



COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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February 28, 2022

PRESENT: Jim Richardson, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Beversdorf, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Audrey Kremer, Cynthia Schneider, Sophie Shen, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Juan Carlos Velazquez, Andrea Walker, William Way

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Linda Kelleher, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Naci Powell

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

GUESTS: Yordanose Amanuel, David Ansell, Emily Braley, Chloe Burke, Kathleen Cameron, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Russell Danao-Schroeder, Cynthia Davis, Joel Franklin, Marta Hill Gray, Claire Jacobsen, Eileen McCartin, Joan McDermott, Jim Morris. Charlie Sabatino, Kathryn Scruggs, Michelle Thomas, Erica Wood, Wendy Zenker

I. Call to Order / Welcome and Introductions

Vice-Chair Richardson called the virtual meeting to order.

AHMP Presentation

Vice-Chair Richardson introduced Joel Franklin and Russell Danao-Schroeder from CPHD Housing Planning & Community Development. Mr. Franklin and Mr. Danao-Schroeder provided a brief presentation Affordable Housing Master Plan Implementation Framework and how it differs from the previous framework in affordability, quality of inventory, incorporation of equity analysis, expanded tenant services, and rethinking the approach to homeownership. This implementation framework was drafted two weeks ago and is not exclusive, meaning exploration of other tools that may be appropriate for achieving Arlington's affordable housing goals can still be considered. This report is expected to be presented to the County Board this upcoming March of 2022.

II. Approval of the January Minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Kanter the Minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved as written.

III. Chair's Report and Executive Committee

Vice-Chair Richardson reported that the Commission's letter of support for the Marbella Affordable Housing Redevelopment, which will include 120 units for Seniors, was approved and sent forward to the County Board. Vice-Chair Richardson reported that the January 31st virtual meeting with commission chairs covered COVID, county staffing shortages, and an interest in attendees in having a hybrid meeting. Vice-Chair Richardson reported that Chair Kelleher held a virtual check-in with County Board liaison Garvey. He reported Chair Kelleher will participate in the DHS Budget County Board Work Session on March 8th and will provide a commission update to members of ANV on March 9th.

IV. Staff Reports

a. Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA)

AAA Director Helen King reported the Community Engagement Forum coming up on March 21st from 9:30am – 12:00pm with the keynote speaker being Jones Vernikos. The forum will be primarily virtual, via zoom, with four confirmed hybrid satellite sites. Ms. King discussed the start-up of an ethnic meal pilot at Hunters Park which will comprise of a small group of residents receiving Mexican/Latin American meals for 10 weeks. Ms. King announced the Budget Committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday March 2nd at 2:00pm noting the link to join is posted on the Calendar of Events on the Commission on Aging website.

b. **Community Supports & Coordination Bureau (CSCB)**

CSCB Director Rachel Coates reported continued staffing and recruiting challenges, noting the Nursing Case Management program recently hired a new nurse and Adult Services and Adult Protective Services will soon onboard new staff. Ms. Coates announced that May is Older Americans Month with the theme being “Age my Way”. May is also the 50th Anniversary of Senior Nutrition Programs and plans are underway to recognize the Meals on Wheels program. Ms. Coates raised a concern about the increased number of older adults in shelters and experiencing homelessness. Ms. Coates reported The Carlin is currently under-staffed and actively recruiting. There are concerns about residents not having the necessary level of support and services. She noted residents continue to advocate for themselves and will attend the upcoming landlord tenant meeting. She also reported that CSCB has staff on site in the interim till RHF fills these positions. Related to housing, Ms. Coates reported renovations at several affordable properties are displacing residents from their homes. She reported CSCB is monitoring and assisting residents where we are able.

c. **Aging and Disability Service Division (ADSD) Staff Report**

ADSD Director Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield reported that ARPA funds have allowed ADSD to be creative with closing gaps in community needs. She noted the COVID picture is looking brighter at our long-term care communities. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that in April, DHS Director Anita Friedman will attend the Commission meeting to present the revised Vision, Mission & Values.

