



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

Commission on Aging (COA) Meeting Summary July 19, 2021

PRESENT: Linda Kelleher, Chair; Jim Richardson, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Beversdorf, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Carol Patch, Naci Powell, Sophie Shen, Cynthia Schneider, Juan Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, William Way

EXCUSED: Jim Ruff, Andrea Walker

ABSENT: Chloe Burke, Delegate Alfonso Lopez

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

GUESTS: Tara Barnes, Elise Burns, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Cynthia Davis, Shasta Douglas, Carl Gold, Marta Hill Gray, Delegate Patrick Hope, Claire Jacobsen, Jim Morris, June O'Connell, Bonnie O'Leary, Alice Straker, Michelle Thomas, Lora Pollari-Welbes, Erica Wood

I. Call to Order /Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Richardson called the meeting to order and asked guests to identify themselves via the chat function.

II. Legislative Committee Spotlight

a. Update on Joint Commission on Healthcare Studies

Commissioner Kanter, Chair of the Legislative Committee, introduced Virginia State Delegate Patrick Hope, Chair of the Joint Commission on Healthcare (JCHC). The goal of the Joint Commission on Healthcare is to make healthcare more affordable, accessible and equitable along with improved quality of care for all Virginia residents. Delegate Hope reviewed the 2021 JCHC staff studies: Impact of nursing facility workforce needs on quality of care; Strategies to support aging Virginians in their communities; Health insurance affordability in the individual market.

b. Legislative Committee Plans

Commissioner Kanter noted that the major activity of the Legislative Committee is participating in the Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN). NVAN is comprised of the 5 Northern Virginia AAA staffs and organizations such as AARP. NVAN meeting sets a legislative agenda each year and presents the agenda to the local legislators at the annual legislative breakfast. The legislative breakfast is scheduled on September 14th and all are welcome to attend. Commissioner Kanter noted the legislative committee, along with the Alexandria Commission on Aging, hosts a Legislative Forum each year in November at the Fairlington Community Center.

III. Approval of the June Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Commissioner Kanter and seconded by Commissioner Cummings, the June meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written.

IV. Chair's Report/Executive Committee

Chair Kelleher reported that the September commission meeting will focus on committee plans for the upcoming year. Each committee should be prepared to briefly discuss their upcoming Age-Friendly Arlington goals. Chair Kelleher reported a letter requesting a delay in the approval of policy that would permit developers to turn furnished rental units into hotel units has been forwarded to the County Board. Chair Kelleher reported Commissions are to resume meeting in person starting in September. A draft letter requesting permission to continue hybrid meetings was sent to commissioners. On a motion made by Commissioner Cummings and seconded by Vice Chair

Richardson, an updated letter was approved to be sent. Chair Kelleher reported the Commission is recruiting for at least one member.

V. Staff Reports

a. Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA)

AAA Director Helen King provided an update on the Aging and Disability Resource Center activity, noting that staff continue to experience a high volume of calls. She reported the Senior Farmer's Market program will include pop-up markets at Woodland Hills and Culpepper Gardens this summer. Ms. King noted that the Area Plan update was submitted to the state in June.

b. Community Supports & Coordination Bureau (CSCB)

CSCB Chief Rachel Coates expressed concern that the upcoming end to the state's eviction moratorium would lead to an increase in homelessness. She noted an increase in requests for deep cleaning/decluttering services. Ms. Coates reported a high level of caregiver burnout, noting the Arlington Adult Day Care Program has now resumed on-site daily activities and a position with the program will focus on caregiver supports. Ms. Coates reported she has been representing older adults to the Arlington Food Security Task Force.

c. Aging & Disability Services Division (ADSD)

ADSD Chief Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield reported that staff returned to the Sequoia 1 building at half-capacity starting July 6th. In-person services are provided primarily by appointment with walk-in services to support those in crisis. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield noted concerns regarding the limitations placed on new admissions at state mental health facilities and the increased burden it places on families and program staff.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Housing and Community Supports

Commissioner Schneider reported that the June meeting included discussion of the ongoing "Missing Middle" housing availability study.

b. Long-Term Care Residences

Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that the July meeting focused on training for residents and staff regarding the recent lifting of social distancing restrictions. Staff and residents who are not yet vaccinated for COVID-19 are being urged to participate in current public health efforts.

c. Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment

Commissioner Cummings reported that the committee held a work session in July and heard a presentation by Rosemary Ciotti, Chair of the Disability Advisory Commission. He reported the next committee meeting is scheduled for August 4th on Teams.

d. Public Information and Outreach Committee

Commissioner Beversdorf reported that a recent meeting included updates on the limited reopening of Arlington's Library branches and plans for 55+ program activities. She will meet with Marymount University staff to discuss their assistance in developing a Senior Ambassador program. Commissioner Velasquez noted that the COA's Outreach slide presentation update was being finalized. He reported an upcoming workshop on the delta variant of COVID-19 would include a sign-language interpreter.

e. Transportation, Safety and Accessibility

Commissioner Richardson reported that the recent Transportation Commission meeting provided details on the capital improvement plan that includes \$600 million for transportation concerns across the county. Commissioner Way reported that a final decision is pending for the AARP grant proposal. Jim Feaster reported that the Bike and Pedestrian Committees are undergoing a review of the plans

for Route 1 in Crystal City, noting the emphasis seems to be more on moving vehicles over bike and pedestrian safety.

VII. Liaison Reports

a. Age-Friendly Arlington

Cynthia Davis reported that she and Chair Kelleher were working to integrate the Age-Friendly initiative into the Commission work.

b. Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council

Office of 55+ Program Manager Jennifer Collins reported the Lubber Run Community Center opened July 9th. She noted that the Social 60+ Cafes would add a second site at Walter Reed starting July 20th, opening space for an additional 60 people/week to attend. The 55+ Program is looking to resume in person programming by mid-September. Ms. Collins reported they have hired 2 new senior center directors.

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

Ms. Wood reported the next Council meeting is scheduled for July 28th and will be in-person in Richmond to adopt a legislative platform.

g. Dementia Friendly Arlington

Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago confirmed the next Dementia Friendly training will be offered on July 29th and commissioner can attend virtually or in-person. She requested Commissioners contact her with dates in August they were not available so a second session could be planned.

h. Falls Prevention Alliance- No Report

i. Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)

Commissioner Kanter noted that NVAN will meet virtually on July 20th. A link to the meeting can be found on the Calendar of Events.

j. Steering Committee on Older Persons

Commissioner Beversdorf reported July meeting was cancelled. The next meeting, September 17th, will feature a presentation on technology solutions to address social isolation.

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. New Business - None

X. Announcements and Public Comment

June O'Connell thanked Commissioners for the letter of support sent to the County Board on the issue of turning furnished rental units into hotel units.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Way and seconded by Vice-Chair Richardson. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.