

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

ATTENDEES

Members

**Becky Barbee
Toni Breeding
Ida Hein
Janet Melson
Loretta Morris
Janet Salazar
Bonnie Walter**

Advisory Members

**Commissioner Moran
Cathy Willis
Annie Sparks
Stacy Voorhees
Rebecca Jester**

Absent Members

**Betty Davis
Vashti Hughes
Kelly Johnson
Lana Peck
Megan Pinder**

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 Janet Salazar and seconded by Loretta Morris. The minutes were approved.
- The Financial Report was reviewed and motioned to be approved by Becky Barbee and seconded by Loretta Morris. The financial report was approved.
- Bonnie Walter mentioned that the CoA should have done a 5-question survey referencing the food, panel questions, location, and what they would like to be addressed at a future regional meeting. Bonnie asked the attending members what they thought about the food. Some responded that it was good. Bonnie suggested maybe they do soup and sandwiches next time. Bonnie said that she was disappointed that there weren't more Commission on Aging people speaking from other counties. She felt that most of their speakers were staff. Bonnie said Queen Anne's County dazzled; especially when Stephen Palmer said that there wasn't a fee to ride the buses in Queen Anne's County. Annie said that it great to see the participation from QAC CoA as speakers during he event and people seem to have a positive things to say during the event.
- A presentation was given by staff on the Area Plan. A brief description was provided and then Michelle Marshall, Fiscal Administrator, took the group through the Area Plan document on the computer. There are two main parts of the Area Plan, one is our service needs forms that basically goes through our units of service, the number of people that we helped in the past year, and the amount that will be helped for the upcoming year. The other part is the budget pages. The county budget is done first and then funds are funneled into the grant application showing them how we're going to use the grant funds and how much county funds are allocated in programs. Cathy said transportation is not included as transportation has its own state plan. Commissioner Moran wanted to know if the money came from the Federal government directly. Cathy said that federal money goes to the state and then the state funnels it through to the local level. Cathy said they have basically been doing the same application ever since she's been at the QAC Dept. of Aging, and she's been here for the last 30 years and does not remember a different form. The Maryland

Department of Aging should provide this to us in March; every year it gets later and later because they're waiting for the federal funding they provide us for estimated allocations. So when we're preparing this it's not approved funding but we have an estimated allocation of what we're going to receive. We build this whole budget around that, unfortunately a lot of time we've gotten the grant award in May and the county budget is approved by the 1st of June; sometimes we haven't even turned this grant application in by then and everything is behind. It's a little hard to do the whole thing without the information that we need to put into it. Cathy said it is quite an interesting document, but it takes a lot of people to work on it. Bonnie said it's a lot to absorb. Bonnie told the members that now they could see how complicated it is, sometimes when you ask a question, and you don't necessarily get a direct answer. A copy of our most recent Area Plan narrative was handed out. CoA members are encouraged to read that and let us know if they have any feedback heading into our next five-year Area Plan. One of the important things to note is that in the CoA bylaws it says one of your purposes is provide input for the annual Area Plan, continually monitoring that the plan is being followed, and the CoA Chairperson signs off on the plan, so we include the CoA membership which is on page 9. The events you do are also included. Anything that you were concerned about can be put in a narrative, but it doesn't mean it's going to be funded. This is not necessarily we're asking for more money; we're spending this based on what is required by the Older Americans Act it's all based on the federal funding. Michelle showed the members the numbers for the budget based on what percentage of our budget is federal/state funding versus local funds. She said that they should thank the Commissioners for those numbers. Bonnie said people don't understand how well they have it in QAC. They don't have a clue and when you try to explain some of this to them, they say they are not interested.

