

Anne Arundel County
Department of Aging and Disabilities
Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council

Minutes

March 17th, 2023

10:00am Hybrid Meeting

Present Members:

Maryann Yarbrough
Russ Jones
Angela Mickalide
Kum Watson
Jamarri Bright
Becky Batta
Shirley Norlem

Absent Members:

Kathy McNally

Public in Attendance:

None

Next Meeting will be a hybrid meeting in the Independence Room (Heritage 2664) and Zoom webinar on April 21st at 10:00am

I. Minutes

- a. February minutes were reviewed by the council and approved.

II. Council Reports

- a. Department Personnel
 - i. Karrisa Kelly (Director of Department of Aging and Disabilities)

1. Carmel Roques has started as the new secretary for MDOA. The Secretary presented the budget and advocated for additional senior care funds and subsidies for assisted living facility users. Karrisa asked for a 1:1 opportunity to better share experiences between MDOA and DoAD.

2. Cram the Cruiser event was very successful. Cram the Cruiser is a partnership between A.A. County Police Department and DOAD to collect items such as toiletries, games, activity books and other needs for ALFs.
3. SNAP beneficiaries are being affected by the conclusion of the COVID19 federal emergency declarations. Benefits will decrease to as low as 50%. 1,800 recipients will be impacted age 60 and older in AA County. Two events on April 5th and 6th to provide beneficiaries with food, benefits navigation and other opportunities to lessen the impact of rising food costs.
4. The Ralph J. Bunche Community Center, Inc. - Pam Jordan reported on the renovation progress. The Ralph Bunche Senior Center and community have been fundraising to renovate the original historic school that had burned down. The County has offered to help with the inclusion of a family support center and a senior nutrition center. The center is located on Mill Swamp road. Will include a large community room and a museum. \$750,000 from the state of Maryland is included.
5. Severn Intergenerational Center
 - a. Opening May 13th. 1160 Reece Rd, Severn, MD.
 - b. A weekly staff meeting has been held as well as a bi-weekly meeting for the larger group.
 - c. The Director has been hired.
 - d. Volunteer opportunities will be announced in April for the event.
 - e. Food trucks will be available and individuals will self-select their chosen food truck at the time of registration.
 - f. Transportation challenges were discussed.
 - g. Layout for the event has been worked on. There is a plan that explains what will happen at each location at the event.
 - h. There will be a proclamation issued for Older Americans Month.
 - i. Van Bokkelen elementary school and the south county showstoppers will be doing an intergenerational performance.
 - j. Russ will be playing 20 minute sets during the event.
 - k. There will be about 15 exhibitors indoors around the perimeter of the multipurpose room. There will be free tables in the center of the room. There will be an art project available and activities led by the Boys and Girls Club in the gym.
 - l. Outdoors there will be a large tent with tables and chairs to sit as well as more exhibitors near the back end of the parking lot. Food vendors will also be available outdoors.
 - m. The plan is to reduce walking distance for accessibility to individuals with children and individuals who cannot or do not want to walk long distances. There will also be an area set aside

for individuals to be dropped off by shuttle from the different senior activity centers and the two schools that the department is working with to provide parking, Bob Mosier of AACPS is taking the lead on this.

- n. County Executive Pittman will be attending.

III. Presentation by Emalee Crawford, Communities For Life Service Navigator, Partners In Care Maryland, Inc. 8151C Ritchie Hwy, Pasadena, MD 21122.

- a. Partners in Care is located in Pasadena, MD and is a service exchange allowing participants to earn points toward services using gifts, talents or donations. Participants can use their banked points to earn transportation to appointments or use of handyman services. Membership is free. P.I.C. also provides buses for senior centers. (Liability of the bus drivers is covered by P.I.C).
- b. The Craft Group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month and the sold crafts help to fund the mission. There are offices in several counties throughout Maryland but the boutiques are only in Anne Arundel and Frederick counties.
- c. Community For Life - \$216 membership fee but Medicaid is awarding a \$50 credit toward each participant. Two hours of handyman services are offered and six hours of transportation are allowed with a guest to accompany (waiver required). Community for Life also offers Connect America, a system similar to life alert, to support families with medical alerts. Emergency Preparedness classes are also available. On April 9th there will be an active shooter training available.
- d. P.I.C. always needs volunteer cashier help at the boutique as well as front desk staff or additional handymen. Volunteers are never turned away. Jamarri volunteers as a driver and uses her banked hours to have some yard work done. She is donating some of her unused banked hours to other individuals who might need them.
- e. Needs - clothing, appliances, artwork, office supplies and seasonal items.
- f. P.I.C. can provide companion visits.
- g. Hours - Mon-Sat 10am-6pm. Donation hours are Tues-Sat 9am-12pm.

