

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

Attendees:

COMMISSIONERS	Status	STAFF	
Claudia Balog	√	Alice Huang	√
Dr. Yvonne Bronner	√	James “Jim” Macgill	√
James “Jim” Campbell	√	Heang Tan	√
Barbara “Reba” Cornman	-	Rochelle Purnell	√
Dr. Thomas Cudjoe	-	Keidra Rowe	√
Dr. Jenny Pena Dias-Hayes	√	Elise Bowman	√
Dr. Odessa Dorkins	-		
Monte Ephraim	√		
Olivia Farrow	√		
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	
Dr. Sarah Szanton	-	Christopher Ryer	
		Brandi Stocksdale	
INVITED GUESTS			
Betsy Simon	√	REPRESENTATIVES	
Scott Davis, Mayor’s Office of Neighbors (MON)	√	Jasmine Barnes, representing Councilwoman Middleton	√
Ondoria Harmon, MON		Janai Ward, DHCD	√
		Leslie Yancey, Rec & Parks	√
		Sean Bloodsworth, DSS	√

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

The Co-Chairs welcomed the Commission and guests to the May meeting. Co-Chair Farrow reminded members of the Commission of the importance of getting COVID-19 vaccine shots and boosters. Co-Chair Campbell noted that May is Older Americans Act month, and encouraged Commission members to be aware of the many activities taking place.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April Commission meeting were approved as presented.

Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods

Mr. Scott Davis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods and Ms. Ondoria Harmon, Senior Community Liaison gave an overview of the Office, also known as MON (see attached PowerPoint). MON is separate from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, which is focused on violence prevention. MON promotes outreach from the Mayor and community engagement. MON staff serve as facilitators and connectors, and work to implement the Mayor's Five Pillars:

1. Building Public Safety
2. Prioritizing Youth
3. Equitable Economic & Neighborhood Development
4. Clean & Healthy Communities
5. Responsible Stewardship of City Resources

One of MON's focus areas is older adults; Ms. Harmon is the Mayor's liaison to that age groups. Ms. Harmon introduced herself and said she was looking forward to getting back out into the community.

Commissioner Johnson asked if MON could provide specific examples of work the office has done for older adults. Mr. Davis noted that MON has organized several social events for older adults, featuring the Mayor. It also sponsors senior walks in City parks with the Mayor, and in cooperation with BCHD Division of Aging, provides assistance with constituent issues.

Commissioner Bronner asked if there could be a day promoting older adult skills and contributions to the City, and if the City could create opportunities for assuring that those skills and contributions are utilized. Mr. Davis said that efforts are underway to provide such recognition, including a Mayoral proclamation and a possible internship program for older adults in City government.

Deputy Commissioner Tan noted that MON had been a valuable partner for BCHD, particular in facilitating outreach to older adults during the pandemic. Commissioner Ephraim requested via the chat that the Mayor recognize National Honor our LGBT Elders Day (May 16). Deputy Commissioner Tan said that this should be possible.

Co-Chair Campbell asked how the word was getting out about the Mayor's Telephone Town Hall for Older Adults, scheduled for Wednesday May 18. Mr. Davis said that he welcomed help from the Commission getting the word out.

Ms. Harmon, in response to a question from Co-Chair Farrow, provided more details on the Mayor's Walks, and said that these will resume in the fall.

Mr. Davis and Ms. Harmon's contact information:
Ondoria.harmon@baltimorecity.gov 443-721-5906
scottc.davis@baltimorecity.gov 443-602-4217

Local Health Improvement Council :

Ms. Elise Bowman, Director, Accountable Health Communities, presented information on Baltimore City's Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC). The LHIC is a State requirement for local Health Department accreditation. The LHIC is designed to bring together an intersectional group from various sectors and communities to

- Identify local health priorities
- Make recommendations for making improvements to address these priorities.

Baltimore LHIC has identified three priorities:

- 1) Diabetes
- 2) Social determinants of health
- 3) Care coordination

The LHIC is creating workgroups to address each of these priorities. Ms. Bowman encouraged Commissioners to join the LHIC as representatives of the older adult community, either as participants in one of the workgroups or as a member of LHIC's steering committee.

