

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

ATTENDEES

Members

Becky Barbee
Toni Breeding
Betty Davis
Ida Hein
Janet Melson
Loretta Morris
Megan Pinder
Janet Salazar
Bonnie Walter

Advisory Members

Annie Sparks
Stephen Palmer
Rebecca Jester

Absent Members

Kelly Johnson
Leslie Ray
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.
- Bonnie welcomed new CoA member Megan Pinder.
- Bonnie asked Annie Sparks what the results from the letter that was sent to the regional CoA's. Annie replied that 4 of the 7 counties returned their survey and all 4 of those replied "yes" that they are interested in attending a regional CoA meeting (Dorchester, Kent, Talbot, and Worcester Counties). Caroline County does not have a CoA and Cecil and Wicomico did not reply. All the responses said that they would like for QAC to host the meeting; all said yes to having it from 11:00–2:00 with lunch included. One response did say the mornings are best and it would depend on where the lunch was held. Annie said that person probably didn't realize we would have lunch included. They all agreed to have the in Sept/Oct of 2025. The training topics ideas suggested were, best ways to advocate for senior citizens; housing insecurity; homeless seniors; substance use; mental health; fundraising; volunteer recruitment; and transportation. It was great feedback, and they all seem excited. Bonnie suggested the meeting start at 10:00 and Janet agreed. Annie requested the members pick a date. Janet Melson suggested October and Bonnie said to stay away from Mondays and Fridays. It was motioned by Janet Melson, seconded by Loretta Morris. It was voted on to have the Regional CoA Meeting on October 16, 2025 from 10:00-2:00. All were in favor. Annie asked if it would be okay to send out a Save the Date to the CoAs. It was voted on and agreed upon to send out the Save the Date to include the address, and that lunch will be included. Annie asked if an individual invite should be sent out to one person or if each member got an invite. She would like the total number of members that will be attending for catering reasons. Bonnie said at the last Regional Meeting hosted by QAC CoA, one letter was sent to the chairperson or to that county's Dept of Aging. Bonnie said that she would reach out to

Caroline County Aging Department to see if anyone there would be interested in attending the Regional Meeting. Annie asked that perhaps someone would like to reach out to Cecil and Wicomico Counties also, since they have not responded. Bonnie asked if Annie could find out who the Directors are at the counties so they can be contacted to see if they are interested in attending as well. Bonnie said that a program will have to be picked for the meeting, Bonnie asked Annie on help with selecting the program. The board can then decide on this when that information becomes available.

- Bonnie has reached out to board member Kelly Johnson asking if she is still interested in being on the CoA board. Kelly has been promoted. There is someone new assigned to her old position. Bonnie said she will follow-up with Kelly to see if she is still interested in being a member. Bonnie said that she can reach out to Kelly to see if Queenstown Landing will be interested in providing lunch and if not, they will have to look elsewhere.
- Leslie Ray has resigned from the QAC CoA, Leslie has taken on more duties at the MD Department of Aging. Mary Jo Volpicelli is hospitalized, and her resignation letter will be submitted later.
- Bonnie asked if there would be an advertisement for new board members with vacancies on the board. Annie said that they have just put out advertisements for board vacancies and the CoA vacancies were added. Janet Melson said that in Queen Anne's at Home, the board vacancies were put in their newsletter. Bonnie said she would like to get someone from the northern part of the county.

NEW BUSINESS

- Bonnie asked for a volunteer to Chair the table coverage for the Senior Summit table. Janet Salazar volunteered to be the Chair. The table coverage is as follows:
 1. 9:00– 10:00 Bonnie & Becky
 2. 10:00– 11:00 Ida & Loretta
 3. 11:00–12:00 Ida & Loretta
 4. 12:00–1:00 Toni & Betty

Loretta will back up Janet as Chair. Please let Janet know if you are not able to cover. Ida Hein said she is available for as long as needed.

Janet wanted to know who would be setting up the table, Annie said that it will be Wendy and staff that will set up the table. Annie asked if they could narrow down on what they wanted as a raffle and do a formal vote on the decision. It was motioned by Loretta Morris and seconded by Betty Davis to purchase 2 hanging baskets from Murdoch's Florist. The motion was voted unanimously. Wendy will take care of that purchase using CoA funds.

Betty said that the flyer advertising the Summit in the Shore Update was hard to see. Annie said that she would mention this to the Summit committee. Betty asked if there was anything else that can be done as far as giveaways for the Summit. Bonnie said the Kleenex Holders were a hit at last year's Summit and they would be happy with whatever she provided.

