



COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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Meeting Summary May 16, 2022

PRESENT: Linda Kelleher, Chair; Jim Richardson, Vice-Chair, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Audrey Kremer, Charles Sabatino, Cynthia Schneider, Sophie Shen, Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker, William Way

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Cheryl Beversdorf, Kathy Cameron, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Naci Powell

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

GUESTS: Yordy Amanuel, Cloe Burke, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Cynthia Davis, Jim Feaster, Jessica Fredericksen, Claire Jacobsen, Shandia Johnson, Joan McDermott, Bonnie O'Leary, Mitch Opalski, Jim Morris, Erica Wood, Wendy Zenker

I. Call to Order /Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kelleher called the virtual meeting to order. She thanked ADSD staff for their efforts in making the March 2022 Community Forum a success and introduced AAA Director Helen King to present a summary and review of the program.

II. Community Engagement Forum

Ms. King presented an overview of the Community Engagement Forum, noting this was the first time the forum was held using a hybrid format, with participants attending in-person at 2 residences and 2 community centers. She added that 64% of the 150 participants were first-time attendees and that for the first time, we offered translation service in Vietnamese, Korean and Spanish.

CSCB Director Rachel Coates reported that the overall themes for What Matters Most this year center on housing, community, connections, safety and transportation. She thanked ADSD's Dr. Shandia Johnson for her assistance in preparing the detailed report on the 2022 Community Forum that will be distributed to the commissioners after the meeting.

III. Approval of the April Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Richardson and second by Commissioner Kremer, the minutes from the April meeting were unanimously approved as written.

IV. Chair's Report and Executive Committee

Chair Kelleher reported that the Executive Committee discussed reviewing the Commission on Aging mission and vision statements to ensure they are aligned to the new DHS mission, vision and values. She informed commissioners that commission and committee meetings will return to in-person in September 2022 with 25% of public meetings permitted to remain all-virtual (annually) under the new state-wide FOIA requirements.

V. Staff Reports

a. Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA)

AAA Director, Helen King started her report by reminding everyone that May is Older Americans Month. She noted that a proclamation would be read at the County Board Recessed meeting on Tuesday and invited everyone to tune in to the live-streamed meeting. Ms. King reported that the Senior Farmer's Market program will begin in early June and the AAA is planning to hold pop-up markets at the independent living residences again this year. She noted the schedule would be shared once finalized and invited commissioners to participate. She provided an update on the Ethnic Meal Pilot, noting to

date 900 meals have been delivered and there are 2 weeks remaining in the program. She added a survey of the participants is planned. The feedback will be used to inform future programming.

- b. **Community Supports & Coordination Bureau (CSCB)**
CSCB Director, Rachel Coates reported that Arlington's AAA had been awarded a 2022 Aging Innovation Award by USAging for the Pop-up Farmer's Market program. She noted that the June meeting, currently scheduled for June 20th will be moved to June 27th due to the Juneteenth Holiday. Ms. Coates added that two new staff members have joined the Bureau and thanked the commissioners for their advocacy in securing a 4th Adult Protective Services staff position in the new fiscal year. Ms. Coates noted that the team is more present in the community, especially the independent living residents, during AFAC distributions. She invited commissioners to join as an opportunity to connect with the communities.
- c. **Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)**
Ms. Coates reported on behalf of ADSD Director Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield. She reported that the Division has been distributing COVID-19 test kits, adding that if the Commissioners know of a need for test kits in the community to let us know.

