

MEETING MINUTES	COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING		
Date	February 8, 2022	Meeting Time	10:00 AM
Chairpersons	Olivia Farrow & Jim Campbell	Meeting Location	Zoom meeting

Attendees:

COMMISSIONERS	Status	STAFF	
Claudia Balog	√	Raia Contractor	√
Dr. Yvonne Bronner	√	Kathe Hammond	√
Jim Campbell	√	Alice Huang	√
Barbara “Reba” Cornman	√	James Macgill	√
Dr. Thomas Cudjoe	√	Molly Martin	√
Jenny Pena Dias-Hayes	√	Rochelle Purnell	√
Dr. Odessa Dorkins	√	Keidra Rowe	√
Monte Ephraim	√	Amanda Smith	√
Olivia Farrow	√	Heang Tan	√
Susan Francis, Esquire	√		
Dr. W. Daniel Hale	√	EX-OFFICIOS	
Elizabeth F. Johnson	√	Dr. Letitia Dzirasa	
Sonja Merchant-Jones	√	Michael S. Harrison	
Pastor Brian Murray	√	Alice Kennedy	
Councilwoman Sharon Middleton	√	Reginald Moore	
Sarah Szanton	√	Christopher Ryer	
		Brandi Stocksdale	
INVITED GUESTS			
Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods	√	REPRESENTATIVES	
Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement		Nicole Hart, DHCD	√
Office of Equity and Civil Rights		Ondoria Harmon, MON	
		Leslie Yancey, Rec & Parks	√
		Sean Bloodsworth, DSS	√
		Katie Yorick, Homeless Services	√

I. Roll Call

II. Opening Remarks – Jim Campbell & Olivia Campbell

The Co-chairs thanked the Commissioners for attending the meeting and continuing to support the efforts to provide resources to the older adults in Baltimore City.

III. Approval of January Minutes – Commission Members

The January minutes were approved with two additions:

- Commissioner Johnson advised that the Zeta Center’s full name is the Zeta Center for Healthy and Active Aging.
- Commissioner Cudjoe said that his employment should include his association with Johns Hopkins Home Based Medicine.

IV. COVID-19 Update – Kendra McDow, Chief Medical Officer, BCHD

Dr. McDow provided an overview of the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in Baltimore City and the Health Department’s response to it (see attached PowerPoint). Extensive efforts to vaccinate older adults in the City have been successful. For Baltimore residents age 60 and over:

- 86% have received their first or single dose.
- 82% are fully vaccinated.
- 73% of those eligible have received a booster.

Dr. McDow and the Division of Aging staff provided information on initiatives to provide access to vaccinations including senior housing vaccination clinics and vaccinations for the homebound. The Division continues to respond to needs for service coordination through Maryland Access Point and for food, through several meal and food box programs, administered by the Bureau of Community Services.

V. Area Agency on Aging Director Update – Deputy Commissioner Tan

Deputy Commissioner Tan provided some updates on Baltimore City’s American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

The Mayor’s Town Hall on ARPA is today, February 8 at 6:00 pm. For more information, contact 855-756-7520 ext. 78505

Nonprofits and City agencies can apply for City ARPA funding. The website for ARPA application submissions is:

<https://arpa.baltimorecity.gov/>

VI. Legislative Updates – Jim Macgill

Mr. Macgill provided an update on Maryland General Assembly bills that the Advocacy Committee is tracking, and on which it is considering submitting testimony. He identified six categories of bills and some of the key issues these bills are addressing.

- **Expansion of existing services:** These include Medicaid coverage of dental care for adults, expansion of home and community-based Medicaid Waivers and expanded eligibility of the State supplemental SNAP benefit for older adults.
- **Long term care:** Several bills address quality of care and workforce issues within nursing homes, assisted living and residential service agencies.
- **Protection of the vulnerable:** The major bill in this area would establish of a vulnerable adult registry.
- **Insurance regulation:** Bills address modification of Open Enrollment periods, and making electronic advance directives available to participants in insurance plans.
- **Tax benefits:** There are several bills providing tax reductions and/or benefits for older Marylanders.
- **Other:** There are cross-filed bills to establish minimum qualifications for the Maryland Secretary of Aging.

VII. Commission Committees

The Outreach Committee will meet on 2/14 at 2:00 PM.

Commissioner Yvonne Bronner and Parks and Recreation Liaison Leslie Yancey would like to be on the Public Outreach Committee.

VIII. Updates from Commissioners

Commissioner Francis provided information regarding the new tax sale program. The contact for the program is Michael O'Leary at the Department of Housing and Community Development.

There were many concerns about the housing situation for older adults. Nicole Hart with BCHD has agreed to present at the next meeting. Also, she can be reached at 410.396.3023.

The next meeting of the Commission will be March 8 at 10:00 AM.