

## Carroll County Commission on Aging & Disabilities Meeting

Meeting Date: December 17, 2025

Start Time: 10:00am

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

Chairperson: Jim McCarron

Vice-Chair: Lauren Hickey

Topic	Discussion
<b>Attendance</b> – COAD members in bold	Gina Valentine, Amanda Coshun, Lois Romeo, Dave Drezner, <b>Roxanne Hemphill, Jim McCarron, Nancy Horne, Lisa Shepet, Dawn Goldrick</b> , Tiffany Warner, Amy Baker, Lou Yeager, Bob Hicks, <b>Michael Klein</b> , Paul Ioannidis, <b>Michelle Jacobs, Lauren Hickey</b>
<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>AAA</b> - Area Agency on Aging, <b>ADA</b> - American's w/Disabilities Act, <b>ADL</b> - Activities of Daily Living, <b>AIP</b> – Aging in Place, <b>BCC</b> – Board of County Commissioners, <b>COAD</b> – Commission on Aging and Disabilities, <b>CDSMP</b> – Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, <b>CTS</b> – Carroll Transit System, <b>CIL</b> - Center for Independent Living, <b>DOAD</b> - Division of Aging and Disabilities, <b>DSS</b> – Department of Social Services, <b>FFP</b> – Federal Financial Participation, <b>HSP</b> – Human Services Programs of Carroll County, <b>LTAC</b> – Long Term Advisory Council, <b>LTCOP</b> - Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, <b>M4A</b> - Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging, <b>MAP</b> - Maryland Access Point, <b>MASCC</b> – Mt. Airy Senior & Community Center, <b>MDH</b> - Maryland Department of Health, <b>MDoA</b> – Maryland Department of Aging, <b>MFP</b> -Money Follows the Person, <b>MOU</b> – Memorandum of Understanding, <b>MWOA</b> - Medicaid Waiver for Older Adults, <b>NCSCC</b> – North Carroll Senior & Community Center, <b>NED</b> - Non-Elderly Disabled, <b>NFCSP</b> - National Family Caregiver Support Program, <b>OAA</b> - Older Americans Act, <b>OHCQ</b> - Office of Health Care Quality, <b>SALS</b> - Senior Assisted Living Subsidy program, <b>SCSCC</b> – South Carroll Senior & Community Center, <b>SHIP</b> - State Health Insurance Assistance Program, <b>SIP</b> - Senior Inclusion Program, <b>SMP</b> - Senior Medicare Patrol, <b>SPDAP</b> - Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program, <b>TSCC</b> – Taneytown Senior & Community Center, <b>VTV</b> – Village to Village, <b>WEAAD</b> – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, <b>WSCC</b> – Westminster Senior & Community Center.
<b>Call to Order/Introductions</b> – Jim McCarron	Jim McCarron called the meeting to order.
<b>Establishment of a Quorum</b> – Jim McCarron	Quorum was established.
<b>Approval of Minutes</b> – Jim McCarron	The September meeting minutes were approved. Motion to approve was made by Lisa Shepet and seconded by Michelle Jacobs. The minutes were approved unanimously.
<b>Commissioner's Comments</b> –	No comments - Commissioner Vigliotti not in attendance due to Deferrals public hearing last evening at South Carroll Senior Center, 12/16

