

Carroll County Commission on Aging & Disabilities Meeting

Meeting Date: September 24, 2025

Start Time: 10:00am

Location: Virtual

Chairperson: Jim McCarron

Vice-Chair: Lauren Hickey

Topic	Discussion
Attendance – COAD members in bold	Lauren Hickey, Jim McCarron , Cheryl Ebaugh, Lois Romeo, Jason Martin, Louis Yeager, Robert Hicks, Lisa Shepet, Dave Drezner, Susan Doyle, Monica Haines Benkhedda, Amy Baker, Michelle Jacobs, Bobbie Lawrence, Commissioner Vigliotti, Gina Valentine, Celene Steckel, Amanda Coshun
Acronyms	AAA - Area Agency on Aging, ADA - American's w/Disabilities Act, ADL - Activities of Daily Living, AIP – Aging in Place, BCC – Board of County Commissioners, BOAD - Bureau of Aging and Disabilities, COAD – Commission on Aging and Disabilities, CDSMP – Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, CTS – Carroll Transit System, CIL - Center for Independent Living, DSS – Department of Social Services, FFP – Federal Financial Participation, HSP – Human Services Programs of Carroll County, LTAC – Long Term Advisory Council, LTCOP - Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, M4A - Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging, MAP - Maryland Access Point, MASCC – Mt. Airy Senior & Community Center, MDH - Maryland Department of Health, MDoA – Maryland Department of Aging, MFP -Money Follows the Person, MOU – Memorandum of Understanding, MWOA - Medicaid Waiver for Older Adults, NCSCC – North Carroll Senior & Community Center, NED - Non-Elderly Disabled, NFCSP - National Family Caregiver Support Program, OAA - Older Americans Act, OHCQ - Office of Health Care Quality, SALS - Senior Assisted Living Subsidy program, SCSCC – South Carroll Senior & Community Center, SHIP - State Health Insurance Assistance Program, SIP - Senior Inclusion Program, SMP - Senior Medicare Patrol, SPDAP - Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program, TSCC – Taneytown Senior & Community Center, VTV – Village to Village, WEAAD – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, WSCC – Westminster Senior & Community Center.
Call to Order/Introductions – Jim McCarron	Jim McCarron called the meeting to order.
Establishment of a Quorum – Jim McCarron	Quorum was established.
Approval of Minutes – Jim McCarron	The July meeting minutes were approved. Motion to approve was made by Lauren Hickey and seconded by Michelle Jacobs. The minutes were approved unanimously.
Commissioner's Comments –	Commissioner Vigliotti

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received many compliments from the Aging Your Way Expo and from fellow commissioners. Sue Krebs has begun serving as the new commissioner for District 5. Commissioner Vigliotti asked which areas still need representation on the commission. Gina noted we need a family representative for developmental disabilities. Possible outreach includes ARC, Target, and Flying Colors to see if they have a representative who might be interested. Additional openings include: Mt. Airy, veterans, and an individual with a developmental disability/SIP. <i>Note:</i> At least 50% of members must be 60 or older. Gina recommended reviewing the bylaws for clarification and considering any changes that may be needed. Vigliotti prefers the virtual aspect for future COAD meetings to accommodate everyone's schedules.
Bureau of Aging & Disabilities	<p><u>BOAD Update – Gina Valentine</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gina introduced the new Event and Project Specialist, Amanda Coshun. The County has decided to change the name from “Bureau” to Division of Aging and Disabilities; this may also result in some job title changes. Expo Updates: Projected attendance was approximately 1,500. The event included 11 different screenings, as well as acupuncture and reiki therapy. Screening results were reviewed. A wrap-up Expo meeting is scheduled for October 28th. OAAPS: Work will begin once instructions are received from the MDoA. Older Americans Act Final Rule: Passed and must be in compliance by October 1st. A list of all relationships must be compiled and sent to MDoA by September 30th to ensure there are no conflicts of interest. Contract with Legal Aid also needs to be renewed. Federal Funding: MDoA has not yet received notification of grant awards. Business will continue as usual until funding updates are received. SOAR (Supporting Older Adults with Resources): The Senior Care Program will remain, but the Senior Assisted Living Subsidy (SALS) Program will be phased out. A new structure for SOAR will be introduced. Proposed Legislation: MDoA is considering submitting legislation that would allow nonprofits to apply for certain state programs. Concerns were raised about possible duplication of services. More information will follow.

