



COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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Meeting Summary September 19, 2022

- LOCATION:** Multipurpose Room at Culpepper Garden, 4435 N Pershing Drive, Arlington, VA
- PRESENT (IN-PERSON):** Linda Kelleher, Chair; Jim Richardson, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Beversdorf; Kate Chutuape; Linc Cummings; Herschel Kanter; Audrey Kremer; Charlie Sabatino; Sophie Shen; Carlos Velazquez; Andrea Walker
- PRESENT (VIRTUALLY):** Delegate Alfonso Lopez participated virtually (via Teams) due to a personal matter.
Martha Villanigro-Santiago participated virtually (via Teams) due to a family member requiring care.
Cyndy Schneider participated virtually (via Teams) due to a medical condition.
- ABSENT:** Kathy Cameron, William Way
- STAFF:** Helen King, Rachel Coates
- GUESTS:** Yordy Amanuel, Gelareh Bassiry, Tom Daly, Cynthia Davis, Jim Feaster, Patricia Heyn, Marta Hill-Gray, Claire Jacobsen, Shandia Johnson, Navin Laa, Joan McDermott, Gina Ramos, Jasmine Richard, Brian Sellman, Barbara Spangler, Michelle Thomas, Jessica Vasquez, Erica Wood

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kelleher called the meeting to order at 9:10 am and welcomed Commissioners and guests to the COA's first hybrid meeting. She thanked staff from the Culpepper Garden for hosting the commission meeting and asked that any public comments by virtual guest attendees be sent to the Arlington Agency on Aging via arlaaa@arlingtonva.us

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Culpepper Garden Spotlight

Chair Kelleher introduced Marta Hill-Gray, Executive Director of Culpepper Gardens, to present a brief overview of the residential facility. Culpepper Gardens offers 273 units for independent living residents and a separate 73 unit building for Assisted Living residents. Recent renovations of the complex were completed in 2020 and include a new heating/cooling system and upgrades to the dining facilities and public spaces. The facility has also renovated its outdoor garden spaces and its private "walking trail".

IV. Approval of the July Meeting Minutes

On a motion made and seconded, the July meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written.

V. Chair's Report and Executive Committee

Chair Kelleher reported that, apart from the Executive and Budget Committees, all other commission groups will be known as work groups. The work groups will continue to meet virtually and continue their work toward their Age-Friendly Arlington goals. Work groups will bring any recommendations that require action to the full commission. Chair Kelleher noted the bylaws and charter will be reviewed and updated as needed to reflect this operating model.

Chair Kelleher reported a letter of support was provided for a grant opportunity Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV) is pursuing to move the Senior Ambassadors Program forward.

VI. Nominations and Election of Officers

Rachel Coates presented the slate of new officers for election which included Linda Kelleher for Chair and William Way for Vice-Chair. On motions made and seconded, commissioners unanimously approved the slate of officers.

VII. Special Recognition of Commissioners

Chair Kelleher thanked Commissioner Richardson for his service as vice-chair over the past 2 years. Chair Kelleher also recognized Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago and Commissioner Shen who have completed their second term.

VIII. Staff Reports

a. Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA)

AAA Director Helen King reported that the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) continues to see high volumes of requests for rent and utility assistance and is noting an increase in the number of requests for shelter referrals among the older adult population. Ms. King noted the VICAP team is preparing for the annual open enrollment period which begins October 15th. Ms. King reported a new contract has been awarded for the Senior Loops and a request for proposal for nutrition programs will be released soon.

b. Community Supports & Coordination Bureau (CSCB)

CSCB Director Rachel Coates reported that a program manager for the Adult Services & Adult Protective Services (AS/APS) team has been identified and there will be an overlap with the outgoing program manager. Ms. Coates noted the trend of increasing numbers of older adults who are unhoused and in the shelters. She reported the Adult Day Program recently passed a licensing inspection with flying colors. She noted the program has an interest list of about 40 people and is considering options for expansion. Ms. Coates provided an update on recruitment efforts, noting that a vacancy in the ADRC will soon be filled, and recruitment is underway for 2 vacancies on the AS/APS team. Ms. Coates reported that Justice in Aging recently released a report on income, poverty and health insurance which indicated a rise in poverty for adults 65 and older. She noted Missing Middle is conducting community engagement events through the end of October. Ms. Coates reported that the Agency on Aging receives Older Americans Act funds, administered through DARS and the Interstate Funding Formula determines how the money is distributed to each of the AAAs. The formula has not been updated in many years, so a process is underway to determine the new formula. Ms. Coates noted September is National Preparedness Month reminded all the have a personal "Ready Kit". Ms. Coates reminded Commissioners to save Monday, October 24th for an all-day in-person/virtual Strategic Planning Session to review AAA programs and priorities.