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<b>Division of Aging &amp; Disabilities</b>	<p><u>DOAD Update – Gina Valentine</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SNAP benefits have been reinstated. Surveys from MDoA were distributed for completion. There were not many inquiries from individuals expressing concern. There are significant food resources available throughout the county, such as the Westminster Rescue Mission. There was also no substantial increase in participation in congregate meals at the Senior Centers.</li><li>• The OOAPS report was submitted yesterday, 12/16, to the Maryland Department of Aging. Particular attention was given to ensuring data accuracy. A change in instructions was received four weeks prior to the report deadline</li><li>• The first notification of FY26 federal grant funding was received last week</li><li>• Longevity Ready Maryland – MDoA’s plan to address the challenges, benefits and opportunities of an aging society</li><li>• The Winter MACo Conference was held last week; concerns were shared with the AAA network legislative representative</li><li>• SOAR Program – Currently, the Senior Care Program and the SALS program are in place. Supporting Older Adults with Resources will be introduced as a new program</li><li>• Erin Miller will be leaving the county employment, Office Associate position will be posted</li></ul> <p><u>Program Update – Gina Valentine</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Caregiver Conference held on November 15 was a significant success, with over 50 attendees plus vendors, totaling more than 75 participants. The topics were well presented and well received</li><li>• Grandparents &amp; Older Relatives Raising Grandchildren Conference will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Registration will be required, light breakfast and lunch provided, free to attend</li><li>• Essential Skills for Caregivers is being offered in partnership with Carroll Community College as a four-part series extending through July. A flyer will be available soon</li><li>• Medicare Open Enrollment went very well and has now closed</li><li>• The Kahlert grant was approved. The Older Adult Emergency Fund has also been approved and may be used for rent, utilities, moving expenses, downsizing, and minor home repairs</li></ul>
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	<p><u>Senior Center Update- Gina Valentine</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal funding approved for FY26, congregate meals and home delivered meals</li> <li>• Katie Bernstein is the new Center Manager at the South Carroll Senior Center</li> <li>• Carol Evans has retired; Lisa Gustaitis is the new Program Technician for Aging – Senior Center Assistant position will be posted</li> </ul> <p><u>Age Friendly Update – Lois Romeo</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The survey has been completed, with 740 respondents completing the main survey and 150 participating in focus groups.</li> <li>• Respondents represented a wide age range, from 25 to 85.</li> <li>• All income levels were represented.</li> <li>• Participation skewed more heavily toward women (70%) than men (30%).</li> <li>• Housing emerged as the top issue, followed by transportation. The third highest concern was health services and community support services.</li> <li>• More to come on implementation</li> </ul> <p><u>Rec and Parks – Bob Hicks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past events to highlight that went very well - Santa Wagon Rides, Santa Calling, Jingles and Jammies, Adaptive Jingle Bell Hop at Carroll Springs School</li> <li>• Adaptive Recreation Technician part time position posted</li> <li>• Winter Program guides are out and posted online</li> <li>• Summer camps will be advertised soon</li> </ul>
<p><b>Old Business</b></p>	<p>A. Current COAD openings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manchester – filled</li> <li>Finksburg – filled</li> <li>Mt. Airy – filled</li> <li>Veterans</li> <li>Individual with Developmental Disability/ SIP – filled</li> </ol>

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	<p>vi. Family Representative Developmental Disabilities</p> <p>B. <u>MD Alliance of Disability Commissions Update-</u></p> <p>Dave Drezner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting on January 22 – combined meeting with the Maryland Commission on Disabilities</li> </ul>
<b>New Business –</b>	<p>COAD bylaws - Gina Valentine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commissioners would like all boards and commissions to follow a new template for meeting agendas; Gina will work on this.</li> <li>• The proposal is to have 10 or 12 appointed COAD members, as opposed to the 16 members currently stated in the bylaws. A vote will be taken at the January meeting, and this item will be posted on the agenda under old business</li> <li>• It was proposed to eliminate formal representation of specific areas (Finksburg, Union Bridge, Mt. Airy, etc.), while still being mindful of including representation from various geographical areas</li> <li>• Under the Older Americans Act Final Rule, 50% or more of the members must be 60 years of age or older. Amanda Coshun distributed cards to appointed members during the meeting to confirm or deny if they are 60+</li> <li>• Time needs to be scheduled in February to appear before the Board of County Commissioners during Open Session to approve the proposed changes of the COAD bylaws</li> </ul>
<b>Area Reports –</b> COAD Members	<p><u>COAD Members</u></p> <p>Lauren Hickey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall event was a huge success back in October</li> <li>• Music on Main event in New Windsor went very well in October</li> </ul> <p>Jim McCarron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America next year</li> </ul>

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<b>Public Comment</b>	<p>Gina Valentine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Proposed that January meeting is in person</li></ul> <p>Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Lauren Hickey and seconded by Gina Valentine</p>
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<p><b>Next meeting is January 28, 2026, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. IN-PERSON at the COVE, 115 Stoner Avenue, Westminster.</b></p>