

**Prince George's County, Maryland  
Advisory Committee on Aging**

Meeting minutes from Thursday, January 27, 2022, held virtually on Microsoft Teams.

**Committee Members Present:**

- Kofi Impraim (Chair)
- Diane Williams (Vice Chair)
- Margaret Baltimore
- Shaunda Bellamy
- Vanecia Davis
- Claudia Dickens
- Gwendolyn Drummond
- Deidre Jackson
- Gretchen Lofland, Ed. D
- Kym Taylor
- Eddimae Tisdale

**Committee members absent:**

Erica Noble (Secretary)

**Department of Family Services Staff:**

- Joann Carnathan, Unit Manager, Aging and Disabilities Services Division
- Megan Vila, Aging and Disabilities, Services Division
- Karen Sylvester, Acting Division Manager, Aging and Disabilities Services Division

**Guests:**

Jennifer Hawkins and Julius Turner  
Office of Community Relations

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kofi Impraim at 9:30 a.m. He welcomed everyone and introductions followed.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Noble had an emergency and could not be present so Chair Impraim said the minutes would be skipped for this meeting. He and the Vice Chair are actively looking for an Assistant Secretary until new officers are elected in June 2022.

**Aging Report (Karen Sylvester)**

Ms. Sylvester advised that Elana Belon-Butler is back at Family Services as the Director. She further advised that nutrition sites are still closed but will hopefully

reopen on January 31, 2022. Ms. Sylvester said that the FY 2023 budget is being developed. They are still experiencing some staff shortages throughout the Department. The new Resource Guide is now available.

Ms. Sylvester discussed 5 legislative bills affecting the aging population:

- Family Medical Leave Insurance Fund.
- Medicaid Waiver
- Exploitation of vulnerable adults and elderly individuals when transferring property.
- Requirement that to be appointed by the Governor the Secretary of Health must have experience/education in that field and a background in health.
- Adult Protective Services to create a registry of vulnerable adults

Finally, she said that the Adopt-A-Ward Event had gone very well and that 80 wards were able to receive Christmas gifts. She thanked those members of the Advisory Committee who had participated.

**Office of Community Relations** - Ms. Hawkins introduced herself and Mr. Turner and then shared her screen with the Committee while discussing the upcoming launch of PGC 311-On-the-Go. This will be a mobile app and web portal which will be available 24 hours a day – 7 days a week and will allow citizens to input their service requests directly to Prince George’s County. The County Click 311 Call Center will still be available during regular business hours. The Office of Community Relations is looking to launch PGC 311 On-the-Go sometime in February 2022. She explained the features of the new system which will follow the life cycle of a service request. Ms. Hawkins explained that the features of this new system will be very user friendly and will be easy to navigate which will allow citizens to better follow their service requests. She further advised that this system is designed to improve citizens’ ability to get county assistance. Ms. Hawkins said Team Members from the 311 app will be out in the community to discuss community needs and in some cases can initiate service requests on the spot. She provided two examples of community outreach while on walking tours; (1) was the removal of a tour bus after several years which caused neighbor complaints, and (2) the removal of a tree that might have fallen on a home. After the discussion, Ms. Hawkins took several questions.

### **Old Business**

- Vice Chair Williams thanked everyone for supporting the November Event – “We’re Stronger Together” which was a success.
- **New Business**  
Chair Impraim advised that there would be a presentation on Ethics Training on March 4, 2022. This presentation is considered training, and at its conclusion all attendees would be awarded a certification of completion of this training.

## **Legislative**

Ms. Taylor said that Ms. Sylvester had already advised on much of her report, but she wanted to add that the General Assembly began in January and will go until April. She described Senate Bill 251 which is a Subtraction Bill for Centenarians that is being proposed. A bill is also being proposed to establish a Director of Dementia Services. SB 82 would require Certified Nursing Assistants to meet certain licensing requirements. Ms. Taylor said she had still had no communications with the United Seniors of Maryland.

## **Communication and Public Awareness**

Dr. Lofland discussed the successful “We’re Stronger Together” event held in November for Caregivers’ Month. She said that over 45 people attended, and after the discussions several questions were asked.

Dr. Lofland outlined upcoming events and the planning that is taking place for them:

- April 28, 2022 – Inspiration with Centenarians with a general theme of “Diversity, Seniors Around the World.”
- May 26, 2022 – Older Americans Month Activity – This event would honor centenarians and Ms. Davis will be the moderator/hostess.
- May 2, 2022 - Elder Law Day - the plan is to use the attorney who presented to the Committee last year
- June 15, 2022 – Elder Abuse Awareness Day

All these events will be virtual and are planned to begin at 10:00 a.m. The length of the presentations will vary from 1 ½ - 2 hours.

## **Strategic Planning**

Ms. Jackson reported that the committee had not been able to meet. She has a thumb drive with the photos taken at the Retreat and is looking for a way to send them to all members. She asked for dates of upcoming events so they can be included in the Advisory Committee on Aging’s brochure. The committee is working on social media pages and will send a draft for review by the Chair and Co-Chair for approval. Ms. Jackson said she would prepare and send a list of nominations for all open positions in preparation for the upcoming elections. Planning has begun for the Retreat in June. A pamphlet is prepared and ready for digitalization about the committees and their responsibilities.

**Announcements** – Chair Impraim discussed a book by Walter Moseley that has been adapted in television and film entitled, “The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey.” The book is currently out of print. After discussion it was agreed that since this covered a journey concerning Alzheimer’s, committee members wanted to see it. The Chair will coordinate this event with the Communications Committee and the dates looked at are March 28 or March 31, 2022. He is hopeful that Mr. Moseley could participate. Ms. Carnathan asked for the time of the event as she must make arrangements for

scheduling. Chair Impraim said he would get back to her asap concerning the time and based on Mr. Moseley's availability.

- Ms. Bellamy advised that there is a presentation on February 8, 2022, at 12:30 p.m. entitled, "Safety Behind the Wheel." Pickett Fences is hosting an Incontinence Supply Drive on February 22, 2022 and shared a flyer concerning this event.

### **Adjournment**

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging will be **Thursday, March 24, 2022**, on the Microsoft Teams platform.

Submitted by: Claudia Dickens