

Meeting Summary
April 19, 2021

PRESENT: Linda Kelleher, Chair; Jim Richardson, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Beversdorf; Kate Chutuape; Linc Cummings; Herschel Kanter; Carol Patch; Naci Powell; Jim Ruff; Cynthia Schneider; Martha Villanigro-Santiago; Juan Carlos Velazquez; Andrea Walker; William Way.

ABSENT: Chloe Burke, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Sophie Shen

STAFF: Rachel Coates, Helen King, Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Jim Baker

GUESTS: Jose Aramayo-Pefaure, Christine Baker, Tara Barnes, Angela Chadbourne, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Cynthia Davis, Jim Feaster, Marta Hill Gray, Claire Jacobsen, Allegra Joffre-Fahringer, Audrey Kremer, Dennis Leach, Joan McDermott, Jim Morris, Daniel Nabors, Jennifer Odium, Mitch Opalski, Lora Pollari-Welbes, Chris Slatt, Matthew Scherbel, Michelle Thomas, Hui Wang, Rita Wong, Erica Wood, Laurie Young, Wendy Zenker

I. Call to Order / Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair Kelleher welcomed Commissioners and guests to the virtual meeting and asked attendees to identify themselves via the chat feature.

II. Overview of the County Grant Process

- a. Jim Baker, ADSD's Administrative Officer, described the County process when applying for outside funding and noted the approval cycles required, depending on the funding amount. He requested Commissioners notify AAA staff of any outside grant opportunities sought to support Commission activities.

III. Transportation Committee Presentations and Reports

- a. Commissioner Jim Richardson, chair of the Transportation Committee welcomed Transportation Commission Chair Chris Slatt. Mr. Slatt noted the Transportation Commissions sets goals in the summer, yet planning was impacted by the pandemic. Although there is not yet an official set of priorities, Mr. Slatt noted that there likely will be some intersections with the Age Friendly Arlington transportation goals.
- b. Christine Baker, Principle Planner and Vision Zero Program Coordinator with the Arlington Department of Environmental Services, presented the Vision Zero Action Plan, which will be presented to the County Board for approval in May 2021. The Vision Zero program aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries in our community. Commissioner Way noted that 20% of fatal accidents in Arlington involve older adults.
- c. Commissioner Richardson presented the Transportation Safety and Accessibility Committee's Arlington Age-Friendly Action Plan. The Committee's four age-friendly goals are (1) reducing accidents and injuries to seniors, (2) increased accessibility and equity in senior transportation options (3) ensuring affordability and (4) improving destination planning information and signage for seniors. Committee members presented on components of the action plan.

IV. Approval of February and March Meeting Minutes

- a. A motion to approve the February 2021 minutes was made by Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner Schneider. The February 2021 minutes were unanimously approved as written.

- b. A motion to approve the March 2021 minutes was made by Commissioner Schneider and seconded by Commissioner Cummings. The March 2021 minutes were unanimously approved as written.

V. Chair's Report and Executive Committee Report

- a. Chair Kelleher began by noting that she did not to send the FY2022 budget letter to the County Board. She remarked that the Commission will get involved in the planning process earlier in the year and advocate for items important to older adults in our community. Chair Kelleher reported that the Executive Committee is working on a schedule for the CoA meetings – noting that the May meeting will focus on the results from the Community Engagement Forum, June will spotlight the Public Information and Outreach Committee and July will spotlight the Legislative Committee, including an update from Delegate Patrick Hope.
- b. Chair Kelleher thanked Commissioners Richardson and Way for their recent efforts, including preparing an AARP Challenge Grant proposal to provide crosswalk safety flags. Commissioner Richardson asked Commissioners to consider best placement locations for the safety flags throughout Arlington's residential communities.
- c. Chair Kelleher asked Commissioners for their feedback to send a letter of support for the Vision Zero Plan prior to the May County Board meeting. Commissioner Richardson offered a motion for the Commission to 'submit a letter in support of the Vision Zero goals focused on the older adult population' and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor with one abstaining.