- Cathy said that nonprofits struggle so much more unless they are great fundraisers. We can't because we're a government agency. Commission on Aging can fundraise and that money can be dumped into this but it's not consistent. Bonnie told the members that she knew the information on the Area Plan was a lot to absorb. She thanked staff for all the work put into it. Cathy said that they have programs that are earned based; we are billing services that we are bringing in, she estimated about \$300,00 a year, in federal programs through Medicaid. This program is a very beneficial thing that has made the department a lot of money. Bonnie said that as long as she has been a member of the CoA, they have never talked about doing any fundraising. Bonnie said members should come to the meeting with ideas and get involved. The commission is not one person so it shouldn't be one person having everything to say. Cathy said county funds could be reduced with any fundraising. Commissioner Moran said that you have to have a target, there are ways to bring in money with fundraising and nonprofits, you would need to know what you're raising the money for. The commissioner said instead of fundraising to ask the Commissioners for what is needed. Bonnie said it is very fortunate that the county has taken back control of senior housing in the county. Bonnie said that 97% of the seniors who live in QAC don't know who the Commissioners are. Loretta Morris said that with the Commissioners attending the Holiday Gala they should know and recognize who they are. Bonnie thanked the Commissioner for all he does.
- Holiday Luncheon- we will be back at Frix's Fire Grill again this year, on 12/11. We don't have the menu yet. Please RSVP that you are coming. Annie pointed out that the luncheon will be on a different date than our usual meeting. This is in place of the regular December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Bonnie wanted to know who had not yet sent in their vote for Chair and Co-Chair. There were only 2 votes missing. Lana Peck who felt that she had not been a member long enough to make a vote. There were enough votes for a quorum. Michelle and Wendy Gilbert tallied the votes while the Site Councils did their reports. Bonnie Walter will continue as Chairperson and the new Co-Chair will be Janet Salazar.

SITE COUNCIL REPORTS

- **Grasonville**

Grasonville, everything seems to be going well at the center. Fleece Blankets will be made on 12/2/25 at 1 PM advanced sign-up is required. Angel Craft, this craft uses a folded book pages to make an angel. This craft takes place on 12/8/25 at 10 AM. Wreath making will be on Tuesday the 9th at 10:30 AM. Power Walk is Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays starting at 8:30 AM. Arthritis Exercise happens on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and it starts 11 AM. Celebrate your holiday spirit at center from 12/15 – 12/19. The week will be filled with a lot of holiday theme fun activities ending with a Holiday “Members Only” Potluck. This just a few of the things happening at the Grasonville Senior Center in December. Becky said that the trip to see Noah went very well except they didn’t have a handicap accessible bus. Stacy said that Jor-Lin Bus Service no longer has handicap accessible buses, they got rid of them during COVID. Jor-Lin gave her numbers of other bus companies that have handicap accessible buses but they don’t serve our area.

- **Kent Island**

Classes are doing well. They just started Chair Yoga; Sit in Fit is doing well. Happy Feet Walking occurs Monday through Friday. Drum Fit is doing okay, but the commercials are a nuisance. Enhance Fitness is on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8:15 AM. Chit Chat Caffe’ on 12/5 will discuss “A Reason for Hope” a Spiritual Journey by Jane Goodall. The making of snow people will be the holiday craft on 12/10 at 10:30 AM. There will be a \$3 supply fee for this craft. The QAC Dept. of Health is at the center on the 3rd Thursday of each month, from 9 AM to 12 PM. Meditation Management is at 10:45 AM on Mondays.

- **Sudlersville**

Everything seems to be going well at the Sudlersville Senior Center, Mug Exchange Game on 12/1 at 10:30 AM. Along with Hot Chocolate Bomb Making at 11 am. Mocktail’s Happy Hour on 12/3 at 11 AM. There will be a Candy Cane Hunt on 12/5 at 11 AM. Cookie Walk & Exchange on 12/10 at 11 AM, Special Holiday Bingo will be on 12/11 at 10 AM. The Snowman Gift Bags on 12/17 at 11 AM, Emotional Support Group will meet on 12/18 at 12:45 PM. Gift Exchange Dice Game on 12/24 at 11 AM.

- **Active Aging Center**

The Active Aging Center is doing well. A new program at the YMCA, Tandem, is for individuals diagnosed with all Alzheimer’s or Dementia and their caregivers starts the month of December. This program will happen on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00-12:00. Resin Keychains & Hairclips will be one of the crafts done at AAC, starts at 9:30 AM with a \$5 project fee. On Tuesday, 12/9 at 9:30 AM there will be a Snowman Decoration project, the cost is \$5. Custom Tea Towel/Tote Bag will be made on 12/16 at 9:30 AM with a cost of \$10 per project. Holiday Gift Tag & Card Making on 12/15 at 1 PM, this is a free activity. AAC will be Having their holiday lunch on 12/17 at 12 PM.