IV. Senior Centers

i. Brooklyn Park Senior Activity Center (Kum Watson)

1. Brooklyn Park Library tech assistant. They provide tech assistance once a month.
2. St. Patrick's Day party March 14th – approximately 50 people attended.
3. Ryan's EDM dancercise was held on March 16th.
4. There will be a Dispenser Décor Workshop by center associate Lisa Sinnet.
5. The indoor yard/bake sale will be held on June 29th and 30th.

ii. South County Senior Activity Center (Russ Jones)

1. Fitness Room- Some individuals that are angry, anecdotal, individual upset about the fitness room and were angry at front desk staff due to needing an appointment. DoAD Team is looking into what can be done with the exercise training requirement in order to streamline the process.
2. DoAD is working with Office of Law to examine the liability. Office of law will examine the legal advice to see what is possible. Russ asked for clarification on what county insurance covered. Karris explained that the county has umbrella coverage that covers the center's physical location, its staff, and any individual injured on the center's property).

iii. Pasadena Senior Activity Center (Becky Batta)

1. Elliptical equipment has been ordered for the exercise room.
2. Trips and tax services are a success.
3. There is a board meeting to be held on 3/21.

iv. O'Malley Senior Activity Center (Kathy McNally, absent)

v. Arnold Senior Activity Center (Maryann Yarborough)

1. Trips - Third trip this year will be to Hancock Historical Gardens in Pasadena.
2. Spring class registrations were sent to AACC on 3/7. Members can still register with AACC directly.
3. Tax preparation is available Monday-Thursday.
4. Restaurant Fundraisers - Brian Boru made \$620. Senior Chile is the next restaurant to participate and after that, Red Hot & Blue.
5. Mothers Day Tea will be held on 5/12. Jewelry sale 9am-2pm. Tea will be from 11:30am-1:00pm. Hoping to sell 50 spaces this year. Catering by Reynolds Tavern.
6. Renovation - Information on dates that the center will be closed was asked. There will be storage available for any large items.
7. Liability Insurance - The "Friends of" organization has insurance they have retained for years and provided copies of contact information to the other Advisory Council meetings. As the fundraising arm of the center which hosts events, there were concerns about whether the organization was covered if someone gets injured during a 501c3 sponsored event. Encouraged council members to contact the treasurer Dave Bassett at 410-757-0790 if they want additional information.

vi. Pascal Senior Activity Center (Jamarri Bright)

1. Tax Preparation - 312 tax returns were prepared. The last day will be 3/30. A rolling waitlist is still in effect. The Severna Park Library is offering a walk in service through April.
2. An outdoor yard sale will be held 4/22 with a rain date of 4/29. \$25 fee for two parking spaces and participants must bring their own tables. Forms are available at the center.
3. Volunteer recognition is being held on 6/12.
4. The Curtis Beach picnic will be held on 6/28. Cost information to come.

vii. Annapolis Senior Activity Center (Shirley Norlem)

1. The board was updated on the information from the previous Advisory Council meeting.
2. Mother's Day Tea will be held on May 17th.
3. Exercise Room - ADA requirements? Joelle explained that four feet is the minimum but that the department strongly recommends five feet. With this space requirement there is only room for two or three pieces of equipment.

IV. Old Business

- a. Advisory Council Badges
 - i. Badges will be in next week.
- b. Computer Software
 - i. Looking at software to augment our current platform. Currently looking at MySeniorCenter.

V. Public Comment

- a. Gaming video lottery operational license.
- b. House Bill 925 - Exemption for hearing aid products (custom musician monitors, ear molds, hearing aid supplies, batteries and other items from MD sales tax).
- c. Bill requires health providers and other services to include hearing aids in their coverage. Bill allows providers to limit coverage to \$1,400. If a health plan covers hearing loss, it must provide at least \$1,400 worth of benefits available to the individual.
- d.

VI. Adjournment

- a. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Josh Killian/Heidi Howard