Pittman, Morgan State	√	Nicole Weaver, Social Services	√
Dr. Amber Summers, JHU CCP	√	Leslie Yancey, Rec & Parks <sup>[TH(2)]</sup>	√
		Katie York, Homeless Services	√

## I. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairperson Cornman called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. She welcomed the Commission members and guests.

## II. Chairperson Report

Chairperson Cornman informed the commission that Mayor Scott was sworn in on December 8. She asked D'Paul Nibber to confirm the status of the existing Commission members during the administration transition. Mr. Nibber confirmed that at this time, all commissioners were "acting" and will need to be re-appointed. There are also vacancies that need to be filled. Chairperson Cornman indicated that she knows some potential candidates interested in joining the Commission. Mr. Nibbler will follow up on the public process for applying for boards and commissions.

## III. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the November meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Murray. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

## IV. Report by Area Agency on Aging

Deputy Commissioner Heang Tan reports that there are two staff changes within the Division of Aging. After decades of service, Beverly Harris and Karen Wheeler are retiring on December 31, 2020. Additional staff changes include the opening of the Director of Client Services position, vacated by Erika McClammy moving to the Comptroller's Office. Keidra Rowe will serve as the Interim Director.

Recent accomplishments by the Department include the opening of the first testing site at the Zeta Center. Staff are working to expand testing locations and to gear up capacity for mass vaccinations. There is not much information available at this time but the AAA is part of the planning process, to assure that older adults will have access to the vaccine. The emergency food response is continuing. The AAA is in budget season and fighting to maintain core services at the City, State and federal level. However, the Department is anticipating severe cuts on the State and federal level.

Councilwoman Middleton thanked the Department for selecting the Zeta Center as a testing site. The center is located in an area (zip code: 21215) that continues to have high levels of positive COVID-19 tests. Councilwoman Middleton reported that The City Council is going through many transitions since the installation of the new Council President. New committee chairs have been announced. The Council President will be looking at all commissions. Councilwoman Middleton may or may not remain on the Commission on Aging but she will remain committed to older adults in Baltimore. Chairperson Cornman thanked the Councilwoman for her service.

Fabienne Dorceus ([Fabienne.dorceus@baltimorepolice.org](mailto:Fabienne.dorceus@baltimorepolice.org)) from the Baltimore Police Department made a presentation on the Department's plans for community policing in accordance with the Consent Decree. Stacey Johnson ([Stacey.johnson@baltimorepolice.org](mailto:Stacey.johnson@baltimorepolice.org)) joined her and invited all Commission members to reach out to her with any future questions.

Amber Summers and Amanda Smith presented information on the flu vaccine campaign. All stakeholders understand the value of immunizations, especially for the most vulnerable residents. The campaign has conducted over 95 clinics and has distributed 1000 vouchers to Baltimore residents to be redeemed at partnering pharmacies. Residents can call 443-990-0579 to receive a voucher. The 21217, 21223 and 21216, zip codes continue to have low participation. Dr. Smith reminded the Commission members that the public dashboard on the BCHD (<https://health.baltimorecity.gov/flu>) displays the most recent data. Deputy Tan thanked all of the partners assisting in this effort.

#### IV. Agency Reports

Alice Huang reported on behalf of the Department of Planning. Food box distribution continues through the end of March and home delivery continues as well. Currently, there are 400 deliveries a week. In January, the City will partner with Maryland Food Bank and Amazon to deliver up to 2000 boxes a week to homes.

Nicole Weaver announced the new Director of DSS is Brandi Scottsdale. The Department is moving its main office to Guilford Avenue.

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

Dr. Pittman reported that the Work Group met and agreed that the Commission should move forward with a workshop. She has contacted two facilitators who have initially agreed to present. However, a date needs to be determined and the duration of the workshop. Also, Dr. Pittman inquired about if there is a compensation protocol for this event. Chairperson Cornman agreed with Dr. Pittman that the workshop should be about 90-120 minutes which would include a Q&A session. The Commission discussed having the workshop take place in February, based on a Doodle poll, and whether this workshop be separate from the regular Commission meeting. Commissioner Roth inquired about the specific focus of the workshop. Will the facilitator address issues on racism or ageism? Dr. Pittman said both issues will be addressed. Mr. Friedman reminded the commission that Commissioner Simon previously forwarded a document to the group that may be used as a guide. Commissioner Simon clarified that the document previously distributed was a strategic plan for the aging network in the City. Dr. Pittman reiterated that the group cannot move forward into a new framework for addressing the issues until all members are grounded in some core concepts, hence the workshop.

#### VI. Report from the Legislative Work Group

The Work Group is recommending that the Commission support the legislative efforts of the Department of Health in the following areas:

1. Guardianship: The initiative is to cap the number of clients assigned to each case worker at 25. Currently guardianship case managers are responsible for an average of 45 clients (with an overall total of approximately 180). Once the cap of 25 clients per worker is reached, guardianships appointments by the court would be assigned to the Maryland Department of Aging instead of the City, unless the Department provides more funding to hire additional staff. Additionally, the AAA is considering legislation adopting a standard/practice of care for case workers for guardians.

2. Nutrition. The Baltimore City AAA sustained State cuts to congregate and home delivered meals programs in the past two years. This was already problematic but the pandemic has further exacerbated food insecurity for older adults. The Department is seeking an increase in funding for these programs.

3. Isolation: The issue of isolation is becoming a major issue for older adults, particularly during the pandemic, and may be contributing to rising rates of abuse. Some ideas on how to address this include creating a Statewide abuse referral network, similar to the model that public agencies and private non-profit partners have created in Baltimore City. Commissioners Roth and Cudjoe both offered to assist with testimony or in other ways based on their professional work addressing isolation.

4. Technology Divide. The Department is exploring partnering with the Maryland Association of Counties to increase broadband access.

Chairperson Cornman wished the group well and thanked the Commission and community partners for their work throughout the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 am.