

**Meeting Summary  
June 21, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Jim Richardson, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Beversdorf, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Carol Patch, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider, Juan Carlos Velasquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker, William Way

**EXCUSED:** Linda Kelleher, Naci Powell

**ABSENT:** Chloe Burke, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Sophie Shen

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

**GUESTS:** Yordanose Amanuel, Mary Lee Anderson, Tara Barnes, MaryAnne Beatty, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Cynthia Davis, Marta Hill Gray, Claire Jacobsen, Joan McDermott, Jim Morris, June O'Connell, Jennifer Odium, Bonnie O'Leary, Sara Pappa, Erica Wood, Margaret Anne Wynee, Wendy Zenker

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

Commissioner Cynthia Schneider called the virtual meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Role was taken and guests were asked to identify themselves via the chat feature.

**II. Public Information and Outreach (PIO) Committee Spotlight**

**Senior Ambassador Program in Alexandria**

Commissioner Beversdorf opened the meeting with a discussion of the Public Information and Outreach Committee's Age Friendly goals, noting that a Senior Ambassador Program is one of two main goals for the committee. She introduced Mary Lee Anderson, Executive Director of Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA), and MaryAnne Beatty, SSA's Director of Community Services and Outreach, who provided an overview of Alexandria's program. Ms. Anderson noted that the City of Alexandria does not provide funding for the program.

**PIO Plans for 2021**

The second primary Age-Friendly goal of the PIO Committee is to increase the communications and awareness about County programs. To assist with this effort, Commissioner Velasquez reviewed and provided a framework for an update to the Commission on Aging's Resources for Older Adults outreach presentation used at public outreach events. He asked committee chairs to prepare a one-slide overview of their current goals to include in the revised presentation, noting a goal of mid-August for the slide-deck to be ready.

**III. Approval of May Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the May 2021 minutes was made by Commissioner Schneider and seconded by Commissioner Way. The May 2021 minutes were unanimously approved as written.

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

COA Vice-Chair Richardson reported that Cynthia Davis would provide an update on the Age Friendly progress. He requested that Commissioners who have items to be voted on submit them in advance to ADSD staff. The July COA meeting will spotlight the Legislative Committee and will feature a presentation by Delegate Patrick Hope. There will be no meeting held in August.

**V. Staff Reports**

**a. CSCB/AAA Staff Reports**

Community Supports and Coordinator Bureau (CSCB) Chief Rachel Coates congratulated Helen King on her recent appointment as Director of Arlington's Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

Ms. King reported that the popular Senior Farmer's Market program was underway. She reported that the Aging and Disability Resource Center was starting to return to the office twice a week. Ms. King added that the Meals on Wheels program will continue bulk deliveries through the summer. She reported that the current Money Management Program contract ends June 30<sup>th</sup> and that efforts to award a new contract are ongoing.

Ms. Coates reported that the Bureau is anticipating an increase in activity when the eviction moratorium is lifted and noted that rental assistance and eviction prevention clinics are being setup county wide. Ms. Coates added that the state of emergency in Virginia will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Coates reported that the state mandates for Adult Protective Services will change on July 1: the requirement for follow-up shifts from 72 hours to 48 hours and the requirement for a face-to-face evaluation moves from 5 days to 7 days. Ms. Coates reported that the VICAP team was recently recognized by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) for their innovative outreach efforts around Medicare Open Enrollment that included new advertising on ART buses. Ms. Coates added that staff are awaiting guidance on public meetings and noted that the July CoA meeting will be virtual. Ms. Coates added a survey will be sent to Commissioners to determine preferences for resuming in-person meetings.

#### **b. ADSD Staff Report**

Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) Chief Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield updated Commissioners on plans to increase the in-office presence of staff. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield added that the Arlington Adult Day Program will resume in-person activities for 21 participants later this month.

### **VI. Committee Reports**

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

Commissioner Schneider reported that the Committee will meet on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the ongoing Missing Middle housing study. She noted that several committee members attended the Housing Commission's Tools and Trends committee meeting regarding updates to the Affordable Housing Master Plan. Commissioner Schneider reported that affordable assisted living is not high on workplan for the Affordable Housing Master Plan and added continued advocacy is needed. Commissioner Schneider noted the Committee's Universal Design Checklist is now complete and will be considered by the Planning Commission at the September meeting.

