



**ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING**

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

2100 Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA 22204

TEL: 703-228-1700 FAX: 703-228-1174 TTY: 703-228-1788

EMAIL: [arlaaa@arlingtonva.us](mailto:arlaaa@arlingtonva.us)

**Meeting Summary  
January 25, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Linda Kelleher, Cheryl Beversdorf, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Carol Patch, Jim Richardson, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider, Sophie Shen, Juan Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker, William Way

**ABSENT:** Chloe Burke

**STAFF:** Rachel Coates, Helen King, Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Jim Baker, Anita Friedman, Dr. Reuben Varghese

**GUESTS:** Angela Chadbourne, Kathleen Cameron, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Cynthia Davis, Jim Feaster, Molly French, Claire Jacobsen, Joan McDermot, Jim Morris, Jennifer Odium, Bonnie O’Leary, Mitch Opalski, Porscha Raspberry, 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 phone attendees to identify themselves via the chat function. Ms. Rachel Coates announced a change to meeting agenda, noting that the Commission on Aging would hear an update on the plan to vaccinate residents 75 and older. She introduced the guest speakers, Anita Friedman, Director of Arlington County’s Department of Human Services (DHS) and Dr. Reuben Varghese, Director of the Public Health Division within DHS.

**II. COVID-19 Vaccine Update**

Ms. Friedman began by acknowledging disappointment regarding the current status of federal vaccine distribution and noting that the driving issue continues to be supply. She added that the Arlington Public Health Division was following guidelines set by the Governor and by the Virginia Department of Health. She noted that the Commission on Aging is an important partner in this campaign, highlighting the need to be informed and to help disseminate accurate information.

Dr. Varghese informed Commissioners and guests that vaccines began arriving in Arlington in late December and were prioritized for phase 1a essential medical workers first. Also included in phase 1a are residents and staff of long-term care facilities who will be vaccinated through a national partnership with pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens. The Northern Virginia Health district received permission to move to phase 1b in mid-January and Arlington County partnered with Virginia Hospital Center to schedule and administer vaccines to the 75+ population. As more State Health Districts started administering vaccines, the Virginia Department of Health changed the model for vaccine allocation to the health district. Dr. Varghese noted that Virginia is currently receiving 105,000 doses per week and are distributed across the State on a per capita model. Due to these changes, Virginia Hospital Center cancelled all first dose appointments scheduled after January 26<sup>th</sup>. Arlington Public Health will assume responsibility for vaccinating all phase 1b residents. As soon as the list of cancelled vaccinations is received, staff will reach out to the affected Arlington residents age 75 and older to schedule them to be vaccinated. Dr. Varghese noted that phase 1b also includes the 18-64-year-old cohort with a chronic medical condition, teachers, childcare workers and State and Federal workers who fall into the continuity of government category. Dr. Varghese reported that the Arlington Public Health department held a weekend clinic for K-12 teachers and childcare workers and vaccinated 900 people per day – demonstrating Arlington has the capacity to distribute the vaccines. He also noted that Public Health was partnering with Arlington County Fire to train EMS staff to distribute the vaccine, noting that they might be utilized to distribute vaccines to the

homebound. Dr. Varghese assured Commissioners that older adults were being prioritized and noted that residents affected by the cancelled clinic would be contacted by phone. Commissioners expressed concern that non-resident federal and state employees were expected to be vaccinated by the Arlington Health District and asked if that was factored into the per capita allocation. More information about Arlington County's vaccines can be found at [COVID-19 - Home \(arlingtonva.us\)](https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19-home).

### III. **Approval of December Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the December virtual meeting were unanimously approved as written.

### IV. **Chair's Report/Executive Committee**

Chair Kelleher reported the topics for upcoming meetings would include ADSD's FY 2022 draft budget in February and transportation in April. Chair Kelleher reminded commissioners that the Community Engagement Forum is coming up in March, and there is a need for facilitators for breakout sessions – noting each committee will be asked to provide a facilitator. Chair Kelleher reported the forum will focus on COVID, Connections and Equity. Chair Kelleher invited discussion on a letter being drafted to urge the County Board to prioritize older Arlingtonians for vaccination. After discussion the Commission approved an amended version to be sent.