In response to questions from the Co-Chairs, Ms. Bowman said that the LHIC is seeking four to six representatives from the older adult community, to serve on the work groups or on the steering community. The LHIC meets quarterly on Fridays at 9 AM (the next meeting is Friday May 29). The working groups meet more frequently. Commission members interested in joining a work group can email stephane.bertrand2@baltimorecity.gov.

Commissioner Bronner noted that she is a member of the social determinants of health work group, and encouraged other Commission members to join the LHIC. Deputy Commissioner Tan said that the Commission can decide if it wants to recommend a point person to serve on the steering committee.

Commissioner Johnson asked how long the LHIC has existed. Ms. Bowman said the LHIC was created in 2017, went into hiatus for a few years, and was re-established in 2021. Commissioner Johnson asked what the mission of the LHIC is. Ms. Bowman said

the LHIC's mission is to identify the most important public health priorities for the City, and to establish goals we should work towards. Ms. Bowman emphasized that the Health Department's role is to be a neutral convener, to bring voices from the community together to address health priorities.

She provided a link to LHIC web site: <https://health.baltimorecity.gov/local-health-improvement-coalition> and

Her contact information: elise.bowman@baltimorecity.gov

Area Aging on Agency Report:

Deputy Commissioner Tan provided an overview of the annual Area Plan process (see PowerPoint). She explained that the BCHD Division of Aging is the designated Area Agency on Aging for Baltimore City. Every four years the Area Agency prepares a comprehensive plan and then updates it in the intervening years. The primary thrust of the Area Plan is to assure compliance with federal and State law, regulations and policy and to address how the City will respond to specific programmatic requirements (e.g., the nutrition, family caregivers, ombudsman, guardianship programs, etc.) Our Area Plan follows the Strategic Framework the Division of Aging established a few years ago with three principal goals:

1. Help older adults age in place
2. Promote good health and quality of life
3. Cultivate a collaborative advocacy network.

Our update this year address the need to address social determinants of health, the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and plans to restore services to pre-pandemic levels.

Commissioner Bronner asked how the City could find a better way to inform the public about positive accomplishments in the City for older adults. Deputy Commissioner Tan responded that the Commission's annual report was an excellent vehicle for highlighting those accomplishments, and mentioned the Mayor's upcoming 410 TV show with the Co-Chairs and the Mayor's Town Hall for older adults.

Commission Committee Reports:

Advocacy Committee:

Co-Chair Campbell mentioned two bills passed by the General Assembly of import:

- A bill to address care in assisted living facilities with nine or fewer beds.
- A bill that changed the name of the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators to include assisted living managers and that required State licensure of these managers.

At the last Advocacy Committee meeting, the City Long Term Care Ombudsman presented an update to the Committee on issues with quality of care in nursing homes and assisted living. The Ombudsman reported that increasingly, private equity entities see

nursing homes as investment opportunities and are buying into the industry, with a resultant negative impact on quality of care in these facilities.

Assistant Commissioner Macgill asked the Commission to sponsor a webinar at the end of June which will feature a national expert on the role of private equity investors in the nursing home industry. Co-Chair Campbell asked if the Commission had any objection to sponsoring the webinar; there was none.

Outreach Committee:

Acting Assistant Commissioner Huang reported that the next meeting of the Commission Outreach Committee is scheduled for May 31. At the meeting the Committee will review input from the community and the Strategic Framework. Ms. Huang encouraged Commissioners to contact her at Alice.Huang@baltimorecity.gov if they are interested in joining the Committee.

Commissioner Discussion and Announcements Commission Members:

Co- Chair Farrow asked if there were any other announcements.

Pastor Murray said he would not be at the next meeting; he will be representing his fraternity at the National Pan-Hellenic Council that day in Washington DC.

Ms. Betsy Simon reminded the Commission that BDS Healthy Aging Network is continuing to meet every Wednesday 1 PM- 4 PM/5PM, and that the Network is sponsoring a Caregivers Circle as part of the program each week. The Care Circle is facilitated by Linda Stewart, Director, Hopkins Called to Care Program and Jose Jimenez, Director of the BCHD Family Caregivers Program. Access information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82739479263> OR DIAL: +1 301 715 8592 & Meeting ID: 827 3947 9263.

Deputy Commissioner Tan announced that the City had received a \$2.3 million federal earmark grant to improve Internet access for the City's 13 senior centers.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.