



Meeting Summary July 18, 2022

PRESENT: Jim Richardson, Vice-Chair, Cheryl Beversdorf, Kathleen Cameron, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Audrey Kremer, Charles Sabatino, Cynthia Schneider, Andrea Walker, William Way

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Linda Kelleher, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Sophie Shen, Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago

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

GUESTS: Gelareh Bassiry, Emily Braley, Jennifer Collins, Steve Cordle, Tom Daly, Cynthia Davis, Bryna Helfer, Marta Hill-Gray, Claire Jacobsen, Shandia Johnson, Denise McDonald, Jim Morris, Anthony Nunez, Bonnie O'Leary, Mitch Opalski, Gina Ramos, Sarah Tracey, Peri Weinfeldt, Wendy Zenker

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Richardson welcomed Commissioners and guests to the virtual meeting. He noted that public comments will now be heard at the start of the meeting.

II. Public Comment

Bonnie O'Leary, Outreach Manager for the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons, reported that grant funding for her organization had recently been reduced by 47% with no advance notice, noting that services will need to be reduced as a result.

III. Electronic Meetings Update

Vice Chair Richardson introduced Sarah Tracey, Engagement & Outreach Specialist with the County Manager's Office, who provided Commissioners an update on the Electronic Meetings policy. The policy goes into effect September 1st.

IV. Approval of the June Meeting Minutes

The June meeting minutes were amended to reflect the following change: The last sentence in the Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment Committee report was revised to read "they hope to expand at Oakridge in the next school year. On a motion made by Audrey Kramer and seconded by Linc Cummings, the minutes of the June meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

V. Chair's Report and Executive Committee

Vice Chair Richardson reported that a letter of support for the Missing Middle Phase 2 Draft Framework has been forwarded to the County Board. A letter regarding the recent Housing Grant Focus Groups has been sent to DHS Director Anita Friedman.

Commissioners discussed the Policy for Electronic Meetings. On a motion made by Commissioner Cummings and second by Commissioner Schneider, the Electronic Meetings Policy for the Commission on Aging was adopted.

Vice Chair Richardson presented a revised mission and vision for the Commission on Aging to align with the recently updated DHS Mission, Vision, and Values. On a motion made by Commissioner Cummings and second by Commissioner Kremer, the updated statements were adopted.

Vice Chair Richardson reminded Commissioners there is no meeting in August. The September meeting will be in person at Culpepper Garden.

VI. Long Term Care Residences Committee Update

ADSD Director Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield reviewed the activities of this new committee which was formed in the Fall of 2020. The committee was started to provide resources, services, and trainings to local LTC facilities. Committee members serve as liaisons to individual facilities and interact with staff and residents. She noted the committee meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:30.

VII. Staff Reports

a. Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA)

AAA Director Helen King reported that she is in the process of updating the Area Plan for the upcoming Federal fiscal year, and thanks commissioners for responding to her request for information. She reported that the July pop-up market at Woodland Hill was a success and added that Commissioner Velazquez stopped by to help. She noted the next market is scheduled for August at Claridge House. Ms. King asked Commissioners to hold October 24th for a strategic planning session. Ms. King reported that she recently attended the USAging Conference in Austin, TX and accepted an Aging Innovations Award for Arlington's Pop-Up Farmer's Markets. She concluded her report by noting that an updated Caregiver Resources Guide is currently being prepared and asked any commissioner interested in helping to staff the ADSD resource table at the Arlington County Fair August 19-21 to contact ADSD's Michelle Thomas.

b. Community Supports & Coordination Bureau (CSCB)

CSCB Director Rachel Coates thanked Commissioners for their persistence with the virtual meetings, noting that this is the last all virtual session. She thanked commissioners for adopting the updated mission and vision that emphasizes diversity and inclusion. She reminded commissioners to include their staff liaison on any emails regarding commission work.

Ms. Coates reported the Bureau is still filling staff vacancies, noting the Nursing Case Management team will be fully staff on August 1st and Adult Services and Adult Protective Services are rebuilding. Ms. Coates reported there was no increase to the Auxiliary Grant rate on July 1st and more advocacy is needed. She reported that Arlington is planning to rescind the emergency declaration on August 15th, noting this is separate from the State and Federal declarations. She reported there will be a need to recertify Medicaid recipients adding that we are waiting for the deadline date from the state.

Ms. Coates reported a regional Age Friendly Summit is planned for November 9th. The summit will be virtual, free to all and will focus on transportation, housing, long-term care, and emergency preparedness. Ms. Coates noted that 988, the 3-digit line for suicide prevention is coming to Arlington.

Committee Reports

a. Housing & Supportive Services Committee

Commissioner Schneider reported the Housing Grant letter was drafted as a response to the housing grant focus groups. She added the Housing Committee will not meet in July or August.

b. Legislative Committee/NVAN

Commissioner Kanter reported the next NVAN meeting is July 19th and will include a discussion of the bullet points for the 6 items on the 2023 platform. Commissioner Kanter reported the NVAN Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for September 30th at the County Club of Fairfax.

c. Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment Committee

Commissioner Cummings reported the committee met last week and heard a presentation by Dr. Patricia Heyn, Founding Director of Marymount University's Center for Optimal Aging. Commissioner Cummings reported efforts are underway to expand the Walking School Bus program and is working with partner organizations to increase the number of volunteers.

d. Public Information and Outreach

Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the next meeting is planned for July 25th.

e. Transportation, Safety and Accessibility

Commissioner Way reported that the transportation committee continues their involvement in the Vision Zero initiative and is currently focusing on speed enforcement data. He also noted that Arlington County has applied for grants to improve safety along Route 50.

VIII. Liaison Reports

a.) Age-Friendly Arlington

Cynthia Davis reported that the July meeting focused on report templates. She noted that she and Erica will present to the Steering Committee for Services to Older Person on September 16th and added the next meeting is planned for October.

b.) Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council

Commissioner Walker reported that the 55+ program is in the process of hiring a 55+ Center Director for the Lubber Run Community Center. She reported the Alliance is looking to assist older adults in signing up for the federal connectivity program. They are planning a connectivity fair at Walter Reed on September 14th as part of National Senior Center Month. Commissioner Walker noted the Fall 55+ Guide will go out in August, and registration begins August 17th.

c.) Alexandria Commission on Aging

Commissioner Cummings reported that there are no meetings of this group for July and August.

d.) Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)

Wendy Zenker reported that ANV is currently serving 350 members. They are recruiting more volunteers to keep up with the increased demand for transportation, and other services.

e.) Commonwealth Council on Aging

No Report

f.) Dementia Friendly Arlington

Peri Weinfeldt reported that DFA continues to do a mix of virtual and in person trainings.

g.) Steering Committee for Services to Older Person

Cheryl Beversdorf reported that the September meeting would feature a presentation on Arlington's Age-Friendly plan.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. Announcements

Kate Chutuape invited all to attend a Falls Prevention and Safety event co-sponsored by the Virginia Hospital Center (VHC), the Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance and the Office

of 55+. This in-person event will be held on Friday, September 16th from 10 a.m. until Noon at the Lubber Run Community Center.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Cummings and seconded by Commissioner Walker the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.