### V. **Staff Reports**

AAA Staff Report: Community Supports and Coordination Bureau (CSCB) Chief Rachel Coates reported that the staff continues to operate in the Assistance from a Distance model, and that a high volume of need, especially around rental assistance, utility assistance and food insecurity. Ms. Coates noted that Volunteer Arlington has a great resource page. She also noted that VICAP Coordinator Michelle Thomas participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service. Ms. Coates reported that the Commission's 2021 Community Engagement Forum is set for Monday, March 15 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 pm. and noted the keynote speaker will be Nora Super from the Milken Institute Center for the Future of Aging. She asked Commissioners interested in facilitating breakout groups to contact her.

ADSD Staff Report: ADSD Chief Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield reported that community-based outreach programs such as Nursing Case Management and Senior Adult Mental Health have continued during the pandemic, noting that in some cases our residents are aging poorly. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield noted that the division is seeing more request for technology and added there may opportunities for donations of older equipment. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that FY2022 budget preparation is underway and more information will be shared upon the budget release in February.

### VI. **Committee Reports**

#### a. **Housing and Community Supports**

Commissioner Schneider reported that the Committee will meet in February to review the current Affordable Housing Master Plan and develop comment. Commissioner Schneider noted the staff are seeking County Board approval by Summer 2021.

#### b. **Legislative**

Commissioner Kanter reported that the next meeting will be held in March where committee members will consider proposals for the April NVAN legislative brainstorming session.

On a motion made and seconded, Commissioners approved sending a letter to our state delegates regarding the "per capita" allocation of Covid 19 vaccine to each Public Health

District emphasizing concerns regarding non-resident Federal and State workers. Commissioner Schneider will draft the letter and circulate to commissioners for comment and approval.

c. **Long Term Care Residences**

Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that liaisons are being assigned to cover long-term care residences and 80% of the Arlington long-term care residences are now covered. She noted that the committee will meet again on Thursday where roles will be defined, and mobilization will be discussed. She thanked Commissioners who have joined the new committee and those who have volunteered to Liaison with individual LTC facilities.

d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment**

Commissioner Cummings reported that the committee met in January to discuss ways to increase virtual social activities and digital equity in order to implement Arlington's Age Friendly domain priorities.

- i. **Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council:** Commissioner Walker noted an upcoming February meeting with County digital equity group to discern how organizations like the Alliance can help increase digital access to older adults to assist efforts to reduce social isolation during the pandemic and beyond. She reported two walk-up Covid 19 testing sites recently opened at the Barcroft and Aurora Hills Community Centers. Commissioner Walker reported that Nick Englund has been promoted to Operations and Nutrition Supervisor in the Office of 55+ Programs.

e. **Public Information and Outreach:** No Report

f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility**

Commissioner Richardson noted that the county's Transportation Commission met in January where discussion included proposed transportation improvements associated with the Ames Center development on Ft Myer Driver in Rosslyn. Commissioner Richardson reported that he plans to include data and the impact of that data on the committee's objectives in his annual report.

**VII. Liaison Reports**

- a. **Age-Friendly Arlington:** Cynthia Davis reported that the Age Friendly Task Force is working on an assessment/evaluation process. She noted there is a liaison available from the task force to each committee.
- b. **Alexandria Commission on Aging:** No Report
- c. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV):** Wendy Zenker reported on increased requests for transportation to vaccine appointments.
- d. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC):** Joan McDermott reported that the last webinar on Death & Dying will be held February 2 at 11 am. The topic is planning a funeral or memorial service and you can register on the Library website.
- e. **Commonwealth Council on Aging:** Erica Wood noted the Council will meet in January.
- f. **Dementia Friendly Arlington:** Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that the next meeting will be held in February.
- g. **Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN):** No Report
- h. **Steering Committee on Older Persons:** Helen King reported that the March meeting will feature a Legislative Update with Patrick Hope.

**VIII. Old Business – None**

IX. **New Business** – None

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

XI. **Adjournment at 11:27 a.m.**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Monday, February 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**