



COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

2100 Washington Blvd., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Arlington, VA 22204

TEL 703-228-1700 FAX 703-228-1147 TTY 703-228-1788 [www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/DHS](http://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/DHS)

## Meeting Summary January 24, 2022

**PRESENT:** Linda Kelleher, Chair; Jim Richardson, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Beversdorf, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Audrey Kremer, Naci Powell, Cynthia Schneider, Sophie Shen, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker, William Way

**EXCUSED/ABSENT:** Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Juan Carlos Velazquez

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

**GUESTS:** David Ansell, Sharleka Ashton, Brenda Cox, Tom Daly, Cynthia Davis, Jessica Frederickson, Marta Hill Gray, Claire Jacobsen, William Jones, Joan McDermott, Jim Morris, Paul Mounier, Jennifer Odlum, Michelle Thomas, Erica Wood

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

Chair Kelleher called the virtual meeting to order. Arlington Agency on Aging staff took roll and quorum was met. Chair Kelleher asked guests to identify themselves via the chat function.

### II. Floating Bus Stops in Arlington County

AAA Director Helen King introduced Paul Mounier, Service Planner for the Transit Bureau of the Department of Environmental Services (DES). Mr. Mounier provided a presentation on floating bus stops and how Arlington County would like to incorporate them in our community. Draft guidelines for designing and constructing Floating Bus Stops will be issued by DES in February 2022 for review.

### III. Approval of the December Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Jim Richardson and seconded by Audrey Kremer, the minutes from the December meeting were unanimously approved as written.

### IV. Chair's Report and Executive Committee

Chair Kelleher reported that the Commission's Annual Report was being finalized. She noted that 2 applications have been received and are working their way through the process. Chair Kelleher added she will be reaching out regarding committee assignments. She also noted she will be scheduling meetings with County Board members in the near future.

### V. Staff Reports

#### a. Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA)

AAA Director Helen King reported that the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is assisting residents in-person and averaging 1-2 walk-ins per day in addition to ongoing virtual assistance with rent, food security, emergency shelter and utilities. A new federal mortgage assistance program is now available to assist homeowners who are behind with mortgage payments, property taxes, homeowners' insurance, or associate fees due to COVID. Ms. King reported the transition to the new Money Management Service is underway. She noted the partnership between Legal Services of Northern VA and AAA staff on eviction prevention efforts.

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

Bureau Director Rachel Coates reported that Arlington continues to remain at high community transmission but seem to be trending downward – noting that Arlington continues to offer vaccines and boosters as well as 4 Curative test sites. Ms. Coates reported that the Adult Day Program remains open and is accepting new admissions. She noted that Arlington County

staff are going onsite at The Carlin to assist residents during the Resident Services transition. Ms. Coates reported that the Community Engagement Forum is planned on March 21<sup>st</sup> and noted that the theme for this year's Older Americans month in May is "Age My Way". Ms. Coates reported that the 2022 General Assembly session is underway and AAA staff are helping to track key legislation.

c. **ADSD Staff Report**

Aging and Disability Services Division Chief Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield reported that the division recruited 10 staff in 2021. She announced that a new Guardianship intern has been hired, and that Alusine (Al) Kabia was hired as the new program manager for Senior Adult Mental Health. She noted that the long-term care communities in Arlington were all in outbreak status (3 or more active COVID cases), but the number of hospitalizations and deaths was not increasing as a result.

**VI. Committee Reports**

a. **Housing & Supportive Services Committee**

Commissioner Schneider reported that the January committee meeting included a presentation from ADSD staff member Tony Glaze on rental assistance for low-income seniors. She noted that the County's Affordable Housing Master Plan was under review.

b. **Legislative Committee/NVAN**

Commissioner Kanter reported that bills to permit virtual meetings, guardianship system reforms, efforts to standardize nursing home staffing levels and paid sick leave were under consideration during the current 2022 session. Erica Wood noted the \$600,000 for VICAP was included in the Governor's budget so efforts are focused on ensuring that stays. She also noted a budget amendment to fund the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program.

c. **Long-Term Care Residences**

Report included in the ADSD Staff report.

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

Commissioner Cummings reported that the committee is partnering with the Office of 55+ programs, WalkingArlington and Arlington County Public Schools on the Walking School Bus pilot at Oakridge Elementary school in April. Commissioner Walker reported on a plan to apply for a \$1,000 Virginia Department of Transportation "Safe Routes to Schools" grant to buy safety vests for participant students. On a motion made by Commissioner Cummings and seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the Commission approved moving forward with the grant application.

e. **Public Information and Outreach**

Commissioner Beversdorf noted that the January PIO meeting would feature presentations on current Senior Ambassador programs from representatives of Fairfax and Loudon Counties. She noted that Commissioners and guests could access and sign-up for the Aging Matters newsletter via <https://www.agingmattersonline.com/>.

f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility**

Commissioner Richardson reported that a recent meeting was attended by DPR's Nick Englund who highlighted the transportation needs for the 55+ Centers. He noted a need to prepare for weather-related safety concerns and a need to remind residents to check in-car emergency kits. Commissioner Way reported that the "Safety Flags" placements were now complete, and he would be monitoring the sites.

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

Cynthia Davis reported that the Task Force met in January to discuss preparing the Annual Report.

**b.) Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council**

Commissioner Walker reported that the Office of 55+ Programs is providing emergency meals to participants. The inclement weather has resulted in an uptick in the virtual program participation. She announced that the DPR's 55+ staff would receive the County Manager's Excellence Award at a virtual ceremony held in late January. Commissioner Walker also noted that the Alliance raised \$1,000 for the Internet Essentials program and is planning to expand classes to Arlington Mill.

**c.) Alexandria Commission on Aging**

Commissioner Cummings reported that the Alexandria Commission was beginning work on its next AARP Age-Friendly 5-year plan.

**d.) Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV) - No Report****e.) Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC) – No Report****f.) Commonwealth Council on Aging**

Ms. Wood reported that the Council meets on Wednesday January 26 and will be reviewing pending legislation, budget requests and studies. It will also consider a letter by its Executive Committee to the incoming Secretary of Human Resources, asking for participation by the Secretary or designee in Council meetings, engagement of the Council and the Commissioner in statewide initiatives that affect older Virginians, and funding in alignment with its legislative recommendations.

**g.) Dementia Friendly Arlington**

Jessica Fredrickson, the Brain Health Program Manager at Goodwin House, noted that DFA was pursuing expanding community training via local church groups. She noted that DFA was drafting a Dementia Friendly checklist to distribute to local business owners.

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

Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the next meeting, scheduled for March, would feature a legislative update from Delegate Patrick Hope.

**VIII. Old Business - None****IX. New Business- None****X. Announcements and Public Comment**

Commissioner Kanter noted that he was recently asked to participate as member of the County's Stormwater Advisory Committee. Chair Kelleher wished him well in undertaking this new commitment.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.