

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, October 17, 2024
Kramer Building – Centreville, MD

ATTENDEES

Members

Toni Breeding
Betty Davis
Rebecca Kennedy
Bonnie Walter

Advisory Members

Cathy Willis
Annie Sparks
Stacy Voorhees

Absent Members

Martha Anthony
Rebecca Barbee
Alan Ettman
Kelly Johnson
Janet Melson
Leslie Ray
Janet Salazar
Mary Jo Volpicelli

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Bonnie Walter at 10:00 AM.

OLD BUSINESS

- A motion to approve the meeting minutes were made by Toni Breeding and seconded by Rebecca Kennedy. The minutes were approved.
- The Financial Report was reviewed and motioned to be approved by Toni Breeding and seconded by Rebecca Kennedy. The report was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Holiday meeting date and location were discussed. Carmines was suggested by Bonnie Walter. Cathy Willis asked Bonnie if she could confirm if they could accommodate the group. She said Carmines should be good if they don't charge for the room. The date and time were discussed, Fritz's restaurant was also discussed for a possible location for the holiday meeting also. Annie Sparks will reach out to the restaurants and report back.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Bonnie wanted to thank Janet Salazar for being the moderator at the Town Hall. She would like things done a little differently at the next Town Hall such as people going off topic with the questions for the panel. Cathy Willis said that unfortunately that is going to happen more often, with people who have mental issues. She said that you can't stop people, they have freedom of speech. And she thought it was well handled with the time limit on the questions. The members with expiring terms on the 12/31/24 are Bonnie Walter, Toni Breeding, Janet Salazar, and Martha Anthony who has decided not to renew her membership on the CoA board. Ida Hein who has been attending some of the meetings will be contacted to see if she is still interested in becoming a member. The process is different than it was previously done. You now need to upload a letter of interest and a resume to the portal for board and commissions. The portal requires both letter and resume. Cathy has arranged it that candidates upload the letter of interest twice. Cathy said that the departments are still being allowed to recommend people to the boards. The letter of approval

will be coming from Annie Sparks this year. Cathy is starting to ween herself out of her advisory position on the CoA board.

SITE COUNCIL REPORTS

- **Grasonville**
There will be a Rock Paining Workshop with a holiday theme on 11/7 at 12:30 PM. Card Making Workshop on 11/8 at 12:30 PM, this workshop will be free. The Knitting Group meets on Wednesdays at 1 PM. Grocery Bingo on 11/14 at 10 AM. Cookie Decorating Workshop will be on 11/19 at 12:30 PM, A \$5 supply is due at sign up. The Book Club book for the month of November will be *What Storm What Thunder* by Mariam J.A. Chancy. The club will meet on 11/21 at 2 PM. Movie & Ice Cream on 11/22 at 12:30, advance sign up is requested for this activity.
- **Kent Island**
Pinocle and Mahjong are played at 1 PM every Wednesday. Bridge is played on Thursdays. The Yoga class is on Fridays at 9 AM. Chesapeake College has started a new Zumba class on Tuesdays at 8:30 AM. The Chit Chat Café book of the month for November will be *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. The group meets in the center's library every month at 10:15 AM. Scarecrow Mason Jar will be the craft for November, there will be a \$4 supply fee for this craft. Tuesday, November 26th, KISC will have a special Thanksgiving Lunch at 12 PM with Bingo to follow.
- **Sudlersville**
The center received new chairs and tables. Cathy asked Betty Davis if she liked them, and she said that the gray had a calming effect. Bonnie asked where the new furniture was located. Cathy said in the dining room. Site Council is not doing well at the center. Betty Davis said that there needs to be more outreach. Betty said that folks will come down for lunch but don't like to participate in any activities. Betty was happy to see that some trips have been scheduled. Site Council meeting will be on 11/4 at 12:30 PM. A free simple craft will be at 11 AM on 11/6. Special Bingo and Lunch on 11/19, starting at 10:30 with a fee of \$5. MD Relay will do a presentation at 12:30 PM on 11/14. Thanksgiving Feud & Thanksgiving Gratitude games will be on 11/22.
- **Active Aging Center**
The Active Aging Center is doing well. Drum Fit is every Tuesday at 11 AM and Friday at 1 PM. There will be a Porch Sign Workshop on 11/4 at 10 AM. Birthday Bash Potluck is on 11/8 at 12 PM. Caregiver's Support Group will be on Tuesday, November 12 starting at 1 PM. Maryland Relay Presentation will be held at 10:30 AM on November 14. A Friendsgiving Lunch will be on 11/26 at 12 PM. This just a few of activities that are happening at the Active Aging Center.

LEGISLATIVE

Nothing to report legislatively. Cathy had a recommendation that anything pertaining to legislation be included in the Aging report. Legislative updates come through Aging and they work heavily with them on the state level. They will share anything legislative with the CoA. Cathy suggests that the legislative report be removed and be reported in the Aging sections of the minutes. Anything legislative will be given to Annie since she is the Chief of Aging.