IX. Work Group Reports

a. **Housing & Supportive Services**

Commissioner Schneider reported that the Missing Middle study is holding listening sessions with many options to participate. She noted that CPHD and the County Board are holding information sessions, dates and times are posted on the missing middle website.

Commissioner Schneider reported the proposed zoning changes will be announced in November 2022 and final changes go to the County Board in December. Commissioner Schneider reported the next meeting of the work group is scheduled on September 27th and will feature Bob Eiffert from Alexandria to talk about success in requiring affordable ALF units.

b. **Legislative /NVAN**

Commissioner Kanter reported that the next NVAN meeting is September 20th. The NVAN Legislative breakfast is scheduled on September 30th and the Legislative Forum is scheduled for November 17th. Commissioner Beversdorf will serve as moderator at this meeting.

c. Long-Term Care Residences

Ms. Coates reported the group met in September and featured a presentation by Denise McDonald on the guardianship program and an update on the WINGS effort. She noted Mary Marshall recently held their Fall Festival.

d. Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment

Commissioner Walker noted that the Walking School Bus program is looking to expand to all elementary schools in Arlington and is working with APS as part of Safe Routes to Schools. She noted there is also expanded interest at Oakridge and more volunteers are needed. Commissioner Cummings reported on a new grant initiative through Marymount's Center for Optimal Aging to bring Otago, a supervised activities program, to The Jefferson located in Ballston.

e. Public Information and Outreach

Commissioner Velazquez reported that an upcoming meeting will feature a presentation by the Arlington Community Foundation's President and CEO Jennifer Owens and Board of Trustees Chair Jade Gong on their recent initiatives to support older residents.

f. Transportation, Safety and Accessibility

Commissioner Richardson reported that the October meeting will be an in-person/hybrid meeting. He and Commissioner Way will be attending a meeting of the National Aging and Disabilities Transportation Committee in Washington, DC on September 27th. Joan McDermott reported that Vision Zero has developed Safety Toolbox of 40 tools organized by category. Commissioner Kanter reported the proposed changes to STAR are on hold while the impact is evaluated.

X. Liaison Reports

a.) Age-Friendly Arlington

Cynthia Davis reported that she and Erica Wood presented to the Arlington Steering Committee for Services to Older Persons. She noted the task force will meet October 7th.

b.) Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council

Commissioner Walker reported that Ashley Gomez was recently named as the new Director at the Lubber Run 55+ Center. The Alliance recently held an Affordable Connectivity forum at the Walter Reed Community Center. The Alliance's Computer Learning program continues with plans to expand in 2023. She noted the Senior Olympics were held last week, and a Safety Expo was held at Lubber Run on September 16th.

c.) Alexandria Commission on Aging

Commissioner Cummings reported that Alexandria's Age-Friendly initiative is now entering its second five-year plan. Arlington's local DASH bus system continues with its "no fare required" system for all passengers started in September 2021.

d.) Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)

No report.

e.) Commonwealth Council on Aging

Erica Wood reported the Council is a statutory body of 24 members that meets 4 times per year. In July, the council approves a legislative platform noting that 3 of the 10 items this year

align with the NVAN platform and several items a nutrition for older adults. The next meeting is scheduled for September 20th.

f.) Dementia Friendly Arlington

Rachel Coates reported that the organization's website was recently updated, and the group continues to attract new members to the monthly meetings. Outreach to faith communities continues. Leasing offices and apartment complexes are the next group planned to targeted outreach and training.

g.) Steering Committee for Services to Older Person

Commissioner Beversdorf reported the group met September 16th and featured a presentation on Age-Friendly Arlington by Cynthia Davis and Erica Wood.

XI. Old Business

XII. New Business

XIII. Announcements

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Cummings and seconded by Commissioner Kanter. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.