

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, February 20, 2025
Kramer Building – Centreville, MD

ATTENDEES

Members

Toni Breeding
Betty Davis
Ida Hein
Janet Melson
Loretta Morris
Bonnie Walter

Advisory Members

Commissioner Moran
Cathy Willis
Annie Sparks
Anne Van Benschoten
Rebecca Jester

Absent Members

Becky Barbee
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 was made by Toni Breeding and seconded by Loretta Morris. The minutes were approved.
- The Financial Report was reviewed and motioned to be approved by Loretta Morris and seconded by Janet Melson. The report was approved.
- Review of the yearly plan of events for CoA. Annie Sparks presented a revised schedule for the yearly plan of events based on the discussion in January's CoA meeting. Bonnie asked if anyone had a comment about the revised plan before it was voted on. Janet Melson asked whether there would be both a Senior Center Tour and a Town Hall in the same year. Annie said the Town Hall will occur every two years and the Senior Center Tour will happen every four years. When the Senior Center Tour happens, it will be in the same year as a Town Hall and will align with the first year of the Commissioners terms following the election year. The plans of the event were approved and motioned for a vote by Loretta Morris and seconded by Toni Breeding. It was moved and voted unanimously. The revised calendar of large CoA events is as follows:

2025- Regional CoA Meeting (Sept/Oct)

2026- CoA host Presentations on AAA Resources

2027- Senior Center Tour (Mar/Apr) & Town Hall (Oct)

2028- Regional CoA Meeting (Sept/Oct)

2029- Town Hall (Oct)

2030- CoA host Presentations on AAA Resources

2031- Senior Center Tour (Mar/Apr) & Town Hall (Oct)

2032- Regional CoA Meeting (Sept/Oct)

2033- Town Hall (Oct)

...and the rotation continues.

- Annie drafted a letter to be sent to the regional CoA's with a planning survey attached. A copy of the letter was handed to the members for any feedback. It was noted in the letter that the survey be returned by 3/19/25. Toni Breeding motioned to accept the letter to be sent to the Regional CoA's; Loretta Morris seconded the motion. All were in favor and accepted. Commissioner Moran asked if the invitation to the regional meeting was extended to the Western Shore, Bonnie replied that it was just for the CoA's on the Eastern Shore.

NEW BUSINESS

- Bonnie Walter requested a sign-up sheet be drawn up for coverage of the CoA table at the Senior Summit on May 16th. Last year there was someone coordinating people to volunteer to man the table. The Roaring 20's is this year theme for the summit. Annie asked if there were any ideas of what they might have for the table. Bonnie asked the attending members if they had any feedback on what they want. The members agreed that they liked the pocket size tissue holders and the coasters that Betty Davis made last year. Janet Melson said since there would not be a Town Hall this year perhaps some of that money usually used for it could go towards purchasing pens or help towards the purchase of the material for the tissue holders. Bonnie said that it would be nice to have a handout on what the CoA is about. Cathy said they could purchase something for a raffle. Bonnie asked Betty if she was ok with doing the tissue holders again; she replied that she would be happy to them again. It was agreed upon to purchase the tissues from Amazon and to purchase an item for the raffle. Stacy Voorhees suggested they purchase a bunch of smaller items to raffle off from the table. Cathy suggested two smaller hanging baskets. Final decisions on the raffle will be discussed in the next meetings.
- Bonnie mentioned members who don't attend the meetings and the open position on the board. Cathy suggested that perhaps looking for someone from the Active Aging Center to fill the CoA empty position on the board. Cathy said that maybe Bonnie could reach out to the other 3 members who don't attend the meetings. Cathy said that we are not getting applications for the CoA board. Annie said the last time when Rebecca Kennedy position needed filling, only 1 application was submitted. That applicant will be voted on at the next commissioners meeting on 2/25. Which will fill Rebecca Kennedy's spot and leaves Mr. Ettman's spot open to be filled. OnBoard shows two vacancies until the Commissioners vote-in the applicant to fill Rebecca's spot. Bonnie said that she will need to visit Queenstown Landing to see whether they are still onboard to cater the regional luncheon. Cathy suggested talking to the new member once voted in about catering of the Regional Meeting.
- Bonnie shared an intergenerational article that she saw in a magazine on how healthy it was for the seniors to interact with the children at the daycare which shares a building with the Senior Center.
- Cathy reported legislatively that the state is in a deficit and there are a lot of things going on at the federal level also. She is still highly involved in M4A and the legislation that they deal with.
- They did a testimony to support the MD Dept. of Aging budget. However, with amendments they are talking about cutting some programs. The cuts will affect the Senior Care Program. They are repealing the code to the programs to combine them. This won't go into effect until July 2026.