SITE COUNCIL REPORTS

- Grasonville

Grocery Bingo is going along well, and the center has a new bingo machine. Folded Book Art is a hit; everyone seems to be enjoying this craft. Grasonville hosted the Annual Cook-Off this year. This event was not as well attended as some previous years but still a nice event. Maybe changing the day to a Wednesday instead of Friday; people tend to have hair appointments and shopping on Fridays. It was suggested to not have the sign-up so far in advance and to have the deadline for participants so far out.

- **Kent Island**

Drum Fit is doing good. Sit & Fit has been great. The St. Patrick's Day Lunch was good, everyone enjoyed themselves. Crafts and the Book Club are going along well. The Meditation Class has been very relaxing and enjoyed by all that attend. The center will host this year's Spring Fling on April 17th.

- **Sudlersville**

Quilting and Bingo are doing well. Pickin & Grinin has had less attendance perhaps due to the weather. The Mobile Library will be at the Center on 3/27 from 9:30 to 10:30. Card Games and Puzzles are every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 1:00. Shuffleboard is played on Fridays and is enjoyed by all. The town of Sudlersville is having a yard sale in May, the Senior Center is planning on participating. Still trying to get folks to participate in the Site Council meetings.

- **Active Aging Center**

Members have access to a Wellness Consultation. This is a free, customized, 30-45 tour of the Wellness Center at the YMCA. The YMCA staff will explain the machines and all-around safety measures to ensure that you are prepared and comfortable while using the equipment. The consultations are available by appointment Mon/Wed/Fri from 9:00-11:00. Money Bingo is on Wednesdays at 1:00. A Puzzle Swap is from 11:00-1:00 on 4/24/25. Painting flowerpots is an upcoming event on 5/12/25 at 10:00. The Y is working on the beginning stages of the outdoor pool, Annie received an email recently saying the pool would be coming in May of 2025.

Becky Barbee asked if they have a special time of year to join the Y with no fee. Annie said during certain times of the year they have a promotion with no joining fee. They also have a sliding scale membership model so it's worth checking out to see how much the membership fee would be.

These are just a few of the events and happenings at the Senior Centers and the Active Aging Center.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

- Annie said Longevity Ready Maryland is a multisector plan for aging. This 10-year plan looks at how we can grow and do better as a state. The plan is now online. Fact sheets and information can be accessed there as well as Virtual Town Halls on 4/3/25 and 4/14/25 if anyone would like to participate in those. Annie handed out fact sheets and information on the Virtual Town Halls. The purpose of the Town Halls is to encourage people to look at the plan and provide feedback. A link to the Town Halls will be sent out to the members in case they choose to sign-up for the Virtual Town Halls.

Annie said Maryland Dept. of Aging sent out an email about the Maryland Commission on Aging looking for folks to fill seats on their Commission. The link to apply to the Maryland Commission on Aging will be emailed also.

- Bonnie mentioned United Seniors of Maryland, this group would have a rally every year in Annapolis in January. This non-partisan consortium of organizations and individuals helped promote senior issues, laws, and programs.
- Cathy sends her regrets; she is just getting over the flu. There are still unknowns for the budget as far federal and state funds.
- Stephen Palmer – Transit Administrator had to testify in front of the state for more money also. Stephen said if you want transportation for Spring Fling, you will need to contact County Ride by April 4th. You will need to notify them for the Senior Summit by May 5th. It should be all on the flyers for the summit.

Currently they have two people that they take to Grasonville Senior Center, nine that they take to Sudlersville Senior Center and one person everyday to the Active Aging Center, but no one to Kent Island Senior Center. Stephen said if you know of anyone that needs a ride to the Senior Centers tell them to contact County Ride.

Loretta asked Stephen if it would okay to compile a list of people who wants transportation to the Senior Summit. She did this last year and it worked out fine. Stephen said that would be okay to do.

Bonnie said she has been encouraging people to ride the bus. Stephen said that they 30,000 rides 2024 so people are riding.

- Spring Fling has struggled in previous years with participation whether it is held in the evening or during the day. They will see how this year's event goes and potentially change the type of event it is. The date of the next CoA meeting has been changed to the 3rd Wednesday instead of the 3rd Thursday because of the Spring Fling Event. The change was motioned by Bonnie Walter and seconded by Loretta Morris and passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Commissioner Moran was not able to attend this month's meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.
- The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 4/16/25 at 10:00 AM - Kramer building.

Submitted by Wendy Gilbert, recording secretary.