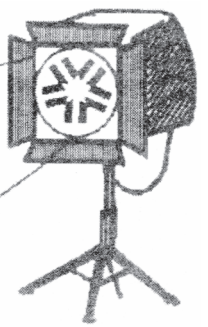


DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE ON AGING

# Spotlight On Aging



VOLUME XXVIII, ISSUE 7

A newsletter for D.C. Seniors

July 2017



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Laura Newland  
Executive Director, D.C. Office on Aging

We are hot! And I'm not talking about the hot July temperatures. At the DC Office on Aging (DCOA), we are celebrating this month after winning two prestigious awards — the Cafritz Foundations Team Award for Innovation and the n4A Aging Innovations Award for Home and Community-Based Services.

I am so proud of my team for working hard each and every day to ensure that our programs and services for District residents are working! And it feels great to be acknowledged.

In June, DCOA and the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) received the 16th Annual Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Team Award for Innovation. The award is designed to honor the achievements of teams in one or multiple DC Government agencies who implement ongoing customer-focused initiatives that drive innovation and produce measurable and sustainable results.

DCOA and DHCF were recognized for creating a new enrollment process for the Elderly and persons with Physical Disabilities Waiver (EPD Waiver) Program. The EPD Waiver allows people who would otherwise receive care in a nursing home to receive care in their own homes and remain in their communities.

In 2014, we began working together, brainstorming ideas on how to reduce wait times, increase transparency, and improve customer service for vulnerable District residents in need of long-term services and supports. We created the Medicaid Enrollment Specialists team to conduct home visits and assist applicants throughout the enrollment process. Due to this successful interagency collaboration, significant improvements were made to the Medicaid enrollment customer experience.

Later this month, DCOA and its Safe at Home Program will be honored at the n4a Annual Conference in Savannah, Georgia, with the 2017 n4a Aging Innovations Award in Home & Community-Based Services. The n4a

award recognizes the most innovative initiatives in the field of aging. We know how great the Safe at Home program has been in enabling District residents to continue living in their own homes and communities as they age. Now, Safe at Home is a nationally-recognized program and a model for aging in place.

DCOA partnered with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in January 2016 to create the Safe at Home Program — a program that provides home accessibility adaptations to reduce the risk of falls and reduce mobility barriers in the home. We started the program with a projection to serve up to 100 clients. In its first year alone, we completed projects for nearly 200 residents, and this year, we're projecting to serve an additional 450!

In June 2017, the program expanded to provide increased safety both in and around the home through the Private Security Camera Program, which enables eligible Safe at Home clients to receive private security camera systems at no cost.

It's a huge honor to be recognized for these initiatives because they are both examples of how District agencies work together towards the common goal of serving our residents, whether it's making important programs like the EPD Waiver more accessible, or developing innovative solutions to promote aging in place.

But it's not about the awards and accolades — it's about you!

Since Mayor Muriel Bowser took office, she has made it clear that "District government is the people's government." That means our agencies need to work for our citizens. We're accountable to you, and we are responsible for ensuring all Washingtonians are on the path to inclusive prosperity.

When my team and I think about our programs, we keep these values at the core of all of our decisions — how can we work better, smarter, and more effectively to respond to your needs?

Thanks to Mayor Bowser's com-

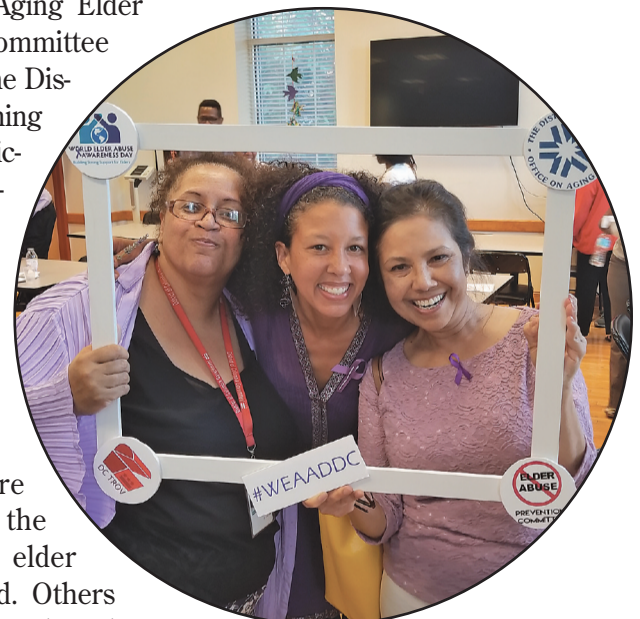
## Boosting Awareness of Elder Abuse

The D.C. Office on Aging Elder Abuse Prevention Committee (EAPC), together with the District's Collaborative Training and Response to Older Victims (DC TROV), the Office on Aging and our Senior Service Network, partnered to commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on June 15, 2017.

Many attendees wore purple to symbolize the growing problem of elder abuse around the world. Others shared posts through social media, taking photos that included how they finished this sentence: "We build strong supports for elders by..."

Here are a few of the pictures that

were posted to help commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. To find out more about elder abuse, visit our website at [dcoa.dc.gov](http://dcoa.dc.gov).



mitment to making D.C. the best city in the world to age, we're working together every day to ensure all residents have access to supports and services. As I like to say, growing older doesn't mean getting old. Aging is living. And

we want to help you thrive! Those are our D.C. Values.

For more information on the EPD Waiver Program or Safe at Home, contact DCOA at 202-724-5626.

Be well!



