



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS
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Meeting Summary
February 22, 2021

PRESENT: Linda Kelleher, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Carol Patch, Jim Richardson, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider, Juan Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker, William Way

ABSENT: Chloe Burke, Sophie Shen

EXCUSED: Cheryl Beversdorf, Delegate Alfonso Lopez

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

GUESTS: Jose Aramayo-Pefauere, Angela Chadbourne, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Cynthia Davis, Allegra Joffe Fahringer, Marta Hill Greg, Claire Jacobson, Joan McDermot, Jim Morris, Bonnie O'Leary, Mitch Opalski, Naci Powell, Michelle Thomas, Erica Wood, Wendy Zenker

I. Call to Order /Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kelleher welcomed Commissioners and guests to the virtual meeting and asked attendees to identify themselves via the chat feature. She introduced Naci Powell, who has applied to be a member of the commission.

Committee Report: Housing and Community Supports

Commissioner Schneider provided a detailed report on the Housing and Community Supports Committee. Commissioner Schneider noted that the Committee's goals and objectives are identified in the Arlington Age Friendly Plan and focus on the availability and accessibility of housing for older adults. The committee is actively monitoring the "missing middle" study. Commissioner Patch reported that Phase II of the study begins this summer and there are concerns about the applicability of the study to senior housing, noting that many of the proposed housing types involve stairs. Commissioner Schneider reported that the committee is also focused on tools to help Arlingtonians live in the home of their choice. Erica Wood and Katie Holmes reported on a checklist for the planning commission to consider expanding the accessibility of new developments.

II. Preview of County FY 2022 Budget

Jim Baker, ADSD Chief Administrative Officer, provided a high-level overview of the proposed County Fiscal Year 2022 budget that begins on July 1st, noting that the ADSD budget is largely untouched and no staff reductions are planned for this period. Mr. Baker noted that the County Board work session is scheduled for March 9th. He will present a more detailed view of the proposed budget to the Budget Committee on March 10th. Mr. Baker noted the budget public hearing is scheduled for April 6th and the budget will be adopted by the County Board on April 17th.

III. Approval of the January Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved as written.

IV. Chair's Report/Executive Committee

Chair Kelleher noted that budget oversight and advocacy are an important priority for the Commission on Aging and should include in-person advocacy to the County Board. A small working group is reviewing the Commission on Aging bylaws. Revisions will be presented in a future Commission meeting.

On a motion made and seconded, Commissioners approved a request that the Commission be added to the Complete Vaccination Committee's roster of supporters. Linda and Carlos are members of this committee which will oversee county-wide vaccine distribution efforts to ensure equity and full implementation for marginalized residents.

On a motion made and seconded, Commissioners recommended that a letter be sent to the County Board requesting increased on-site vaccination assistance for all senior living facilities in Arlington.

V. AAA/CSCB Staff Reports

Rachel Coates and Helen King presented a 2020 year-end report noting highlights during this challenging year.

ADSD Chief Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield thanked Commissioners, guests and ADSD staff for working together to prioritize the needs of our aging population and to look out for Arlington residents "of all stages and all ages".

Helen King briefed Commissioners on the upcoming 2021 Virtual Community Forum set for March 15th from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The meeting will feature three sections beginning with a general session, then breakout groups to discuss the topics of covid, connections and equity. A final session will review breakout comments and questions. She asked Committee Chairs to prepare a half-page summary of 2021 goals plus 2-4 questions for breakout session facilitators

VI. Committee Reports

a. Legislative:

Commissioner Kanter reported that Joan McDermott has agreed to serve as Vice Chair for the committee. The next meeting is set for March 1 @ 9am and the committee will begin planning for the next legislative session. Commissioner Kanter reminded the group that NVAN will determine the 2022 Legislative Platform at the April 20 and May 18th meeting.

b. Long-Term Care Residences

Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield reported that 80-85% of Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing residents and staff have received 2 doses of vaccine. The next Committee meeting is set for mid-March and noted this committee still needs a chair. She noted that Brookdale has changed its name to Vitality.

c. Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment

Commissioner Cummings invited all commissioner and guests to the March virtual meeting which will feature presentations from Dorothy Keenan of Fairfax County's GrandInvolve program and Holly Hartell, DHS's Digital Equity Coordinator.