VI. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Housing & Supportive Services Committee**
Commissioner Schneider reported members of the Housing Committee attended the Long-Range Planning Committee regarding the proposed Melwood development plan for a 150-unit residential building with 30 units set aside for qualified disabled residents. She noted the Housing Committee is advocating for dedicated units for older adults. Commissioner Schneider reported that staff from Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD) will present the framework for Phase 2 of the Missing Middle Study to the County Board in July. She noted there is a survey available and encouraged everyone to respond.
- b. **Legislative Committee/NVAN**
Commissioner Kanter reported that NVAN will meet tomorrow to select the 3 legislative and 3 budget priorities for the 2023 Legislative Platform. He noted that the state budget was not yet passed.
- c. **Long-Term Care Residences**
Ms. Coates reported that the committee heard a presentation at the May meeting from ADSD's Adult Protective Services staff on trends affecting long-term care facilities.
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment Committee**
Commissioner Cummings reported that the Walking School Bus program at Oak Ridge Elementary School was going well and noted that last week the program was contacted by the national CBS news for a story. Commissioner Cummings reported that committee continues to monitor the digital equity efforts. He added that the committee is interested in the evidence-based health promotion and intergenerational programs at Marymount University's Center for Optimal Aging.
- e. **Public Information and Outreach**
Commissioner Velazquez reported that the next PIO meeting will feature DHS Director Anita Friedman who will discuss race equity. He added the committee continues to research opportunities to make the Senior Ambassador Program a reality.

f. Transportation, Safety and Accessibility

Joan McDermott reported that the Transportation Commission approved Neighborhood Complete Street capital projects, noting that neighborhoods nominate small projects for safety and/or access. Jim Feaster reported that the Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Bike Advisory Committee drafted a detailed letter on the multimodal plan for Route 1 requesting that the County only support plans that account for the safety of all users. Commissioner Walker announced that a cut through trail across the Army-Navy Country Club will be available for use in 2024. Commissioner Richardson reported that the Council on Governments initiative to design/establish transit hubs around neighborhoods, tailoring transportation offerings to the unique needs of the neighborhood.

g. Digital Connectivity Work Group

Chair Richardson gave an update on the digital divide work group, noting that the scope has been narrowed to connectivity but that other barriers exist. He noted that the group will need to understand the needs and then determine the role of the Commission on Aging.

VII. Liaison Reports

a.) Age-Friendly Arlington

Cynthia Davis reported that the Age Friendly Task Force met recently to discuss the evaluation and assessment report that is due in mid-2023. The next planning cycle will begin after the report is submitted. Ms. Davis added that Erica Wood is meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and will report on outcomes of the outreach to this group.

b.) Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council

Commissioner Walker reported that the Summer 55+ Activities Guide will post on May 18th and registration will begin May 25th. She reported the Alliance's fundraiser at Rocklands will be held June 14th. Commissioner Walker commented that CBS News will be taping a story on the walking school bus program on Wednesday, adding that they found the program on the 55+ Facebook Page. She added a seminar for older adults who want to learn the transit system is being planned.

c.) Alexandria Commission on Aging

No report.

d.) Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)

Wendy Zenker reported ANV is partnering with Marymount University, The Office of 55+ Programs and Virginia Health to offer a Senior Health Fair at Ballston Quarter on May 25th. She reported ANV's Annual Volunteer Recognition event was set for June 14th. Ms. Zenker added ANV has successfully partnered with Campbell Elementary School on a pen-pal program and both sides hope to expand the program next year. Ms. Zenker noted that requests for rides are approaching pre-pandemic levels.

e.) Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)

No Report

f.) Commonwealth Council on Aging

Erica Wood reported that the Council met in-person on April 27th in Richmond. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health and Human Resources read a proclamation for Virginia Older American's Month. The presentation was on nutrition programs with an emphasis on expanding outreach.

g.) Dementia Friendly Arlington

Jessica Frederickson reported that DFA held 2 training sessions for airport security teams. They plan to continue efforts with emergency responders and are planning targeted outreach to faith communities.

h.) Falls Prevention Alliance

No Report

i.) Steering Committee on Older Persons

Helen King reported that the next meeting is scheduled for May 20th and will feature a presentation on social isolation.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Announcements

Joan McDermott suggested that the roster of committee members be made available. Chair Kelleher asked Committee Chairs to send her their current mail list.

Chair Kelleher noted that the Public Comment period will be moved to the beginning of the meeting. She plans to confirm operational considerations with other commission chairs.

XI. Public Comment - None

On a motion made by Commissioner Richardson and second by Commissioner Kanter the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.