- **Bonnie mentioned Chesapeake Water Tours; they depart from the Hyatt Hotel at the Narrows. They do tours and cruises on the bay. She said this might be an activity for the Senior Center trips. Loretta wanted to know if it was handicap accessible. Bonnie that would be something to investigate.**

- **This year’s Holiday Gala will be held at Sudlersville Senior Center on 12/4.**
- **The all four Senior Centers will be closed on 12/4 - Holiday Gala, 12/12 – Full Staff Training.**
- **All centers will be 12/25/25 thru 1/2/26, they will reopen on 1/5/26.**
- **Active Aging will close at 12 PM on 12/24.**

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

- **Stacy Voorhees did updates on some projects that she is working on; the furniture at Grasonville Senior Center will be the next to be updated. She is also working on the 3 Senior Centers' computer labs, getting the computers updated with the most recent Microsoft changes. Just a few numbers to show what we are doing at the centers. The Federal Fiscal Year which runs October 2024 to September of this year was 1,835 persons served, this a duplicated number and a unduplicated number at each of the centers was about 700 people a month and actually June through September there was an uptick and the number jumped to 800 and above each month. Commissioner asked if that was meals or in general, she answered that it was in general (services, meals, and people coming into the centers). A total for service units and again, this includes everything that the centers offer, they did 86,512 service units in the year that was observed across all four centers, 8,193 meals that average out to about 600 meals per month. All the centers have seen an increase across the boards. One of the hurdles last year was that we served more meals taking us over the budget so we had to move some funds around to make it work. Janet Melson said the food has improved. They have been trying to work with the caterer. Janet Melson asked why they don't serve chocolate milk anymore. Stacy said that she didn't know but could be potentially sugar content in the chocolate milk, all the meals must meet a nutritional requirement. The caterer has been trying to add juice and yogurt as a substitute for milk also. Stacy said it's a work in progress.**
- **Annie did an update regarding SNAP and the federal shutdown. They have been doing weekly meetings with Maryland Dept. of Aging and weekly surveys to give our input on what we are hearing from the public as far as inquiries we are getting from citizens. We have been sharing food bank information with our partners as well promoting the congregate meal program. We're still going through those processes of weekly surveys even though the government has reopened. The federal government as approved the SNAP budget through September 30th. The SNAP program itself is run through the Department of Social Services.**
- **This past Tuesday we gave our last joint presentation to the Commissioners as the Department of Community Services. There will be separate updates from each of the departments going forward (Dept. of Aging and Transportation and Dept. of Housing and Family Services).**
- **Legislatively- MD Dept. of Aging in conjunction with the Directors from the Area Agencies on Aging are working on a bill for Longevity Ready Maryland and requirements for the Maryland Commission on Aging to put into statute to make it permanent so that it would not transition each time an election is held and somebody new comes into the Secretary position.**
- **Follow up on from our last Commission on Aging meeting where we had a conversation on the Housing Authority side of things. It has been confirmed that Mike Clark will be coming to the January meeting to present info on the Housing Authority.**
- **Janet Melson mentioned that the drop box at the Stevensville Post Office had been moved and you can no longer drive up to it. Commissioner Moran said that the decision probably came from the Postmaster General and people breaking into them.**
- **Janet Melson wanted to present an idea concerning Longevity Ready Maryland, but in Queen Anne's County, there should be more resources for the seniors in the county, like doing the birthday boxes that were mentioned at the regional meeting which another county is doing for their seniors. She said Queen Anne's is a beautiful county that people like to walk and bike in and there are a lot of seniors who want to enjoy doing these types of things but can't because there are no benches along the bike and walking trails to stop and take a break. She wanted to know if Parks and Recreation thought about leading walks during the day for seniors. So, if the state is going ready for longevity why can't the county. Cathy said that Parks and Rec has an advisory board that Janet's idea could be presented to. Anyone can go to the advisory board meetings. Janet said maybe have the Parks people talk about morning walks, bird watching. Cathy said that**