SITE COUNCIL REPORTS

- Grasonville
The Valentine Luncheon and Dance went very well. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Classes are also doing well. Grasonville is welcoming new friends to play table games:
 1. Hand & Foot—Mondays at 12:30
 2. Canasta—1st & 3rd Wed
 3. Mah Jong—1st Mon at 2:00 & 2nd Wed at 10:00
 4. Learn & Play—1st Fri at 10:00 & 3rd Wed at 2:00

On Tuesday, March 4th at 12:30, help will be needed to assemble Taggle Blankets for Project Linus. Folded Book Art will be on 3/10/25 at 10:00. This activity is a fun way to repurpose old books, this activity is member lead. "Drive Safely as We Age" is a free class on 3/20/25 at 10:30. It's presented by the MD Highway Safety Office. The Monthly Bingo is doing well. The Emotional Support Group will meet every fourth Wednesday starting 3/26/25.

- **Kent Island**

Classes are doing well. Star Lite Evening Dance is on the first Wednesday of the month from 6 PM to 9 PM. On 3/14/25 there will be a St. Patrick's Day Party and Luncheon. This event starts at 12:00. Kent Island Senior Center would like to have a Special Luncheon once a month. The new session of Chesapeake College classes begins in March. Free Dance Fitness class with K. Leary on Thursdays at 11:00. There will be 50 cent Root Beer Floats on 3/18/25 after lunch has been served. Spring Craft with Morgan will be on 3/21/25. A meditation class happens twice a month on Wednesdays at 11:00 and is member lead.

- **Sudlersville**

Pickin n Grinin is every Thursday starting at 6 PM to 9:30 PM. Quilting Class is every Tuesday and it does well. On 3/5/25 Healthy Mini Tortilla Pizzas at 11:00. QAC Health Dept. Wellness Checks will be on 3/6/25 from 9:00-11:30. Bingo is every Tuesday and Thursday and is always well attended. A Special Bingo on 3/11/25 starts at 10:30. Celebrating St. Patrick's Day on 3/17/25 with Shamrock Punch and Cookies at lunch. Craft day on 3/19/25 will be the making of Bunny Blocks.

- **Active Aging Center**

Canasta is on Fridays at 1:00. Wednesdays is Money Bingo Day at 1:00. Spring Bingo is on 3/26/25 \$5 a person includes 2 Bingo cards, games start at 1 pm. The Caregivers Support Group will meet on 3/11/25 at 1 pm. Special guest will be the University of Maryland Extension Office. Create your own Lego Birdhouse on 3/18/25 at 10 am. Art Showcase is open to YMCA & Active Aging Center Members. The art will be displayed from 4/15/25 to 5/30/25. Active Aging Manager Bethany Bennan is constantly adding and trying new things to repertoire of activities, she recently has added Enhance Fitness to classes that are offered. It has been going well with a class size of 35 participants. There might be a change in the scheduling to better meet the needs of the members.