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



## D.C. OFFICE ON AGING NEWSLETTER

# Announcing Ms. Senior DC

The results are in! The District has a new queen representing her senior peers, Ms. Senior DC Frances Curtis Johnson. The 67-year-old Ward 4 resident was crowned at the Ms. Senior DC Pageant held at the UDC Theater of the Arts.

Johnson was among eight women to compete for the title of Ms. Senior DC. She will represent the District in the Ms. Senior America Pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey from October 15 to 20, 2017.

The Ms. Senior DC winner also won the Best Interview and Best Salesperson titles during the annual contest.

First runner-up was Dr. Judyan Andrews, also of Ward 4.

Second runner-up was Patricia Ragland, a participant of Model Cities Senior Well-

ness Center. She also won the Best Evening Gown and Best Talent titles. For the latter, she danced to Michael Jackson's "The Way You Make Me Feel."

Contestants were judged on their elegance, grace and poise during an interview, their talent and gown presentations, and their philosophy of life.

Ms. Senior D.C. Pageant contestants voted Hadiyah Muhammad Ms. Congeniality.

The pageant was presented by the Office on Aging, Senior Service Network and the DC Seniors Cameo Club. Photos are available on the DCOA Flickr Page and its other social media pages.

See <http://bit.ly/MsSeniorDCPageant2017>



This year's eight Ms. Sr. DC contestants, shown with their escorts.



Deputy Mayor HyeSook Chung (left), First Runner-up Dr. Judyan Andrews, Ms. Senior D.C. Frances Curtis Johnson, Second Runner-up Patricia Ragland and D.C. Office on Aging Executive Director Laura Newland, after the winner announcement.

## SPOTLIGHT ON AGING

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**The Office on Aging is in  
partnership with the District of  
Columbia Recycling Program.**

## Senior Symposium 2017

Mayor Muriel Bowser greeted nearly 900 attendees at the Sixth Annual Senior Symposium themed "Enrich. Empower. Engage."

Since taking office in 2015, Mayor Bowser has launched a range of innovative initiatives and programs that support DC's senior residents, including Safe at Home, a program that helps seniors age in place.

Since launching in 2016, the Safe at Home program has already installed safety adaptations in the homes of nearly 700 DC seniors and residents with disabilities, reducing the risk of falls and other injuries. This month, the Mayor also announced that eligible Safe at Home clients can also apply to have private security cameras installed on their property, free of charge.

The event also featured guest speakers including Dr. Patricia Davidson, who spoke on "Matters of the Heart," and Rawle Andrews, Jr., Regional Vice President with AARP, who shared "Reclaiming Your Inner David: Finding Purpose and Promise in a World of Go-



**Team Rayceen led a lunch time performance with a classical guitarist, singer and performer before his workshop on Everything you Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask About LGBTQ.**

liaths." Attendees received great healthy-heart and living tips and information, as well as being empowered to overcome their Goliaths.

More than 80 exhibitors provided information, senior resources and health screenings. Seniors also took photos in photo booths to commemorate the occasion.

## Community Calendar

### July events

#### 3rd • 6 to 8 p.m.

Attend a talk on Safer, Stronger DC Community Partnerships at Woodland Terrace, located at 2311 Aigner Pl. SE. For more information, email [marvin.gay2@dc.gov](mailto:marvin.gay2@dc.gov).

#### 5th and 18th • noon

Join the D.C. Caregivers online chat at noon to discuss "11 Ways to Stop Caregiver-Related Depression" on July 5 and "Tips for Making Family Caregiving Easier and More Rewarding" on July 18. To participate, visit <http://dcoa.dc.gov/page/caregiver-chat> at noon, or visit at your convenience and hit replay to see the chat. For more information, contact [linda.irizarry@dc.gov](mailto:linda.irizarry@dc.gov) or call 202-535-1442.

#### 8th • 1 to 3 p.m.

Come to a presentation by community outreach specialist Alice Thompson, on the services and resources offered by the Office on Aging. Takes place at The ARC, 1901 Mississippi Avenue, SE. For more information, call (202) 724-5626.

#### 10th • 6 to 8 p.m.

Attend a talk on Safer, Stronger DC Community Partnerships at Garfield Elementary School, located at 2435 Alabama Ave. SE. For more information, email [marvin.gay2@dc.gov](mailto:marvin.gay2@dc.gov).

#### 12th • 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

DC Office on Aging is holding a re-

source fair at Fonteneau Senior Wellness Center, located at 3501 Georgia Ave. NW. For more information, contact Michelle Singleton at (202) 727-0338.

#### 13th • 6 to 8 p.m.

Attend a talk on Safer, Stronger DC Community Partnerships at Ferebee Hope Recreation Center, at 8th and Yuma St. SE. For more information, email [cameron.shields2@dc.gov](mailto:cameron.shields2@dc.gov).

#### 20th • 10 a.m. to noon

Want to make a difference in your community? Train to become a DCOA Ambassador with the Office on Aging. Learn information about our programs and services for persons age 60 and older and adults with disabilities and their caregivers, and help us connect to persons that need our help. For more information or to register, call 202-724-5626 or visit [dcoa.dc.gov](http://dcoa.dc.gov).

#### 27th • 6 to 8 p.m.

Attend a talk on Safer, Stronger DC Community Partnerships at Langston Dwellings, located at 667 24th St. NE. For more information, email [cameron.shields2@dc.gov](mailto:cameron.shields2@dc.gov).

#### 28th • 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy happy hour at Model Cities Senior Wellness Center, located at 1901 Evarts St. NE, and dance to music by DJ Tyzer. A \$10 donation includes a light buffet and non-alcoholic frozen drinks. For more information, call 202-635-1900.