Stacy has done programs with Part & Rec like Beach Blanket Bingo at Conquest Beach. They may be able to do some type of programming throughout the year. Bonnie said you can take a walk in the back of the Visitors Center to the beach. Bonnie suggested forming a subcommittee with Janet Melson as the lead. Janet said would. Commissioner Moran mentioned that some of the benches along the trail are in memory of someone or an organization donated one. Janet Melson mentioned that she and some friends were working at Nemo Park when someone let their dog off the leash and it knocked over one of the ladies. She feels that something should be done about letting the dogs run off their leashes. Bonnie asked that a motion be made to add another subcommittee, the motion was made by Becky Barbee and seconded by Ida Hein. It was voted on unanimously to add the committee. The members for this subcommittee will be Janet Melson and Janet Salazar; Annie asked to be included as an advisory member also. Cathy said that Rebecca Jester had a good idea. Rebecca said Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts in Caroline County did a project where they put in benches at one of their parks. Bonnie asked who the contact would be for them. Cathy advised them to go to the Parks & Rec Advisory Board first. Commissioner Moran said that they meet the 2nd Monday of the month. Cathy said that you can just call Parks & Rec and tell them that you are a citizen that wants to present something at their next Advisory Board meeting. Becky Barbee said that the Retired Teachers Assoc was collecting bottle caps that they took to the extension office, and they made benches from, and she believes the benches are at the 4-H Park. Bonnie said that because of an issue with accessing areas at the 4-H Park a past member of the CoA went to 4-H Board to show them crucial areas that were not accessible to someone in a wheelchair. The CoA helped with getting a grant writer to get a grant to help make these areas accessible.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

- There was a Town Hall about the intersection of 301 and 405 in Price about all the accidents that have been happening there. State Highway was there and told them that it could be between 3 to 5 years before they put a J-Turn there. The Commissioner said that was not acceptable. So they are pressing something to be done sooner.
- The budget cycle has started again and there's some interesting things that are going on with that may benefit a lot of people that were at the meeting.
- Ribbon cutting at the new BOE building was very nice, it's a great facility and should not need any work for a long time. The old BOE building has not come back to the county yet; they're getting all the paperwork in line and then it is coming back to the county. There is a bunch of interest, four or five different types of things that people want to do with it. The Commissioner said that they will not put anything in there relating to the school systems, students, or faculty. The building needs major renovations and they are not going to spend that kind of money on it. It will be probably going to be outsourced to an organization that's either going to buy it or sign some sort of lease.
- Last week the Commissioner attended an event at the Beach Club who had a veteran who was the longest serving prisoner of war. He spent over 8 years as a prisoner in Vietnam, he was a great speaker. Commissioner Moran said that FVPPA is picking up their game and taking care of the veterans and their families, telling them where to go to get services.
- Commissioner Moran said that he has a Zoom call in about hour referencing the Conowingo Dam, about the pollution with the dam. The struggle with the economic side of it. Hundreds of millions of dollars effecting the tributaries, rivers, and pollution are very limited with dredging, right now this is not going to pass a vote. It's a challenge for courts, which Chip McCloud has already filed an injunction. The federal government will say you need the power, and we will let them get away with it. It will only take one major storm with 2 or 3 days of rainfall to come down from the Pennsylvania valley. It will kill all the mussels and oysters.
- Town Hall at the library at 6 PM, it's about adequate public facilities development.

- **The county is trying to occupy some property in Kent Narrows for the new recreation center and other amenities such as Pickle Ball courts.**
- **The Commissioner said they are concerned with what is happening in DC with the federal workers. There are less than 1,000 federal workers that live QAC, so we are not seeing the impact that Anne Arundel, Prince Georges, and Montgomery counties are seeing but they are still monitoring the situation.**
- **They have received 3 AAA bond ratings, better than any county on the Eastern Shore, which is better than the state of Maryland. They were able to fund education with everything they asked. Four Seasons, funding the firehouse, freshwater system of wells, 5 million towards the new hospital in Easton, there is a lot of good things going on in the county.**
- **Bonnie asked about crossing 50 trails, he said by end of the year RK Designs will have four different selections to select from. Another organization wants the 4th selection which would cross over route 50. The commissioners do not want that option.**
- **Janet asked about solar panels going up on Kent Island. He said that it would locally generate electricity for local homes.**

- **We will gather for our Christmas Luncheon on December 11, 2025, at Frix's Fire Grill 1533 Postal Rd. Chester, MD. The luncheon starts at 11:30 AM. This is will be instead of our regular December meeting.**
- **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Loretta Morris and seconded by Becky Barbee. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.**

Submitted by Wendy Gilbert , Aging Services Office Coordinator.