- Stacy said that both Grasonville and Kent Island congregate numbers are improving. Loretta said that she could see an improvement with the food that is served. Stacy said that they have been advocating for a shake-up with the menus from the cater. Stacy said that it's been helpful having the menus presented before the quarterly catering meetings. The congregate meal program is doing very well at the Active Aging Center. Often there is not enough seating in the Café.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

- Stacy was looking at data and there are 175 unduplicated members served per day across the centers. Meals from October to December where 1,038 meals were served to 208 unduplicated persons across the centers.
- Large project with the Kent Island Center roof replacement will hopefully start in the next couple of weeks.
- Upcoming events, Senior Center Cook-Off is scheduled for 3/7 at the Grasonville Senior Center. All the centers will be at Grasonville for this event. The Cook-Off celebrates National Nutrition Month as well as the National Nutrition Senior Center Month. Also on the horizon is the Spring Fling scheduled for 4/17 at the Kent Island Senior Center; this will be a daytime event. The theme is 50's Diner. The entertainment will be Doo Wop music.
- Stacy is working on trips and registration will be coming out soon.

- They are working with the MD Highway Safety Office on safe driving presentations at the Senior Centers in March and April. The same organization will offer a program called CarFit which is a program for older adults to check how well their vehicles fit them. This will happen in May and June.
- Stacy and Annie recently met with the library and Teri Mumm, who is the Program Manager for the Marylanders Online Program. There is information about this in the Senior Centers for a while now, but we did not realize how impactful it could be in relation to tech help. This program is an online program where you can go to learn different things about tech. There is also a tech hotline that is available to anyone Monday thru Friday 10 AM to 8 PM and Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM. You connect with a real person that can help walk you through your tech issue whether it's your phone, tablet, or laptop. Stacy is also working with Computer Island to get in-person help to come to the centers; this is the talking phase right now.
- Cathy said legislatively that the state is in a deficient and things are going on at the federal level also. They did a testimony to support the MD Dept. of Aging budget with amendments. But they will be cutting two of the programs, Senior Care Program and Senior Living Subsidy Program. They are repealing codes on the programs and will be consolidating them. They will be putting the Senior Living Subsidy into the Senior Care Program. It will change the trajectory of the programs a little bit. The state is working with all the AAAs across the state. This won't go into effect until July 2026. They will be using the state funds for the program. There was another bill that they didn't do testimony on which is changing the name of the Senior Check Program.
- Testimony of the budget was provided. It looks okay on most things but strongly opposing a 2.5 million dollar cut to the Senior Care Program for this year. The caveat to this is that last year MDoA was handed 8 million dollars to spend in 2024. QAC was given \$500,000 extra dollars to spend in one year. QAC Dept. of Aging was able to spend 76% of the funds, which was much better than other counties that had more than a million or more left. Cathy said that they need to reduce the funds to the counties that can't spend the money and spread it to the ones that are using their funds. Another downfall was that a dementia program may be cut in half. They are reaching out to the legislators and writing testimonies. Currently Maryland is rank #1 in the nation for the greatest prevalence of dementia of individuals over 60. The cost for people living with dementia is estimated at more than double the amount for someone without dementia. All the programs offered are to prevent people from going into nursing homes. They are doing a huge campaign to not cut these programs. For QAC if we get the cut for programs, it looks like cutting \$28,000. Because of the state deficit we will get cut somewhere. Cathy said she didn't want to share just the negative but that there were a huge group of people fighting the cuts. On a brighter note the multi-purpose room at Kramer is almost done.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Commissioner Moran mentioned renewable energy. The Commissioner does not think a lot of thought was put into it with the deficit and they knew this was coming 3 years ago. There is a Bill out there, Bill 391, that will take away the right of counties to zone and tax them. More and more farms are being lost and not being replaced. Mega Solar is looking at the Eastern Shore because the land is flat. They had a vote of 24 to nothing to kill the bill. That is a huge fight that is going on right now.
- Offsets for cannabis is also an issue at the moment. There are 2 facilities that want to come to the county, one is a distribution and one processing. One is close to a church and one is close to a daycare center. They took a tour of the facility in Centreville recently.
- The Governor wants to put down 6% farmland for solar. The counties want to have say on how much solar comes to the counties. Over 40% energy comes from out of the state. That is why the power bills are so high.
- The school board had their budget hearing on 2/19.
- On the brighter side the plans for the new Recreation Center are coming along.

- **The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.**
- **The next meeting will be on 3/20/25 at 10:00 AM - Kramer building.**

Submitted by Wendy Gilbert, recording secretary.