



COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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Meeting Summary April 18, 2022

PRESENT: Linda Kelleher, Chair; Jim Richardson, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Beversdorf, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Audrey Kremer, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Cynthia Schneider, Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker, William Way

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Naci Powell, Sophie Shen

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

GUESTS: Yordy Amanuel, David Ansell, Gelareh Bassiry, Kathleen Cameron, Becca Clayton, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Jessica Fredericksen, Anita Freidman, Marta Hill Gray, Claire Jacobsen, Joan McDermott, Bonnie O'Leary, Lora Pollari-Welbes, Charles Sabatino, Michelle Thomas, Rita Wong, Erica Wood, Wendy Zenker

I. **Call to Order /Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Kelleher called the virtual meeting to order and introduced the Director of Arlington County's Department of Human Services, Anita M. Freidman.

II. **DHS Mission, Vision and Values**

Ms. Friedman presented an update to the Department of Human Services Mission, Vision and Values. She outlined DHS priorities of ensuring racial equity, access, inclusion, authenticity, and accountability for all services provided to Arlington residents. A video presentation on the new statements can be accessed via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8hHTcXk7K4> (use control/click or copy into your browser).

III. **Legislative Overview**

Delegate Alfonso Lopez provided an update on the 2022 General Assembly session. The Assembly and Senate are still working to enact a budget for the next fiscal year.

IV. **Digital Divide Working Group**

Vice-Chair Richardson reported a new Commission on Aging initiative to identify and report on activities undertaken to eliminate the digital divide among older residents. The Group will be working with others such as Holly Hartell of Arlington's Department of Technology Services (DTS), Dr. Diane Murphy, the Director of Technology and Innovation at Marymount University and Doug Frost of the Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs (AASP). The AARP's Connect2Affect activities and technology classes presented via the Arlington Library system will also be monitored. Plans to address local needs will be presented for inclusion in the second Arlington-Age-Friendly Five-Year Plan.

V. **Approval of the February Meeting Minutes**

On a motion made by Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner Schneider, the minutes from the February 28th meeting were unanimously approved as written.

VI. **Chair's Report and Executive Committee**

Chair Kelleher reported that she is looking at options for the Commission to meet in person in the fall. She noted that a draft letter regarding proposed changes to the STAR transportation program had been provided with the read ahead material. The Commission is concerned that the proposed changes will diminish services for residents. On a motion made by Commissioner

Schneider and seconded by Commissioner Kremer, the Commission unanimously approved sending the letter to the County Board.

VII. Staff Reports

a). Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA)

AAA Director Helen King reported that Dr. Shandia Johnson has recently been appointed as Supervisor of the Aging and Disability Resource Center. She noted that the Ethnic Meal pilot program, offering Latin American/Mexican food to the residents at Hunters Park, will continue until the end of May. Ms. King noted that plans for the 2022 Farmer's Market program are underway to expand the number of pop-up markets to include all 5 Independent Living Residences.

b) Community Supports & Coordination Bureau (CSCB)

CSCB Director Rachel Coates reported that two new social workers will be joining the Adult Services and Adult Protective Services staff. She reported that Social Security Administration offices have reopened, the closest office to Arlington is in Fairfax. Ms. Coates reported that The Food Security Task Force released a report on Food Insecurity in Arlington, noting that she will arrange for a presentation in the future. She also noted that State recently released the Elderly Simplified SNAP application process. Ms. Coates reported that the State has launched an electronic reporting system for Medicaid, called ELMS. She noted Virginia Medicaid will be known as Cardinal Care. Ms. Coates reported that the updated policy regarding electronic meetings goes into effect September 1. Meetings will return to primarily in-person with up to 25% of meetings allowed to be all virtual.

c. ADSD Staff Report

Administrative Officer Jim Baker report that the County Board will be voting to adopt the FY2023 budget on April 26th. He noted current proposed budget includes a new FTE for ADSD's Adult Protective Services staff. Mr. Baker reported there will be a public engagement process to review proposed STAR service changes, likely in May, and all are encouraged to participate.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Housing & Supportive Services Committee

Commissioner Schneider reported a new residential building with designated affordable housing units is being planned on the current Melwood site on South 23rd Street. She noted this plan currently allocates 105 affordable units with 30 of these set aside for disabled residents. Commissioner Schneider added she will meet next in May and will focus on the 2022 workplan.

b. Legislative Committee/NVAN

Commissioner Kanter reported the upcoming NVAN meeting is the brainstorming for the 2023 legislative platform.

c. Long-Term Care Residences

Rachel Coates reported the recent meeting featured a presentation by Erica Wood of the Commonwealth Council on Aging. She added the committee still needs a co-chair.

d. Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment Committee

Commissioner Cummings reported that the Walking School Bus pilot project is underway and is very successful. Additional volunteers are welcome.

e. Public Information and Outreach

Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the March meeting featured a presentation by Patricia Haynes, MD, Director of the Center for Optimal Aging at Marymount University.

f. Transportation, Safety and Accessibility

Commissioner Way reported on the recent Vision Zero Forum. Joan McDermott reported the recent transportation commission meeting included a discussion of an additional \$1 surcharge for taxi and ride-share programs to cover the increased gas prices. She also reported that the standard for acceptable years of service for taxis would be changed from 10 to 12 years for gas powered vehicles, and from 10 to 15 years for wheelchair accessible and hybrid vehicles.

IX. Liaison Reports

a.) Age-Friendly Arlington

Erica Wood reported that the first 5-year age-friendly plan is coming to an end. She encouraged commissioners to start thinking about goals for the second 5-year cycle and added that topics such as addressing the digital divide could be added.

b.) Office of 55+ Programs/Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs

Office of 55+ Program Manager Jennifer Collins reported that the Walter Reed Community Center had reopened its Social 60+ Café. She added all three Cafés are now open 5 days a week. Ms. Collins added that Jennifer Weber is the new 55+ Center Director at Walter Reed. Ms. Collins reported that the Alliance is expanding technology classes, noting a new class is beginning at Arlington Mill, noting that classes are now offered and Langston Brown, Walter Reed and Arlington Mill with instruction provided by the Arlington Adult Education program.

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 (CCoA)

Erica Wood reported that the CCoA announced their 2022 Best Practices awards and congratulated Arlington's AAA on receiving an Honorable Mention Award for the Pop-Up Farmer's Market program. She added the CCoA will meet on April 27th.

g.) Dementia Friendly Arlington (DFA)

Jessica Fredericksen, Brain Health Manager at Alexandria's Goodwin House, directed Commissioners and guests to the revised DFA website www.dementiafriendlyarlington.com. She noted that planning was underway to reach out to faith communities to offer training. Both in-person and virtual training for Dementia Friends will continue monthly.

h.) Falls Prevention Alliance - No Report

i.) Steering Committee on Older Persons

Commissioner Beversdorf reported the May meeting will feature a presentation by Robin Edwards of the CARE Patrol about the impact of isolation on older adults.

X. Old Business – None

XI. New Business - None

XII. Announcements and Public Comment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.