

Spotlight on Community Living

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Serving D.C. residents who are age 18+ with a disability or age 60+ and their caregivers

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Acting Executive Director's Message

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Last Month, I had the pleasure of presenting testimony before the Committee on Housing and Community Development and Chairperson Anita Bonds on the Performance of the District of Columbia Office on Aging in Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016 to date. Because I want you to know what we've accomplished in 2015, and where we're headed in 2016, I'm providing a brief overview of my testimony.

Through the unwavering support and leadership of Mayor Muriel Bowser, the agency has had significant success in Fiscal Year 2015 and has set an ambitious agenda for Fiscal Year 2016.

Our major accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2015 involve improving collaborations and partnerships with private and public entities in order to better meet the needs of District seniors and people with disabilities.

To address nutrition needs for seniors most at risk of hunger, DCOA formed the Nutrition Task Force, comprised of government and community stakeholders. Through the Task Force, DCOA was able to implement a city-wide priority scale to categorize current clients and new referrals by need and risk of hunger.

To address long-term care access issues, DCOA strengthened its partnership with the Department of Health Care Finance. Through our partnership, we improved communication and outreach to seniors, people with disabilities, caregivers, and other professionals about long-term care options; streamlined access to long-term care; and expanded person-centered planning for Medicaid recipients.

To address the desire for people to age-in-place in the community, DCOA has improved its relationships with nursing homes and hospitals, helping to connect people to resources as they transition from institutional settings back to a community-based setting. DCOA also provides consultations to nursing homes and hospitals on discharge planning issues – particularly for people with complex medical needs or other issues that might make the discharge planning process more difficult.

To promote and enhance the development of senior villages across the District, DCOA published the first ever "how to" guide to support organizations interested in replicating villages in the District. We also provided technical assistance, tools, resources, and peer-to-peer knowl-

edge exchange opportunities to the entire DC-based village network.

To address concerns about accessing senior transportation, DCOA replaced "Call-N-Ride," a subsidized paper coupon system for low- to moderate-income residents, with the ConnectorCard, which is a DCOA-subsidized debit card. ConnectorCard is an award-winning program recognized as an innovative transportation mode that offers choice, flexibility and broader access without a reservation.

In alignment with the Bowser Administration's goals and priorities, DCOA will review internal and external accountability measurements this fiscal year. Everything that DCOA does including grants, contracts, and staffing will be reviewed to improve efficiency and effectiveness of our programs and services that our residents rely on. We must first find out the true needs and wants of our seniors, and then ask whether those needs and wants are being met by the District – by DCOA or another sister agency.

To that end, DCOA has issued a request for a needs assessment to review current aging programs, senior centers and wellness facilities, and other pro-

gramming specific to seniors within the District. Core programming needs will be identified to drive funding allocation decisions across programs and by ward. The assessment will serve as a strategic road map to help meet seniors where they are, rather than requiring them to meet us where we are.

This year, DCOA partnered with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide a grant of up to \$10,000 for accessibility modifications to reduce the risk of falls and reduce barriers that limit mobility for District seniors and adults with disabilities. Since the launch in January, over 300 calls were received from residents and caregivers.

Mayor Bowser gave us a very clear mandate: make this program work. And make it nimble.

Seeking District of Columbia Centenarians



The D.C. Office on Aging (DCOA) is seeking District residents who are 100 years or older to honor during our 30th Annual Salute to Centenarians being held in April.

If you know of residents who will have celebrated their centennial birthday by April 30, please call Darlene Nowlin at (202) 724-5622 or email darlene.nowlin@dc.gov by April 15.

When registering centenarians, please make sure you know the name, date of birth and contact information for each individual.

I'm proud to say that we've done so, and the District is once again an innovator and leader in senior services.

I am pleased with the accomplishments from last year, and I know we still have serious work ahead to make sure that we are meeting the needs of District residents. With the support of Mayor Bowser, I am confident that we are well-positioned to meet the needs of the District's seniors and people with disabilities, and we look forward to our continued partnership to make DC an age friendly city!



COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH EVENTS

15th, 29th • noon – The D.C. Caregivers Online Chat at Noon is a great resource for caregivers. Log on for advice, resources and tips to assist you with your caregiving responsibilities. On March 1 the topic is "Tips for Caregiving for Someone with Multiple Sclerosis." The March 16 topic is "Caregiving for Someone with Traumatic Brain Injury." The March 29 topic is "A Caregivers Personal Story on Caregiving for Someone with an Intellectual/Developmental Disability. If you are not available at 12 p.m., check back at your convenience and hit replay to see the entire chat. Join the discussion at www.dcoa.dc.gov/page/caregiver-chat. For more information, contact Linda Irizarry at 202-535-1442 or linda.irizarry@dc.gov.

8th • 11 a.m. – There will be a presentation about the National Museum of African American History and Culture Presentation Kibar, 1519 4th St. NW. For more information, call Norma Hardie at 202-529-8701.

9th • 1 to 2 p.m. – A presentation on the D.C. Office on Aging's Resources will be made at North Capital at Plymouth, 5233 N. Capital St. NE. To learn more, contact Julia Hutcherson at 202-541-0553.

10th • 11:30 a.m. – Seabury Resources for Aging Ward 5 presents a cancer prevention workshop with MedStar Washington Hospital Center at Kibar, 1519 4th St. NW. For more information, call Norma Hardie at 202-529-8701.

11th • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – The 7th Annual Moving Forward Together Secondary Transition Community Forum will be held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Pl.

NW. Email Leila.peterson@schooltalkdc.org for more information.

11th • 11 a.m. – Seabury Resources for Aging Ward 5 presents a cancer prevention workshop with MedStar Washington Hospital Center at Petersburg, 3298 Fort Lincoln Dr. NE. For more information, call Norma Hardie at 202-529-8701.

15th • 11 a.m. – A seminar on senior financial fraud will be presented by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, in conjunction with the 5th District Community Prosecution Team. The event will be held at Vicksburg, 3005 Bladensburg Rd. NE. For more information, call Norma Hardie at 202-529-8701.

16th • 11 a.m. – Seabury Resources for Aging Ward 5 presents a kidney disease prevention workshop with United HealthCare at Edgewood Commons, 635 Edgewood St. NE. For more information, call Norma Hardie at 202-529-8701.

17th • 10 a.m. to noon – A program called Safe at Home will be hosted by the D.C. Office on Aging and the Homeland Security & Emergency Management at Zion Baptist Church, 4850 Blagden Ave. NW. For more information, contact Alice Thompson at 202-535-1321.

17th • 10 a.m. to noon – Are you interested in making a difference in your community? Train to become a DCOA Ambassador, and help connect your neighbors, friends and family members to DCOA programs and services. DCOA has valuable programs, services and resources to help residents age 60 and older remain in their communities and assistance for their caregivers. Resources are also available for persons living with disabilities age 18 and older. Call 202-724-5622 to register.

21st • 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – The D.C. Office on Aging will make a presentation on its resources and services

at the VA Hospital, Room C-236, 30 Irving St. NW. For more information, call Maurice Harrison at 202-745-8000 ext. 55707.

22nd • 11 a.m. – Seabury Resources for Aging Ward 5 presents an obesity prevention workshop with MedStar Washington Hospital Center at Sr. Village I, 3001 Bladensburg Rd. NE. For more information, call Norma Hardie at 202-529-8701.

23rd • 11 a.m. – Seabury Resources for Aging Ward 5 presents a kidney disease prevention workshop with United Health-Care at North Capital at Plymouth, 5233 N. Capitol St. NE. For more information, call Norma Hardie at 202-529-8701.

30th • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Family Matters of Greater Washington hosts a spring fling at the Bald Eagle Recreation Center, 100 Joliet St. SW. For more information, call Cherielle Fennell 202-562-6860.

