

GROWS Advocacy Committee report: 7/27/21

Topics:

1) The Advocacy Committee has designed a flyer promoting GROWS. It can be used by membership as an add on to member communications and as a direct email piece to promote GROWS.

GROWS sent out a survey to members and how they are handling vaccinated workers. This went out on July 6th. The Committee will discuss the results at the next meeting or sooner. The Advocacy Committee will assist the Board with contacting new members, answering questions, and inviting them to join the AC. The new members are:

Care at Home Inc

Ann Smith
10411 Motor City Drive, Suite 750
Bethesda, MD 20817
www.careathomemd.com
301-970-9706
Home Care

Cedar Creek Memory Care Homes

Meg DeSchraver
43 Randolph Road, #112
Silver Spring, MD 20904
www.cedarcreekassoc.com
3013703516
Memory Care

Friendship Heights Neighbors Network

Margaret Newman
1928 Kimberly Road
Silver Spring, MD 20903
301-351-4885
Community Services

Physio In Motion: Mobile Physical Therapy and Wellness

Michelle Alcantara
13422 Fountain Club Drive
Germantown, MD 20874
240-716-1672
Physical Therapy

Vital Care Pharmacy and Health Rite Medical Supply

Tim Yusufov
1116 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, MD 21208
410-653-6061

2) CoA meeting: June 25, 2021 - Affordable Housing – Design for Life (DFL) – discussion provided interesting information from the County’s website:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/design/resource-center.html>.

The CoA is working on FY 2023 County Budget priorities. Assistance for Home Based Care options is the number 1 priority at this point.

Gloria posted the 2020 CoA Annual report and the first Quarter 2021 CoA reports in the most recent newsletter.

Seven new CoA Commissioners have been appointed:

David Engel

Kendell Matthews

Niki Ezeani

Virginia Cain

Sibo Ncube

Betsy Carrier

Laurie Pross

3) **CoA, Aging in Community:** off for the summer.

4) **CoA, Health & Wellness:** off for the summer

5) **CoA, Public Policy Committee:** off for the summer.

6) **CoA, Communications Committee:** is working on Seniors Today is rebranding to 50+ Montgomery with a new logo and an effort to increase viewership. The next month’s August guests are Marcia Pruzan, Senior Fellow, Age-Friendly Montgomery; Jim Resnick, Program Manager, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Community Risk Reduction Section; Tracy Rezvani, Administrator, Office of Consumer Protection.

The Committee is going to be working on providing consistent Press Releases through the County HHS PIO, Mary Anderson.

New business discussion on how the Advocacy Committee can help GROWS members raise the visibility of GROWS in the MoCo community. The AC discussed getting feedback on members’ involvement in other organizations and to learn how they are representing themselves (or not) as GROWS members. The AC should spend time to educate the membership on what GROWS does or is involved with in the County. For example: Do you know how GROWS supports Age Friendly Montgomery? The AC should poll our members on how we could help with this activity.

Melissa Wu will monitor MoCo County Council senior news for the GROWS members. For those that want updates regularly, here is the link to review agendas, staff reports, committee meetings etc. for the county council:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/ondemand/index.html>

Please check and promote the GROWS calendar for great educational and networking events. Promote the GROWS directory and website in your regular emails and correspondence.

The GROWS Advocacy committee meets monthly on Zoom the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1pm.