Commissioner Walker reported that the 55+ Spring Activities Guide will be published online. She also noted recent additions to the 55+ YouTube channel which has over 500 subscribers. Commissioner Walker reported that the Social 60+ Café's will reopen March 9th at the Langston-Brown Community Center.

The Arlington Senior Alliance will use grant funding to help residents needing laptops and internet access via Comcast's reduced fee "Internet Essentials" monthly service.

d. Public Information and Outreach

Commissioner Velazquez reported that the PIO committee has been busy. He noted that the next virtual meeting will be held in mid-March.

e. Transportation, Safety and Accessibility

Commissioner Richardson noted the committee will structure the transportation analysis across three (3) domains: regional commuters; local Arlington commuters; “last-mile” residents who walk and bike. A proposal to limit non-resident parking to two hours was recently rejected by the Transportation Commission. Plans for increasing resident parking permit fees were also discussed. He thanked Commissioner Velazquez for his assistance in preparing the Annual Report. Commissioner Kanter reported from the Transit Advisory Committee that Metrorail ridership was down by 95%. Commissioner Way noted that Arlington County’s February 2020 decision to increase speeding fines to \$200 on certain residential roads had resulted in decreased traffic fatalities in those areas.

VII. Liaison Reports

a.) Age-Friendly Arlington

Cynthia Davis noted that the current Arlington Age-Friendly plan is a 5-year plan that includes assessing outcomes. Erica Wood presented information on the use of a checklist to ensure consistent implementation of recommendations.

b.) Alexandria Commission on Aging

Commissioner Cummings reported that a recent virtual meeting included a report from the Alexandria Police Commissioner and included discussions on digital equity and virtual tours for seniors.

c.) Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)

Wendy Zenker reported that ANV operated continuously throughout 2020 by re-tooling and pivoting its services as needed. Overall, ANV fulfilled 1,890 service requests from its 300+ members; volunteers served 7,180 hours and drove 20,510 miles at their own expense taking members to medical appointments, vaccine shots, grocery shopping, prescription pickup, delivering food from AFAC and running errands for senior residents. To reduce social isolation, ANV volunteer callers made 1,880 daily check-in calls to especially frail members. ANV hosted educational and social events on Zoom with 4,488 participants. New volunteers joined during 2020 while many volunteers had to go on hiatus due to the pandemic. ANV was able to maintain its service delivery rate of 98 percent.

ANV strengthened its partnerships with DHS, AFAC, APAH, and Culpepper Garden waiving its membership fee in March 2020 so that it could help at-risk and in-need seniors referred by these organizations. By December 2020, ANV was supporting 80 members through this program of its 300+ members. These services continue in 2021, as well as helping seniors who need a one-time ride to their vaccine appointments.

d.) Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)

No Report.

e.) Commonwealth Council on Aging

Erica Wood reported that the Council met virtually in January and heard a report on long-term care facilities and the vaccine. Advocacy from the CCA resulted in the Governor directing local

health departments to reserve half of the available doses for 65+. The CCA announced requests for submissions for the 2021 Best Practices Award program.

f.) Dementia Friendly Arlington
No Report

g.) Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)
Commissioner Kanter reported that the next virtual meeting was set for March 16th.

h.) Steering Committee on Older Persons
Helen King noted that the March meeting would feature a Legislative Update with Patrick Hope.

VIII. **Old Business** - None

IX. **New Business** - None

X. **Announcements and Public Comment** - None

XII. **Adjournment at 11:40 a.m.**

NEXT MEETING:
2021 Community Forum Meeting
Monday, March 15, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.