#### **b. Legislative**

Commissioner Kanter reported that the main work of the committee involved the NVAN platform, noting a listing of platform items was included with the read-ahead packet. Commissioner Kanter added the Annual Legislative Forum is scheduled for November 4th at the Fairlington Community Center.

#### **c. Long-Term Care Residences**

ADSD Chief Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield reported that the majority of the Arlington long-term care residences now have a committee liaison, with Manor Care and Jefferson still needing a volunteer. The Cherrydale Nursing Home is now managed by Innovative Health. Committee members are looking to add Committee Liaisons for Arlington's senior independent living facilities in the coming months.

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

Commissioner Cummings reported that a workgroup was held in June and included a presentation by Lisa Fikes, Executive Director of Volunteer Arlington. Commissioner Walker

reported that she attended a biophilic walk of the 22202 zip code, noting the intent of the walk is to assess the walkability from one zip code to another. Commissioner Walker expressed concern about a VDOT proposal to lower the grade of Route 1 in Crystal City.

**e. Transportation, Safety and Accessibility**

Commissioner Way reported the AARP grant looks promising, but more information should be available in July. He added the next quarterly meeting will be scheduled in July and noted that Jennifer Mitchell and Chris Slatt have initiated a new survey on planned transportation options.

**VII: Liaison Reports**

- a) Age-Friendly Arlington: Cynthia Davis reminded Committee Chairs to utilize the evaluation form at each committee meeting, adding to focus on the inputs and outputs. Ms. Davis added that the Task Force would like to add another active member in the Commission on Aging, and that there is a vacancy for the co-chair with Laurie Young stepping down.
- b) Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council: Commissioner Walker invited all to attend the July 9<sup>th</sup> re-opening of the renovated Lubber Run Community Center. She reported the new Long Bridge Aquatics Center is scheduled to open later this year and that some in-person 55+ programming would start in the fall. Commissioner Walker added that 2 55+ Center Directors have been hired and will start in July.
- c) Alexandria Commission on Aging: Commissioner Cummings reported that the Alexandria Commission has a goal to make broadband available for everyone. He noted the vaccination rate for the 65+ population is 85% and the Alexandria CoA is transitioning back to in-person meetings in July. Commissioner Cummings added that the DASH bus system will be free for older residents starting in September 2021.
- d) Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV): Wendy Zenker reported that ANV membership is at around 340 members, 25% of them welcomed during the pandemic as non-paying members. She noted requests for transportation have doubled and errand requests have increased as well.
- e) Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC): Joan McDermott reported that CIAC will resume operations with a steering committee meeting scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- f) Commonwealth Council on Aging: Erica Wood reported the Council will transition to in-person meetings in July. The full council will meet on July 28<sup>th</sup> and will focus on legislative priorities.
- g) Dementia Friendly Arlington: Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that dates are being scheduled for CoA members to receive the Dementia Friends training and encouraged all commissioners to sign-up for a session.
- h) Falls Prevention Alliance: Helen King read the update Sara Pappa placed in the chat: The Falls Prevention Alliance continues to offer SAIL and Matter of Balance virtually. We are planning to offer both programs in-person in the fall. We will also be holding coach and leader trainings this fall for both programs. At Marymount, we are conducting interviews this month for the Director of the new Center for Optimal Aging. We hope to have the new Director in place this fall.
- i) Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN): No Report
- j) Steering Committee/Older Persons: Commissioner Beversdorf reported that next meeting in July will address isolation and engagement of older adults.

**VIII. Old Business - None**

**IV. New Business**

Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that the Commonwealth Connect Coalition is available for presentations. The Commonwealth Connect Coalition is focused on bringing broadband access to all Virginians. AAA staff will reach out to the Commonwealth Connect Coalition to learn more and share resources.

**V. Announcements and Public Comment**

Ms. June O'Connell raised an issue regarding a proposed site plan amendment that will be considered at the July County Board meeting. This amendment would allow the Dittmar Company to convert 75 apartments into hotel rooms and Ms. O'Connell asked the Commission to request the County Board defer the decision until September to provide AED and CPHD time to brief the commissions and obtain input.

On a motion made by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Schneider, Commissioners approved sending a letter to the County Board on this issue. Commissioner Walker will draft the letter and send it to the Executive Committee and ADSD staff for follow-up.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Way and seconded by Commissioner Schneider. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Monday, July 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**