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Program Update - Bobbie Lawrence

- Expo: Thank-yous were shared.
- Caregiver Conference: Scheduled for November 15, 9:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m. at Westminster Senior Center. Denise Valentine will prepare a flyer within the week.
- Medicare Open Enrollment: Runs from October 15–December 7. Kristen has started a call-back list and will begin scheduling appointments on October 1st.
- Diabetes Self-Management Program: Erica Starr will lead a free, in-person *Living Healthy, Living Well* workshop at the Residences at Hampstead School. Sessions run October 15–November 26, 9:00–11:30 a.m.

Senior Center Update- Gina Valentine

- Rich Ottone not present; Gina Valentine provided his updates.
- The manager position at Mt. Airy Senior Center became vacant following Angie Waltz's retirement. Melissa Cougnet, formerly the manager at South Carroll Senior Center, has been reassigned to Mt. Airy.
- The South Carroll manager position is now vacant and has been posted.
- Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinics (in partnership with Finksburg Pharmacy) will be from October 6 – October 10 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the senior centers. Flyers are available to be emailed. Participants should bring their insurance cards.
- October is Residents' Rights Month. Appreciation extended to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Age Friendly Update – Lois Romeo

- July 1st the survey was launched
- 720 have completed the survey
- 11% consistent for Veterans
- 69% female
- Next focus group is September 30, 2025.
- Survey was to end September 15th, but now survey will close on October 6.
- Having difficulties engaging the Hispanic population

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two highest priorities have been housing and transportation. • Getting a lot of good input so far. More updates to come. <p><u>Rec and Parks</u> – Bob Hicks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Festival at Piney Run Park Saturday October 11th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. • New program “Ales and Tails” at South Carroll Dog Park Friday October 17th from 4 p.m. -7 pm.
Old Business	<p>A. Current COAD openings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Manchester – filled ii. Finksburg – filled iii. Mt. Airy iv. Veterans v. Individual with Developmental Disability/ SIP vi. Family Representative Developmental Disabilities <p>B. <u>MD Alliance of Disability Commissions Update-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Drezner The Freedom Center attended the meeting on September 10th and missed The Aging Your Way Expo. The Commission is interested in having a COAD Board member attend.
New Business –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging Your Way Expo recap – covered previously at the beginning of the meeting. • Discussed hybrid meeting option. Voted that January meeting will be in person with breakfast held at the COVE. Rest of the meetings will be virtual. <p>Monica Haines – Baltimore Metropolitan Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on Transportation Improvement Program • September is National Preparedness Month; visit ready.gov for more information

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	<p>Amy Baker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> September is Recovery and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Document shredding event: October 4th 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM next to the County Maintenance Building. Includes medication disposal and hazardous waste collection. For residential use only (no commercial use). Peer support is available at the Health Department for referrals. Open to individuals age 18+ who are seeking recovery. The team is developing a strategic plan. Numerous focus groups and surveys have been conducted; however, there have been challenges organizing Hispanic/Latino focus groups. Key issues identified include transportation, housing, behavioral health, and access to care. A consulting group is finalizing the report, with release expected in October. Cheri Ebaugh noted that, according to the CDC, in 2023 the highest suicide rates were among older adults, particularly those ages 75–84 and 85+.
<p>Area Reports – COAD Members</p>	<p><u>COAD Members</u></p> <p>Lauren Hickey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 4th is Music on Main in New Windsor 12 p.m. -6 p.m. Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall sponsored by Babylon Vault is coming to New Windsor October 8th. Open to the public October 9th – 13th open 24/7. Paying respect to 58,000 names. <p>Jim McCarron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14th Annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 27th at Memorial Park from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Free admission, food, craft vendors and more. Taneytown History Museum Harvest Day Saturday, September 27th from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Local antique tractors on display and homemade ice cream.
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Amy Baker and seconded by Michelle Jacobs.</p>

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Next Meeting Date	Next meeting is Wednesday, November 26 th , at 10am.
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