

Meeting Summary
May 17, 2021

PRESENT: Linda Kelleher, Chair; Cheryl Beversdorf, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Naci Powell, Jim Richardson, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Juan Carlos Velazquez, Andrea Walker, William Way

ABSENT: Chloe Burke, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Carol Patch, Sophie Shen

STAFF: Rachel Coates, Helen King, Jim Baker

GUESTS: Yordanose Amanual, Tara Barnes, Gelareh Bassiry, Angela Chadbourne, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Cynthia Davis, Tony Glaze, Claire Jacobsen, Joan McDermott, Jim Morris, Porscha Rasberry, Michelle Thomas, Erica Wood, Laurie Young, Wendy Zenker

I. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kelleher welcomed Commissioners and guests to the virtual meeting and asked attendees to identify themselves via the chat feature.

II. Community Engagement Forum Summary and Results

CSCB Chief Rachel Coates started the presentation by providing an overview of the event and highlights from the keynote speaker. She noted that attendance for the 1st virtual event was about 100, similar to the in-person forums held in 2019.

Acting AAA Director Helen King presented a summary of the breakout sessions as well as the survey results. Detailed information is documented in the summary report that will be distributed to commissioners after the meeting. Ms. Coates noted that a hybrid model will likely be considered for next year's event.

III. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the April 2021 meeting was made by Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner Ruff. The April 2021 minutes were unanimously approved with a corrected spelling on Page 3.

IV. Chair's Report and Executive Committee Report

Chair Kelleher began by noting the importance of providing early input regarding the County's budget which is approved in April each year. An updated timeline for the Commission meetings and planning schedule will be discussed with the Executive Committee. She informed Commissioners that due her upcoming attendance at a family event, Jim Richardson would be chairing the June COA meeting.

V. CSCB/AAA Staff Reports

Acting AAA Director Helen King noted that May is Older American's Month and invited Commissioners to view the County Board proclamation on Tuesday, May 18th. Ms. King noted that a request for proposal was out for the Money Management program. She also noted that the popular [Senior Farmer's Market](#) was starting June 1. She reported that the Aging and Disability Resource Center continues to receive a high volume of calls, primarily for rental assistance and financial aid.

CSCB Chief Rachel Coates reported the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging will be held virtually May 24-27th and will feature presentations from ADSD's RAFT and VICAP staff members. She noted that comprehensive dental benefits for adult Medicaid recipients will begin on July 1st and that she is part of the Food Security Task Force recently convened by County Board Chair Matt de Ferranti. Ms. Coates reported that the Department of Human Services is looking at reopening plans.

She noted that we are awaiting guidance on public meetings, and that the June and July COA meetings will be held virtually.

Jim Baker, Administrative Officer, reported that there was a change in the partnership strategy regarding the sale of Cherrydale Nursing Home. He also reported that the Auxiliary Grant will increase again July 1.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Housing and Community Supports

Commissioner Schneider reported that the April meeting featured a speaker from the non-profit "Rebuilding Together". She reported that the Universal Design checklist was almost complete, and the finished product will be presented at the June COA meeting, noting the goal is for the Site Plan Committee of the Planning Commission will use the checklist as they review new projects. Commissioner Schneider reminded commissioners of the Missing Middle Housing Survey. She also noted that she will be attending the Alexandria Commission on Aging's Housing Committee meetings.

b. Legislative

Commissioner Kanter noted the next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled on June 7th at 9am.

c. Long-Term Care Residences

Chair Kelleher reported that the May meeting featured a presentation from Reggie Lawson, Program Manager for Arlington County's Adult Protective Services program. She also noted the facility liaisons gave updates.

d. Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment

Commissioner Cummings reported that PAIE Committee has hosted speakers from GrandInvolve, the Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs, and the digital equity initiative, noting he is confident that the committee will complete their 2021 goals.

e. Public Information and Outreach

Commissioner Velazquez reported that the next meeting would focus on updates on the COVID testing and vaccination efforts for older adults. He noted that the conversation around a senior ambassador program for Arlington is ongoing. He also reported that the PIO committee has been asked to support updates to the COA PowerPoint presentation that is widely used. He added that committee members will be reaching out to commissioners and partners to incorporate stories into the slide deck.

f. Transportation

Commissioner Richardson reported an endorsement was sent for the Vision Zero Master Plan. The 5-year plan was adopted by County Board at their May 15th meeting. Commissioner Way reported the AARP Challenge grant application was submitted and results are expected in June.

