

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, November 21, 2024
Kramer Building – Centreville, MD

ATTENDEES

Members

Becky Barbee
Toni Breeding
Janet Melson
Loretta Morris
Bonnie Walter

Advisory Members

Cathy Willis
Annie Sparks
Anne Van Benschoten
Kathy Campbell

Absent Members

Martha Anthony
Alan Ettman
Kelly Johnson
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 Becky Barbee and seconded by Loretta Morris. The minutes were approved.
- The Financial Report was reviewed and motioned to be approved by Toni Breeding and seconded by Becky Barbee. The report was approved.
- Ida Hein's appointment to the QAC Commission on Aging and renewal of Toni Breeding, Janet Salazar, and Bonnie Walter were approved by the QAC Commissioners. The term will begin on January 1, 2025.
- We are awaiting the letter of resignation from Rebecca Kennedy, who isn't a Queen Anne's County resident and no longer works in the county. Once the letter is received there will be another vacancy on the board of Commission on Aging.
- Bonnie voiced her concern about membership and those who don't attend the meetings. Cathy Willis said that Bonnie could call the members and asked them if they are still interested in being members.

NEW BUSINESS

- Holiday meeting date and location were finalized, the members in attendance voted on Frix's Fire Grill on 12/19 at 11:30 AM. Carmines N.Y. Pizza Kitchen was discussed as a possible location. Annie Sparks contacted Carmines, but they could not guarantee space for a large group. Adams Grill was also contacted, and they could have a room available depending on the size of the group, for example if the group only had 10 people, they couldn't guarantee a separate area. There may other tables around us. More information about the holiday meeting will be sent out soon. Frix's will have availability with a prefixed menu. People would give a RSVP on whether they are coming and need that information the Friday before and the prefixed menu to choose from on the day of. All the locations where ok with 12/19. Annie will call Frix's to confirm.

- Recap of the discussion concerning the rotation of CoA events focusing on the CoA having one major event a year, when these events happen (based on legislative concerns with the Town Hall) and looking at when the election years occur with the Commissioners. Purposely putting the Senior Center Tour after the election of the Commissioners. Annie gave out a handout of what the rotation of events would be like. Bonnie asked the members in attendance what they thought about the rotation. Janet Salazar who was not able to attend this month's meeting, she emailed her opinion on the plan she read the minutes from October's meeting and was in support of the rotation of events. Bonnie said that it would give the CoA more time to prepare for the events. Janet Melson had a concern about QAC Area Agency on Aging letting people know what they offer and what was available. She said that someone said that they would have to pay to get information on Medicare Part D. She asked if they had called the Aging Department, their reply was "why they don't do anything." Janet said that she is tired of hearing that. She was wondering if the rotation for the Information and Assistance shouldn't be done before 2026, which is what year that would be in the rotation. Cathy said that information is still being put out there, and the Aging event would be a separate event like the Town Hall sponsored by CoA. Anne Van Benschoten said that her staff continue to do outreach throughout the year. They struggle to get into certain organizations like Four Seasons. Bonnie suggested doing the Area Agency on Aging presentation like the Town Hall. Cathy said the events of a function for the CoA, but Aging will continue to what they do daily. Janet Melson said that the presentation by the Aging staff recently was very well received, and people told her that they didn't realize that Aging did those types of things. Anne said people sometimes don't realize that things are available until they need it. Kathy Campbell, (Dept. of Social Services) said that those folks at Four Seasons are 55 and 60 years old and wait until they have neighbors that have reached their 80s and 90s and need services. Loretta Morris mention that even at Terrapin Grove people who live in the apartments there don't use the services of the Aging department. Anne said if any of the members know of any organizations that would like the Aging department to do outreach, please feel free to let them know. They just did a presentation at Chesapeake College Adult Learning Center that was well received.

CoA had an unanimous vote to approve the event rotation as follows:

2024: Town Hall

Legislative event to pull in state and local representatives and panelists.

2025: Regional CoA Meeting

Queen Anne's County host Commission on Aging members in the region for a meeting in Centreville.

2026: CoA host Presentations on AAA Resources

Election Year for Commissioners. Commission on Aging hosts and promotes an event featuring presentations given by staff of the QAC Area Agency on Aging. This aligns with Section E of the by-laws to "provide information to the public on programs and services for senior citizens."

2027: Senior Center Tour – March

First Year of the Commissioners Term following elections. Host the County Commissioners on a tour of the four Senior Center locations.

2028: Town Hall – October

Legislative event to pull in state and local representatives and panelists.

2029: Regional CoA Meeting

Queen Anne's County host Commission on Aging members in the region for a meeting in Centreville.

then the rotation will continue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Refer to Old Business and New Business.

SITE COUNCIL REPORTS

- **Grasonville**

More projects seem to be going on at Grasonville Senior Center. The Jones Boys performed at the Country Hoedown. The event was enjoyed by everyone. Hope For the Holidays is coming up, this is where you can meet up with other folks who are grieving their loved ones and have discussion on how to deal with your grief. Specials Bingos have been well received with prizes of gift cards to different places like grocery stores and restaurants. The special bingos have drawn in more people to the events. Holiday movies with Christmas cookies are well liked. The exercise room is always busy.

