MINUTES
COMMISSION ON AGING
Bykota Senior Center
Classroom A, First Floor
Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Present: Cyndy Allen, Frances Bond, Don Gabriel, Bill Lambert, Eula Marshall, Mabel Murray, Roy Moreland, Sheila Roman, Marlene Siegel, Melody Truffer, Cathy Ward

Absent: Virginia Billian, Sherita Thomas

Staff: Phyllis Myers, Laura Riley

I. The Meeting Came to Order at 9 a.m.

II. Announcements

• No Announcements

III. Approval of the Minutes

• Minutes approved as submitted

IV. Old Business

Legislative Update

• Handout – USM Forum Priorities List handed out at the 42nd USM Forum on March 20, 2019
• Approximately 150-165 were in attendance, a much smaller amount than previous years; Cathy and Roy attended
• Bills listed on the handout included:
  ➢ SB759—Prescription Drug and Affordability Board; this bill passed 46-0 on March 30th and provides for oversight of all prescription drugs
  ➢ SB311/HB39—End of Life Options Act; USM supported this bill; it which provides right to care and access in determined circumstances; the bill did not pass, voted 23-23 in Senate with one senator refusing to vote. It’s likely this bill will return next year
  ➢ SB301/HB145—Hospital Bill of Rights; in the 3rd reading the bill, it passed 45-0 on March 27; this bill requires uniformity and training of all hospital personnel
• SB1027—Criminal Law—Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults—Notice of Report; the bill was withdrawn by Kathy Klausmeier after discussion with Elizabeth Weglein, President of USM who thought this bill would have stopped the victim from coming forward

• SB699/HB832—Maryland Medical Assistance Program Home and Community Based Waiver Services—Prohibition of Denial; this bill passed 46-0 in Senate; this bill is regarding seniors staying in their homes; it corrects the current law and allows for both Medicare and Medicaid; it costs the state $79,000 for nursing home stay and $33,000 to provide in-home assistance

• SB700/HB1009—Home and Community Based Services Waiver—Alteration; this bill eliminates the eight-year wait list for Community First Choice, CFC, Medicaid program; there are more than 22,000 on the wait list; 46% of funding is from the State’s general fund and 54% is federal money

• Cathy briefly discussed the bills that pertained to the Eastern Shore and the need for grants and scholarships to encourage recruitment for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants

• The Legislative Session ends on April 8th

• Cathy will remain a part of the USM’s Legislative Committee; the committee has a conference call every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

• Arnold Eppel was recently hired by the Maryland Department of Aging as Director of Innovations; he will be the guest speaker at the next USM meeting

Committee Update

• Cyndy wanted to verify that all committees had turned in a brief overview of the various COA committees to be placed in the welcoming book for new COA members; current COA members would also receive a copy

• BCDA and the Maryland Department of Aging website would be added along with contact information for services

Business Cards Update

• COA to receive personal business cards to hand out when attending community events, meetings, etc.

• The Maryland Access Point and BCDA’s website would be on the card

V. Guest – County Executive John Olszewski, Jr.
• The CE thanked the COA for their service and let them know he supports them
• The CE briefed the COA on the following:
  ➢ supported the prescription drug bill
  ➢ making a final push to the State for school construction funding
  ➢ noticed a lot of structures are deteriorating throughout Baltimore County
  ➢ working on cutting the budget; created an on-line app for citizens to come up with ways to have input on the budget
  ➢ large senior population; behind the Age Friendly Communities initiative
  ➢ there is money in the Capital budget for walking and biking designated areas
  ➢ has to make hard budgetary decisions to get the County back on track
  ➢ has had seven community town hall meetings; approximately 1,500 people attended them and around 300 of them testified; transportation was one of their number one concerns

VI. New Business

• The COA will focus on ways to get the word out in communities regarding available resources for seniors in Baltimore County; possible suggestion, e-mailing councilmen with information to help deliver the information to constituents; Baltimore County Code Enforcement and Public works use their websites to address issues or concerns
• Don questioned why all Baltimore County Boards and Commissions are not required to complete Ethics forms; Laura suggested having a County attorney come to a COA meeting to explain County Ethics procedures
• Senior Solutions conference is on May 30 at Franklin Square Hospital Conference Center
• Volunteer Luncheon is on May 16; Cyndy encouraged everyone to attend
• It was decided not to have a May meeting because of limited number of commissioners who could attend. It was usually held in the morning prior to the luncheon; the brainstorming session will be done at the June meeting
VII. Director’s Updates

- Recommends Commission consider Keswick as Partner of the Year and University of Maryland to receive the Legacy Partnership Award
- April 16 Congressman Elijah Cummings will hold a press conference at Catonsville regarding prescription drug costs
- REAL ID—Part of Homeland Security, it requires Maryland residents to present documents verifying their identification; MVA has sent letters to various individuals but residents may go to the MVA website, type in their license or ID number to find out if they are required to complete this to process; Laura suggested making an appointment to avoid long lines; all Maryland residents must have their documents on file at the MVA by October 1, 2020
- The Caregivers conference was on April 6; some participants were asked to give an example of what they thought is an “Age Friendly Community;” the CE will formally make a press announcement introducing the Age Friendly Communities at the Volunteer Luncheon
- BCDA’s new Deputy Director selection is in process and Laura hopes to introduce the individual selected at the Volunteer Luncheon

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.