

## 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
<b>Attendance</b> – COAD members in bold	<b>Jim McCarron, Lauren Hickey, Paul Ioannidis, Michelle Jacobs, Michael Klein, Nancy Horne, Lisa Shepet,</b> Commissioner Joseph Vigliotti, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Amanda Coshun, Bobbie Lawrence, Richard Ottone, Lois Romeo, Bob Hicks, Dave Drezner
<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>OHQCQ</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. Introductions were made.
<b>Establishment of a Quorum</b> – Jim McCarron	Quorum was established.
<b>Approval of Minutes</b> – 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.
<b>Commissioner’s Comments</b> –	Commissioner Vigliotti <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Vigliotti, on behalf of the BCC, declared Carroll County to be in a State of Emergency on Friday,</li> </ul>

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	<p>January 23, 2026 due to snowstorm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complemented everyone for their hard work and preparation during the snowstorm. Warming centers are open thanks to the Department of Citizen Services</li> <li>• Budget time for the County; more to come</li> </ul>
<p><b>Division of Aging &amp; Disabilities</b></p>	<p><u>DOAD Update – Gina Valentine</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing the required 4-year Area Plan, now mandated for all AAAs and submitted annually to MDoA</li> <li>• Aligning the Area Plan with Longevity Ready Maryland priorities</li> <li>• Transitioning Area Plan reporting to Smartsheet, a new reporting process</li> <li>• Area Plan due April 10<sup>th</sup> to MDoA</li> <li>• Public meetings will be held to gather input on the Area Plan</li> <li>• Age-Friendly Initiative Survey results can be incorporated into the Area Plan</li> <li>• Participating in legislative meetings with M4A, MSCAN, and MACo</li> <li>• Monitoring a potential guardianship bill that would allow an ethics board to make medical decisions for hospitalized individuals without a guardian</li> <li>• Entering budget season with a focus on ensuring SOAR funding is not reduced</li> <li>• Storm preparation efforts highlighted, with recognition of strong staff performance and effective client outreach</li> </ul> <p><u>Program Update – Bobbie Lawrence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• The Grandparents &amp; Older Relatives Raising Grandchildren Conference is scheduled for March 28 at the Westminster Senior Center. Additional details will be shared as they become available</li> <li>• MAP Information &amp; Assistance will begin helping with Renters’ Tax Credit applications</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Attended a ribbon cutting at Martinsburg VA with Celene Steckel to mark the opening of a new Women’s</li> </ul>

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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 17<sup>th</sup> 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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<b>Old Business</b>	<p>A. <u>Current COAD openings – Gina Valentine</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Veterans</li><li>ii. Family Representative Developmental Disabilities</li></ol> <p>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</p> <p>B. <u>MD Alliance of Disability Commissions Update – Dave Drezner</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joint meeting was held on January 22; Digital presentations will be sent out by email to the COAD</li><li>• 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</li></ul> <p>C. <u>COAD by laws – Gina Valentine</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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</li><li>• Reviewed proposed changes to bylaws, including membership – will vote at next meeting</li></ul>
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<b>New Business –</b>	
<b>Area Reports –</b> COAD Members	<u>COAD Members</u> Lauren Hickey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of living concerns; electrical bills increasing</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Lauren Hickey and seconded by Michael Klein
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Next meeting is March 25, 2026, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. IN-PERSON at the COVE, 115 Stoner Avenue, Westminster</b>