VI. AAA/CSCB/ADSD Staff Reports

- a. Acting AAA Director Helen King began by noting that May is Older American's Month. The theme this year is "Communities of Strength". Ms. King also noted that there is a request for proposal out for the Money Management services which will cover budgeting and bill paying services along with a small Representative Payee service.
- b. CSCB Chief Rachel Coates reported on two special events in May: An Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit through George Washington and Age-Friendly D.C. and the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging. Ms. Coates announced the Super Senior Taxi discount program will be changing from paper coupons to smartcards in the coming months. Regarding vaccines, she noted a transportation coordinator has been hired to ensure transportation is not a barrier to receiving the vaccine and that vaccines are being scheduled and administered to individuals who are homebound. Ms. Coates reported that she has been invited to participate on the Food Security Task Force and invited Commissioners to share thoughts or ideas.
- c. ADSD Chief Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield updated Commissioners on plans for future in-person programming and services. She noted the current planning process is rigorous and goes all the way up to the County Manager for approval. She reported that the Adult Day program received approval to reopen at the end of June. Other programs are in the planning process to reopen. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield introduced the Division's newest intern, Matthew Scherbel, a 2nd year Master of Social Work student at George Mason University who will be with ADSD for the summer. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield concluded by noting the Department of Human Services leadership team has been working on an updated mission and vision statement focused more specifically on race equity.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. **Housing and Community Supports:** Commissioner Schneider reported that the Committee submitted comments to the Affordable Housing Master Plan review currently

underway. Committee member Erica Wood participated in a webinar along with a representative of AARP on an Alliance for Housing Solutions (AHS) webinar on missing middle housing and older adults. Commissioner Carol Patch continues to monitor the County's progress on its Missing Middle Housing study. Commissioner Schneider noted the next committee meeting will be held on April 27th at 3:00 and will feature a representative from Rebuilding Together.

- b. **Legislative:** Commissioner Kanter reported that NVAN will meet in April to brainstorm the 2022 legislative platform.
- c. **Long-Term Care Residences :** Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that liaisons are engaged across most of the nursing and assisted living residences in Arlington. The next meeting is scheduled for this week and liaisons will report on their activities. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield encourage the commission to keep recruitment in mind, noting Manor Care needs a liaison and the committee needs a chair. The committee plans to eventually incorporate liaisons into the independent living residences.
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment:** Commissioner Cummings reported that plans to implement the committee's goals for 2021 would be discussed at the May meeting. He noted Doug Frost and Linda Sholl of the Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs (AASP) will attend to discuss digital equity issues and the progress with the internet essentials program.
- e. **Public Information and Outreach:** Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the next committee meeting will focus on plans for the Senior Ambassador program, including brainstorming goals, partnerships and plan for administering the program.

VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. **Age-Friendly Arlington:** Cynthia Davis reported that a revised progress report form was recently sent to the Executive Committee for review and approval. This new form will be sent out to Commissioners for use in reporting committee actions and outcomes. She also noted that she and Laurie Young recently presented Age-Friendly Arlington to the 55+ Programs.
- b. **Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council:** Andrea Walker noted that the Alliance, as a 501c (3), can act as the fiscal agent for the AARP Challenge Grant. Ms. Coates expressed her thanks to Parks and Recreation's Program Manager Jennifer Collins for her staff's efforts to assist the Alliance in this endeavor.
- c. **Alexandria Commission on Aging:** No Report.
- d. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV):** No Report.
- e. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC):** No Report.
- f. **Commonwealth Council on Aging:** Erica Wood reported that the Council had formed a Nutrition Committee to address statewide concerns regarding food security. She noted that Arlington's AAA had received honorable mention from the Council's Best Practices Awards for its recent implementation of a Friendly Caller program.

- g. Dementia Friendly Arlington:** Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that Dementia Friends training is available virtually and that a separate meeting is being scheduled to train interested commissioners. DFA began discussions on other groups to target for training.
 - h. Steering Committee on Older Persons:** Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the next meeting is scheduled on May 21st and will feature a presentation on Veteran’s benefits in Virginia.
- IX. Old Business – None**
- X. New Business – None**
- XI. Announcements and Public Comment**
- a.** Rita Wong announced the Fall Prevention Alliance is reactivating their training program. She reported that Marymount University recently launched a Center for Optimal Aging and is in the process of recruiting a full-time director.
 - b.** Allegra Joffe Fahringer announced that Let’s Connect is hosting outdoor falls prevention programs.
- XII. Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.**