

**Prince George's County
Advisory Committee on Aging
January 26, 2023 Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

- Kofi Impraim, Chair
- Diane Williams, Vice Chair
- Gretchen Lofland, Secretary
- Michelle Blanc, Assistant Secretary
- Claudia Dickens
- Ida Fletcher
- Gwen Drummond
- Vanecia Davis
- Erica Noble
- Shaunda Bellamy
- Eddimae Tisdale
- Margaret Baltimore
- Kym Taylor

Members absent:

- Deidre Jackson (excused)
- Eddie Jordan (excused)
- Mark Harrison
-

Department of Family Services Staff Present

- Karen Sylvester
- Joann Carnathan
- Megan Vila-Fasnacht

Call to Order

Chair Kofi Impraim, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

The officers and members of the Advisory Committee on Aging introduced themselves. The Chair then introduced the guest presenter, Dr. Flavia Walton.

Dementia Friendly Presentation:

Dr. Flavia Walton, from Dementia Friendly America, discussed the key points:

- Alzheimer's disease is the most prevalent dementia.
- It affects memory, language and problem solving.
- Every 65 seconds, someone new develops Alzheimer's disease.
- About 5.8 million people are living with Alzheimer's disease.
- It is a community issue affecting more than seniors.

- Two thirds of the individuals suffering with Alzheimer's disease are women (women live longer). Approximately 200,000 of those suffering with Alzheimer's disease are age 65 or younger.
- African Americans are more likely than Whites to get Alzheimer's disease.
- The probability of developing Alzheimer's disease increases with age.
- An individual diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease generally lives 4-8 years after the diagnosis. However, some individuals can live as long as 20 years.
- There is no cure for Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Walton shared a chart of the normal aging progression and aging progression of an individual with Alzheimer's disease. She also shared a "Bookcase Story." She showed pictures of a healthy brain and a brain with advanced Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Walton provided her contact information as follows: fwalton71@verizon.net or 301- 965-0396. Dementia Friendly meetings are held monthly in South County (south of Pennsylvania Avenue), Mid County (south of route 50 to the Pennsylvania Avenue border), and North County (areas north of Route 5).

Dr. Walton encouraged the members of the Advisory committee on Aging to become a Dementia Friend. Dr. Walton indicated that a training session could be arranged for Advisory Committee on Aging members? Chair Kofi Impraim recommended that all members of the Advisory Committee on Aging take the training to become Dementia Friends

Dr. Walton stated that if you suspect that an individual has dementia that you should ask a family member if they have noticed a change. African Americans sometimes try to keep it hidden.

Dementia Friendly also sponsors Purple Worship services. The Purple Worship services are short services that are designed to meet the needs of persons with dementia. The services include music, refreshments, and an opportunity for individuals to fellowship. The Purple Worship services are usually scheduled around Easter, Mother's Day and other holidays.

Vice Chair, Diane Williams asked if board members could receive a copy of the presentation? Dr. Walton recommended that individuals get the information from the Alzheimer's Association website.

Karen Sylvester indicated that there is a proposed legislative bill regarding staffing and services for individuals with Alzheimer's disease. She will provide additional information and updates at future meetings.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Kofi Impraim asked board members to review the minutes for the November 17, 2022 meeting. The following needed corrections were discussed: correct the spelling of Erica (from Erika to Erica), and change spelling of vendor. There was a motion by Vice Chair, Diane, to approve the minutes with the recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Ida Fletcher.

Old Business

Chair Kofi Impraim gave kudos to all committees for their great work. We do have a voice to make impact. The Chair then asked if everyone had received their polo shirts and business cards? Ida Fletcher requested a box of business cards. Ms. Carnahan indicated that she ordered a box of business cards for the following board members: Kofi Impraim, Diann Williams, Deidre Jackson, and Erica Nobel.

Aging Report

Joann Carnathan provided the Aging Report. Following are the key points that she discussed:

- The new Secretary for the Maryland Department of Aging is Carmel Roques. Secretary Roques will start on February 1, 2023. She will be briefed on the Dementia Friendly initiative.
- The Senior Nutrition program will be using American Rescue Funds to provide home delivered meals to some of the individuals on the waitlist with the greatest need.
- The department still has a number of vacancies which include a clerk for the Senior Nutrition program, an administrative aide for the Aging and Disabilities Services Division and a Coordinator for the Senior Assisted Living Subsidy program.
- The budget is due today to the Maryland Department of Aging.
- The Dementia Friendly grant training is schedule to start on February 6, 2023.
- Ms. Carnathan thanked everyone for their support of the Adopt A Ward was program.
- Vice Chair Diane Williams asked when the Department of Family Services will be moving to its proposed new location. Ms. Carnathan indicated that the ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled to take place in 2024.

Subcommittee Reports

Vice Chair Diane Williams called for the presentation of the subcommittee reports.

Communication and Public Awareness Subcommittee Report

Dr. Lofland reported that the subcommittee met briefly on January 18, 2023, to

get an update regarding upcoming events. The draft flyer for the Money Smart (March 23rd) and Law Day (May 1st) events has been submitted for approval. Ms. Bellamy reported that the Money Smart presentation will focus on financial

exploitation and identity theft. The speaker for the Money Smart event will be Dr. Gybrilla Blakes, a member of AARP and John Hopkins Focus Group on dementia. The speaker for Law Day will be Karren Pope Onwukwe, an elder law attorney and former Chair of the Advisory Committee on Aging. Training materials will be mailed out to individuals that register for the events.

Dr. Lofland announced that the theme for Older Americans Month is “Aging Unbound.” During the May Older Americans Month event, Rose Green, a local marathon runner, will talk to the group about how she is “Aging Unbound.”

Dr. Lofland reminded the group that there will a special program on May 15, 2023 to honor centenarians. The luncheon will be held at the Laurel Beltsville Senior Activity Center.

Ms. Carnathan advised the board members that the department purchased the Last Will and Embezzlement recording and training materials for use for the World Elder Abuse Day event.

Legislative Subcommittee Report

Vice Chair Diane Williams informed the board members that Kym Taylor was elected to serve as a representative for Maryland Legislative District 23. Therefore, she has asked to step down from service as the Chair of the legislative Subcommittee. Chair Williams asked the group if anyone was interested in serving in that capacity.

Erica Noble stated that she would like to nominate herself. Chair Kofi Impraim informed the group that Deidre Jackson was also interested in the position. The Chair asked if we needed a vote or if we to refer the matter to the Nominating Committee. Ms. Megan Vila-Fasnacht stated that we need to bring it to a vote. Vice Chair Diane Williams indicated that at our next meeting she would ask Deidra Jackson and Erica Nobel to give a short presentation prior to the vote.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Claudia Dickens reported that there were no updates.

Vice Chair Diane Williams requested that the January 26, 2023, minutes be updated to reflect her request to the Liaison, Joann Carnathan, to obtain approval from Associate Director, Karen Sylvester to have someone to work on the committee’s brochure. Joann Carnathan indicated that the draft brochure has been forwarded to Jermoni Dowd. Once the brochure is completed and approved it will be available for distribution during our upcoming events.

Announcements

- There is a May event for persons 100 years old only. They have until March 15, 2023 to submit registration.
- Chair Kofi stated that Tiffany Hartledge, from the Individuals with Disabilities commission, would like to collaborate with the advisory Committee on Aging for upcoming events. Chair Kofi will invite her to our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Minutes taken by: Dr. Gretchen D. Lofland