- **Kent Island**

Root beer floats are every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Sit and Fit is doing well. Drum Fit is too. Holiday Lunch on Tuesday the 26th. November craft is a Scarecrow Mason Jar. December craft is a Santa Ornament. Kent Island will host a Holiday Brunch on 12/13/24 at 11 AM. This event will have a Hot Chocolate Bar and you can also decorate cinnamon ornaments. The fee for this event will be \$6.

- **Sudlersville**

Everything is going well at Sudlersville Senior Center. The month of December is full of fun activities to get you in the holiday spirit. On December the 4th Christmas cards will be made by folks who want to participate, all supplies and instructions will be provided. Holiday Spirit Week starts on Monday, 12/9. Christmas Bingo Party is on 12/17. Bingo starts at 10:30 AM, breakfast snacks will be provided at 10 AM. Cookie Decorating and Cookie Swap on 12/18. You will have to sign up for this event. The center will hold it's Christmas Party on 12/13 from 11 AM – 2 PM. DJ Gregg will be supplying the music. This is just some of the happenings in December at the center.

- **Active Aging Center**

AAC is doing well and growing. On Tuesday, December 10 at 1 PM, there will be an Ornament Exchange. Caregivers Support Group will meet on 12/10 at 1 PM. Gift Wrapping Fundraiser will be every Tuesday & Thursday, 8 AM – 12 PM and on Saturday, 12/14 from 8 AM - 4 PM. Active Aging will be hosting their Holiday Party on Thursday, 12/19 from 11:30 AM – 1 PM with Lunch & Wii Bowling Tournament. Becky Barbee asked why you could not go out the side doors at the Y. Cathy responded to the question saying that it was a security measure because children are in the building.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

- Annie Sparks mentions the Holiday Gala on December 6th from 5 PM – 9 PM. The theme for this year's Gala will be a Country Christmas. We thank the Commissioners for making it free of charge for tickets again this year!
- County Ride will Ride Free in 2025. Loretta asked if there will be transportation to the Gala. Annie said yes and that you would sign up at the Senior Centers.
- Longevity Ready Maryland workgroup that Annie participated in with the MD Dept. of Aging has concluded. They had 5 meetings with the sub-committees. They were affordable housing, health care, financial security and access to long term services and support. Each sub-committee had to come up with a goal and plan to hopefully increase services and readiness for people living longer. The remaining steps are in December the Cabinet Advisory Group confirms the recommendations that were sent to them. In January to February 2025 the draft plan will be shared with the public

for comment. March to June 2025 the draft plan will be submitted to the Governor's Office for review, then in July 2025 the final draft plan will be submitted.

- Anne Van Benschoten updated on the Caregivers Conference at Grasonville Senior Center on 11/15. There was a comic who did a great job in keeping everyone entertained. The Sheriff's Office had a presentation on scams. Marissa, from Hospice, talked about palliative care. There were crafts also. This event was very well received with a lot of positive feedback from the surveys that the participants and vendors did. Anne said it will be hard to step it up next year since this event did very well.
- The I&A staff are right in the middle of Medicare Part D Open Enrollment. A curve was thrown in in the beginning of Open Enrollment with 2 of the insurance companies that did Part D enrollment no longer are doing them. They sent out over 700 letters to their clients to tell them to call the QAC Dept. of Aging. The staff have been all over the county seeing people as well as at Kramer. The biggest concern is that people will call at the last minute and say that they need help.
- There were also new changes for the MD State Retirees. Jennifer Hall came up with a plan of doing informational round tables at each of the Senior Centers. It isn't a lot Aging can do because the retirees must go thru a 3rd party called VITA to sign up people through the state retirement plan. The state doesn't want anyone doing the enrollments for the state retirees besides VITA. Becky Barbee, as a state retiree, believes things could have been done a different way. She feels like the retirees are floundering. Bonnie Walter gave kudos to Jennifer Hall and Taylor Mayoral with helping a resident at Terrapin Grove who was confused about the process. The state retirees have until 12/31 to complete their enrollment. Medicare Part D Open Enrollment ends on 12/15 for everyone else.
- Anne said that the new cognitive memory program is doing well with the Caregivers group that meets at the Y once a month. If the caregivers group keeps growing, they might start a group in Kent Island. There is also the Lending Library that have sensory items for folks with dementia.
- Anne told the members that she appreciates the CoA members spreading word on how the Aging office could help with Part D and some of their other concerns with drug coverage.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT, Commissioner Moran was not able to attend.

CONCLUSION

- The meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.
- The next meeting will be 12/19/24 at Frix's Fire Grill, 11:30 AM.
Location- 1533 Postal Rd, Chester, MD 21619.

Submitted by Wendy Gilbert, recording secretary.