



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS
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Meeting Summary November 15, 2021

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

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Chloe Burke, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Sophie Shen, Juan Carlos Velazquez

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

GUESTS: Gelareh Bassiry, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Cynthia Davis, Marta Hill-Gray, Meredith Hanley, Claire Jacobsen, Joan McDermott, Jim Morris, Jennifer Odlum, Bonnie O'Leary, Caitlin Stauffer, Alistair Watson, Erica Wood, Tené Young

I. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Update on Dementia Friendly Initiatives

Rachel Coates welcomed our guest speaker, Meredith Hanley, Director of Community Capacity Building and Project Director for Dementia Friendly America at USAging.org (formerly the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging).

Ms. Hanley presented an overview of national efforts to expand services to the 6 million persons currently living with dementia and the 11 million caregivers that support them. Ms. Hanley cited ongoing efforts in Pittsburg, San Diego and Montgomery County, Md as outstanding examples of the many Dementia Friendly projects currently underway. Goals of these projects include increasing awareness, addressing issues of concern to patients and caregivers, and improving public environments (such as airports) to accommodate special needs. More information can be found at www.dementiafriendsusa.org.

III. Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment (PAIE) Committee Spotlight

Commissioner Linc Cummings reviewed recent work by committee members focusing on four of the eight Age-Friendly domains: a) Social Participation (including expanding digital literacy), b.) Civic Participation (i.e., jobs and volunteer opportunities), c) Respect and Inclusion (intergenerational activities and equity issues) and d) Outdoor Spaces and Buildings (including monitoring the County's Public Space Master Plan). He cited Bonnie O'Leary's work on the important goal of expanding "the loop system" in buildings to assist hearing impaired residents. Commissioner Andrea Walker noted the efforts of the Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs to expand digital literacy in Arlington via the 55+ Centers and a new project; "Walking School Bus" activities for parents, grandparents, and other community members.

Approval of the October Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner Cummings, the minutes from the October meeting were unanimously approved as written.

IV. Chair's Report/Executive Committee

Chair Kelleher reported that she is planning to touch base with each of the committee chairs to determine if additional support is needed. She reported that Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago is not able to continue as the liaison to the Dementia Friendly Arlington effort and asked if anyone is interested in taking over that role. The Executive Committee met recently and discussed proposed budgetary issues raised by the committees. A summary of the items will be sent to commissioners.

V. Staff Reports

- a. **Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA)**
Helen King reported that November is both Alzheimer's month and Caregiver's month. She noted a final pop-up Farmer's Market will be held at Culpepper Garden in November. Ms. King reported that Medicare Open Enrollment is underway and VICAP staff were currently scheduling appointments as well as providing assistance in the community. She introduced Tené Young, the newly hired Intake and Assessment Coordinator in the Aging and Disability Services Resource Center (ADRC). Ms. King noted that the ADRC is continuing to serve a high volume of residents, noting the number of people coming to the office for service has started to increase.
- b. **Community Supports & Coordination Bureau (CSCB)**
Rachel Coates reported that ADSD's Adult Day Program was recently audited and awarded a three-year license renewal. Ms. Coates noted an increase in the need for deep cleaning services. She reported the hypothermia shelter is now open. She also reported the food security task force is conducting a community-wide survey.
- c. **ADSD Staff Report**
Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield reported that the division is working hard to fill vacancies that have occurred due to retirements, promotions and staff moving out of the area. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield noted the current cohort of interns is in place and that she is looking to expand the partnership to other area universities. She reported that the Department of Human Services has revised its vision, mission, and values to center on race equity. She noted that Anita Friedman, Director of the Department of Human Services, will host events with Commissions and other advocacy groups to reveal the statements and get feedback.

VI. Committee Reports and Liaison Reports

- a. **Housing & Supportive Services Committee**
Commissioner Schneider reported a letter of follow-up from the Phase 1 Report of the Missing Middle Housing Study was drafted and will be sent to the project manager. On a motion made by Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner Kremer the letter was approved.
- b. **Legislative Committee/NVAN**
Commissioner Kanter reported the virtual Legislative Forum, held on November 4th, went well. He reported the session was recorded and the link will be shared. Commissioner Kanter reported the Arlington and Alexandria legislative committees are working closely together this year, meeting with the area legislators together. He noted that NVAN meets tomorrow.
- c. **Long-Term Care Residences**
Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported the November meeting featured a presentation by DHS Social Services Division member Lynette Storr who is a Licensing Inspector and Trainer. She reported many of the communities are focused on boosters. She noted that the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program is active again, but there were not new volunteers for Arlington. Commissioner Kremer will serve as a liaison to the Jefferson and the Arlington long-term care communities are not well covered by this program. The liaisons from this committee are filling in the gap.
- d. **Public Information and Outreach**
Ms. King reported that the Committee's revised outreach presentation would be finalized by the end of November. Members continue to assess the feasibility of a Senior Ambassador program for Arlington.
- e. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility**

Commissioner Richardson reported that 1 of the 2 letters discussed last month has been put on hold until the transportation committee is able to get a broader view of the transportation needs of older adults in the community. The 2nd letter was sent with the read-ahead materials and comments on some current transportation initiatives. On a motion made by Commissioner Way and seconded by Commissioner Kanter, the letter was approved with the addition of a mention of the recent AARP grant award.

Commissioner Way reported a 3rd safety-flag installation was hosted by the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire department. The flags were installed near Hunter's Park to assist with crossing Langston Blvd. He noted about 20 people showed up.

Liaison Reports

a.) Age-Friendly Arlington

Cynthia Davis reported that she participated in a regional meeting where adjustment to Age-Friendly plans was discussed.

b.) Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council

Commissioner Walker noted that the Winter 2022 55+ Activities Guide was now online. The Virginia Recreation and Parks Society recently recognized Arlington's DPR for the exceptional in-person and virtual activities undertaken via the 55+ program.

c.) Alexandria Commission on Aging

Commissioner Cummings reported that the Alexandria Commission would be meeting in person starting in January 2022. A recent meeting included a discussion on caregivers with a focus on resources available for those living with dementia.

d.) Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV) – No Report

e.) Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC) – No Report

f.) Commonwealth Council on Aging

Erica Wood reported that the Council met in September and approved legislative priorities, some of which align with the NVAN priorities. The next meeting will be in person in Richmond January 26th.

g.) Dementia Friendly Arlington

Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago informed Commissioners that she can no longer continue as liaison to DFA but will continue to get more connections and promote the training.

h.) Falls Prevention Alliance

Commissioner Cummings reported that Marymount's Center for Optimal Aging had appointed Patricia Haynes, MD, a gerontologist relocating from the University of Colorado, as its new Executive Director. She will start in January.

i.) Steering Committee on Older Persons

Ms. King noted that the next meeting would include an update on Medicare.

VII. Old Business- None

VIII. New Business – Ms. Coates reminded Commissioners that planning for the March 2022 COA Community Forum would start soon and asked those wishing to participate to let her know.

IX. Announcements and Public Comment - None

- XI. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner Cummings. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, December 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.