VII. Liaison Reports

a. Age-Friendly Arlington

Cynthia Davis reported that she, Laurie Young and Erica Wood recently attended a quarterly AARP-Age Friendly call that is designed to enable networking and sharing results. The next meeting of the task force is scheduled for June 4th.

b. Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council

Commissioner Walker reported that most DPR senior activities would remain virtual or outdoors throughout the summer months. The Office of 55+ Programs will add indoor programming in the

fall. Aquatics classes will also resume in the fall and will be held at the new Long Branch facility to avoid conflicts with public school facilities. Commissioner Walker noted the Alliance has started the pilot Internet Essentials program for older adults in Arlington.

c. Alexandria Commission on Aging

Commissioner Cumming noted that the monthly meetings include an update from the Police Department. He reported that DASH is restructuring their routes and the Alexandria City Council approved free rides for older adults.

d. Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)

Wendy Zenker reported Arlington Neighborhood Village is now supporting more than 330 members, of whom 26% are “temporary” members welcomed during COVID without regard to membership fees. She noted 24% of the full members enjoy our Discounted Membership Program, for older adults whose income is less than \$47,000. Ms. Zenker reports ANV is seeing a significant increase in service requests; we fulfilled 195 requests in April, almost double the number from January 2021 (95), meaning that requests for transportation and errands are on the rise as people receive their vaccines and return to a more “normal” lifestyle.

e. Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)

Joan McDermott reported that CIAC has not met. Executive Director Kathleen Garces-Foley has been providing phone assistance for residents creating advanced directives.

f. Commonwealth Council on Aging

Erica Wood reported The Virginia Commonwealth Council on Aging met remotely on April 28, 2021. The Council heard an update by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Dr. Daniel Carey, who reviewed the state’s drive for vaccination in long-term care facilities and for older individuals in the community and responded to questions. The Council also heard an update on DARS from Deputy Commissioner Marcia DuBois. Martina James Nalley of the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging provided a summary of plans for the upcoming virtual Governor’s Conference on Aging, May 24 through 27. Registration and purchase of tickets is online at <https://vgcoa.com>. There is a multitude of informative sessions and speakers, including our own Michelle Thomas of VICAP and Wendy Zenker of ANV. The Council also elected officers, reviewed its Best Practices Awards, reviewed highlights of the legislative session, and heard a report from its Nutrition Committee. The Council will next meet on July 28, 2020.

g. Dementia Friendly Arlington

Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that a virtual Dementia Friends Training is being planned for the commissioners and anyone else interested. Wednesday and Thursdays in June or July are being considered. A new educational resource on brain health is available - www.mybrainguide.org.

h. Fall Prevention Alliance

Rachel Coates reported a new virtual session of SAIL will start this afternoon and that A Matter of Balance now has permission to hold a virtual class. There is a need for additional coaches and trainers, information can be found at www.novafallsprevention.com. Ms. Coates added Marymount’s new Center for Optimal Aging hope to appoint an executive director by the end of August.

i. Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)

Commissioner Kanter reported that the next NVAN meeting is scheduled for May 19th where the group will vote on the 2022 Legislative and Budget priorities. Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago added that many of the proposed ideas focus on technology/social isolation. Chair Kelleher noted that the Arlington AAA will host NVAN’s September meeting.

j. **Steering Committee on Older Persons**

Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the next meeting will be held on May 21 and the program will feature a presentation on Veteran's benefits.

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. New Business - None

X. Announcements and Public Comment - None

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

NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.