Cathy said she and Annie were talking about the history of the Town Hall; the first Town Hall was held in 2012, in a joint effort with Senator Pipkin, and was held in October. The reason for the Town Hall was in the preparation for the legislative session. They started thinking about some of the major events the CoA has put on, such as the Town Hall, Commissioner's Tour, and Regional CoA meetings. Annie said that the CoA could possibly add another type of event such as a presentation about what the different services are available in our agency where staff give presentations. This will help spread the

word on what we do and what resources are available. The recommendation is to hold one large event per year and rotate them with the Town Hall, Regional Meeting, and the Commissioner's Tour. Cathy said that there needs to be larger initiatives when holding a Town Hall, not questions about trips or bus schedules. Annie said that they looked historically and worked backwards to see what the Commission has done in recent years to make a potential schedule moving forward. For example, the CoA Regional Meeting should be in 2025 because we will be working toward the election year. In 2026 the resource presentation, 2027 Senior Center Tour since it will be the first year after the election, and the next year the Town Hall; and then recycle the rotation. Cathy said that if the commission wanted to focus on the Regional Meeting there might be a possibility it could be held at the Kramer Center; hopefully the renovation of the multi-purpose will be done by then. Bonnie mentioned that by that time Leslie Ray might have the information on the other CoA's for the meeting. Annie has contacted the MD Dept. of Aging for the contact info on the other CoA's in the state. Cathy said we will make sure we get the list. She will call the other Departments of Aging and get the information from them if she needs to. Bonnie said that they have always learned from the regional meetings, but it's important for members to attend the meetings so that details can be worked out. You need workers to go out and solicit some of the information. So that's why it's important that members attend the meetings. Cathy was approached at the Town Hall by someone who said nobody knows about your services. Cathy said that the services are publicized but most people don't pay attention to them until they are crisis. It's about outreach, training and sharing our capabilities. Stacy said that they have done that on a smaller scale with Queen Anne's at Home and the Institute for Higher Learning. These events were not hugely attended but were good presentations with good questions. She thinks it's great potential in that. Bonnie mentioned the Assisted Living Tours. Cathy said that based on the small homes she wishes not to do the Assisted Living Tours anymore, she doesn't think it's appropriate to do them. There are entities set up on the state and federal level to monitor the homes. Rebecca Kennedy said that it's oversight and not needed. Cathy said that they can discuss and vote at the next meeting on what was discussed about rotation of the CoA events. Rebecca said if you have that template mapped out and not trying to do 3 things in one year you can put resources together and work on projects in other areas. Bonnie said that gives you a reason for existence and not just chit chatting for an hour. Cathy said that the advisory members should bring your ideas or help with things, but the commission is your commission. Bonnie agreed that there should be a different way to present things to the senior population in the county. Betty Davis said someone asked why the Commissioner's Tour didn't stay longer at Sudlersville Center during the Commissioners Tour. People didn't have a chance to ask questions. Bonnie said that they had a very ridged schedule.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Stacy Voorhees reported on the units of service for the past 12 months. Overall, the Senior Centers have provided a total of 86,610 units of service, for an average of 328 units per day across all four locations. Over the past 3 months (July-September) the per day average units of service by center is Active Aging Center 46 units, Grasonville Senior Center 109 units, Kent Island Senior Center 48 units and Sudlersville 52 units. Most Senior Centers are seeing a positive return to lunch. All the centers have voted for Site Council officers as of October. They are always open to new ideas. The new DrumFit program is a prime example. Sometimes it's a struggle to get instructors however, DrumFit is video led, so an in-person instructor isn't needed. It has been a huge hit at all four locations. Folks are encouraged to attend the Site Council meetings to share their ideas.

The Active Aging Center has been open for a year now. Over the first year they have completed 535 membership registrations, served 1942 meals, and provided 6839 units of service. One most significant fact is that, over the last 5 months, over 200 meals have been served in the month. Bonnie said that the numbers will most likely go up in the upcoming colder weather months.

Stacy said that there are 2 trips out for registration. One is to Harrington Casino on 11/20/24, the deadline for this trip is 11/1. The trip is just the transportation to the casino and home. Gambling and food are on the participant. The next trip will be the American Music Theater's Christmas Show, Joy to The World. A stop at the Plain and Fancy restaurant is included for lunch. The trip is scheduled for 12/18/24 and the deadline to register is 11/8.

The Holiday Gala will be on 12/6. The Gala will be held at the Grasonville Senior Center. The tickets should go on sale the first of November and are expected to go quick. So, if inclined save the date for this event.

The digital sign-in system is up and running at all four centers. Some kinks have been worked out. Overall, the members are seeing some positive effects of this, and things are going well with them.

Priscilla Hardesty is the second Senior Center Assistant who started on September 11th.

Besides Sudlersville who just had their furniture replaced in there dining room, Grasonville and Kent Island centers will have theirs replaced later also. Sudlersville furniture was replaced first because it became a safety issue with furniture breaking.

The bids have gone out for the roof replacement for Kent Island Senior Center.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Moran was not able to attend.

CONCLUSION

Rebecca Kennedy stated she's starting a job with another company so she will need to resign from the Commission on Aging unless it's okay that she doesn't live in the county. Cathy said she will double check on that.

- The meeting adjourned around 11:24 AM.
- The next meeting will be 11/21/24.

Submitted by Wendy Gilbert, recording secretary.