V. Committee Reports

a. **Housing & Supportive Services Committee**

Commissioner Schneider reported that the housing committee will be meeting March 15th and plans to take a close look at the Implementation Framework, noting the housing committee plans to provide reactions to the plan.

b. **Legislative Committee/NVAN**

Commissioner Kanter and Ms. McDermott reported the electronic meeting legislation passed the house, but an identical bill failed in the senate. A \$600,000 grant for VICAP will likely be preserved in the senate budget as it was in the governor’s original introduced budget. Legislation for nursing home staffing standards will be carried over until next year. Funding for the long-term care ombudsman program survived in the senate at half the requested amount. Commissioner Kanter noted the next committee meeting is scheduled for the 1st Monday in April and NVAN next meets on March 15 at 9:30 virtually.

c. **Long-Term Care Residences**

Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that the committee meeting in February included a discussion on the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program that served as a call of action to recruit more volunteers for Arlington nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She reported that Public Health provided status updates on Arlington communities, noting Public Health continues to offer weekly support to help with training and infection control. The next meeting for this committee March 10th.

d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment Committee (PIE)**

Commissioners Cummings reported the committee’s upcoming March meeting will feature a presentation by INF Care, a company that provides technology services to older. Commissioner Walker provided an update on the Walking School Bus program, noting a mini grant has been received to purchase safety vests for the children.

Commissioner Chutuape reported on the 3G transition, noting all mobile carriers are moving from 3G over to 4G and 5G. She reported the transition dates vary by carrier and noted the Lifeline system uses T-Mobile and has transitioned to 4G/5G completely.

e. Public Information and Outreach

Commissioner Velazquez reported the committee is looking to partner with the Marymount Center on Optimal Aging for the Ambassador program and plans to invite the new Director to their March meeting. Commissioner Velazquez congratulated Commissioner Beversdorf on Aging Matters reaching a milestone with their 250th interview. The program on Medical Marijuana will air March 8th.

f. Transportation, Safety and Accessibility

Commissioner Way reported the elimination of the transfer charge on ART Bus. Commissioner Way noted parking at Marbella will be free to residents, and the ratio of spaces to residents will be .45 for the senior apartments and .50 for the rest of the project, noting the property is located a mile from both the Courthouse and Rosslyn metro stations. Commissioner Way reported that Vision Zero has created a toolbox and will present an update at the April meeting. He also noted the committee is keeping track of the See-Me flags and the next quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 12th.

VI. Liaison Reports**a.) Age-Friendly Arlington**

Cynthia Davis reported that the task force will be meeting on Friday March 4th- there are no further updates.

b.) Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council

Commissioner Walker announced that Jennifer Weber is the new Office of 55+ Program Director for Walter Reed. She reported the 55+ Advisory Group sent a letter to the County Board asking Walter Reed to reopen. Commissioner Walker announced that the 55+ travel program will return March 2nd and 17 trips are planned between now and May. Commissioner Walker reported the Internet Essential program continues and a 2nd set of computer classes is being taught through APS Adult Education.

c.) Alexandria Commission on Aging – No Report**d.) Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)**

Wendy Zenker provided an update on the number of individuals ANV serviced in 2021. She reported that ANV continues to work on their strategic plan and will share a draft of the final version.

e.) Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC) – No Report**f.) Commonwealth Council on Aging**

Erica Wood reported that the Council is looking at ways to elevate issues on aging in the Commonwealth. In February the Council approved a letter to the new Secretary of Health and Human Resources, highlighting the role and requesting more consistent participation in the Aging Services Work Group.

g.) Dementia Friendly Arlington

Rachel Coates noted that 2 Arlington Staff members are not Dementia Friends Master trainers.

h.) Falls Prevention Alliance – No Report**i.) Steering Committee**

Commissioner Beversdorf reported the next meeting is scheduled for March 18th at 10:00am and will feature a discussion of the legislative session with Patrick Hope.

VII. Old Business - None

VIII. New Business- None

IX. Announcements and Public Comment

Chloe Burke requested the commission consider some form of recognition for long-term care and mental health workers as a thank-you for their heroic efforts during the pandemic.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.