

Carroll County Commission on Aging & Disabilities Meeting

Meeting Date: January 28, 2026

Start Time: 10:00am

Location: In-Person at the COVE, 115 Stoner Ave, Westminster

Chairperson: Jim McCarron

Vice-Chair: Lauren Hickey

Topic	Discussion
Attendance – COAD members in bold	Jim McCarron, Lauren Hickey, Paul Ioannidis, Michelle Jacobs, Michael Klein, Nancy Horne, Lisa Shepet, Commissioner Joseph Vigliotti, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Amanda Coshun, Bobbie Lawrence, Richard Ottone, Lois Romeo, Bob Hicks, Dave Drezner
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, COAD – Commission on Aging and Disabilities, CDSMP – Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, CTS – Carroll Transit System, CIL - Center for Independent Living, DOAD - Division of Aging and Disabilities, 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, OHQC - 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. Introductions were made.
Establishment of a Quorum – Jim McCarron	Quorum was established.
Approval of Minutes – Jim McCarron	The December meeting minutes were approved. Motion to approve was made by Michael Klein and seconded by Nancy Horne. The minutes were approved unanimously.
Commissioner's Comments –	Commissioner Vigliotti Commissioner Vigliotti, on behalf of the BCC, declared Carroll County to be in a State of Emergency on Friday,

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	January 23, 2026 due to snowstorm - Complemented everyone for their hard work and preparation during the snowstorm. Warming centers are open thanks to the Department of Citizen Services - Budget time for the County; more to come
Division of Aging & Disabilities	<u>DOAD Update – Gina Valentine</u> - Developing the required 4-year Area Plan, now mandated for all AAAs and submitted annually to MDoA - Aligning the Area Plan with Longevity Ready Maryland priorities - Transitioning Area Plan reporting to Smartsheet, a new reporting process - Area Plan due April 10th to MDoA - Public meetings will be held to gather input on the Area Plan - Age-Friendly Initiative Survey results can be incorporated into the Area Plan - Participating in legislative meetings with M4A, MSCAN, and MACo - Monitoring a potential guardianship bill that would allow an ethics board to make medical decisions for hospitalized individuals without a guardian - Entering budget season with a focus on ensuring SOAR funding is not reduced - Storm preparation efforts highlighted, with recognition of strong staff performance and effective client outreach <u>Program Update – Bobbie Lawrence</u> - A FREE “Increasing Your Capacity for Excellent Care” training series, offered in collaboration with Carroll Community College, is underway. The flyer has been distributed to the COAD - The Grandparents & Older Relatives Raising Grandchildren Conference is scheduled for March 28 at the Westminster Senior Center. Additional details will be shared as they become available - MAP Information & Assistance will begin helping with Renters’ Tax Credit applications - The Carroll County Youth Services Bureau is offering Group Therapy for Seasoned Adults (55+), addressing caregiver fatigue, depression, loneliness, and social isolation. Will accept insurance. Initial outreach has had limited response; Amanda Coshun will redistribute the flyer - Attended a ribbon cutting at Martinsburg VA with Celene Steckel to mark the opening of a new Women’s

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Health Primary Care Clinic

- Administrative Associate position is currently open in the DOAD, with applications closing Friday

Update - Celene Steckel

- Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development applications are open for a limited time for the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) WholeHome Critical Home Repairs grant program. The grant program will provide eligible homeowners with grants of up to \$10,000 for critical home repairs such as roof repair or replacement, repair of non-functioning heating or cooling systems, electrical or plumbing repairs, or mold or mildew remediation. To be eligible for funding, applicants must be a Maryland homeowner whose income is at or below 150% of county area median income
- Successful PIT (Point-In-Time) Count – Goal is to offer the homeless services and get them connected to resources. Visited various areas around the County. Thanks to all volunteers that helped
- Family Shelter Ribbon Cutting March 17th at 1 p.m. at The COVE

Senior Center Update- Rich Ottone

- Carol Evans retired in December; Lisa Gustaitis has transitioned into the role of Program Technician
- Katie Bernstein has been hired as new Manager at SCSCC
- DDA (Developmental Disabilities Administration) looking at budget cuts

Age Friendly Update – Lois Romeo

- Continuing to dissect data
- The survey has been completed, with 740 respondents completing the main survey and 150 participating in focus groups
- Next steps: go before the board to discuss results

Rec and Parks – Bob Hicks

- Spring program guide being released next week
- New part time adaptive recreation specialist starting tomorrow 1/29

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Old Business	A. <u>Current COAD openings – Gina Valentine</u> i. Veterans ii. Family Representative Developmental Disabilities Noted positions must change; openings are going to come off the agenda. Recommending for the BCC to not approve additional members until bylaws have been finalized B. <u>MD Alliance of Disability Commissions Update – Dave Drezner</u> • Joint meeting was held on January 22; Digital presentations will be sent out by email to the COAD • Independent Living Day in Annapolis; Thursday, February 26, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact Amanda Coshun C. <u>COAD by laws – Gina Valentine</u> • Voting for number of COAD appointed members – the commission shall consist of at least ten (10) members but shall not exceed twelve (12). Motion was made by Michelle Jacobs; seconded by Lauren Hickey, all approved • Reviewed proposed changes to bylaws, including membership – will vote at next meeting
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	- Commissioner Vigliotti – noted that across the boards and commissions, the BCC wants to still take note of geographical representation for meetings to ensure that different areas of the county are represented - Lauren Hickey suggested for officer election to align with fiscal year (July). At the May meeting take a vote; chair will then take over at July meeting
New Business –	
Area Reports – COAD Members	<u>COAD Members</u> Lauren Hickey Cost of living concerns; electrical bills increasing
Public Comment	Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Lauren Hickey and seconded by Michael Klein
Next Meeting Date	Next meeting is March 25, 2026, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. IN-PERSON at the COVE, 115 Stoner Avenue, Westminster