



## COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

2100 Washington Blvd. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Arlington, VA 22204  
TEL 703-228-1700 FAX 703-228-1174; TTY: 703-228-1788  
Email: arlaaa@arlingtonva.us

### MEETING SUMMARY

September 15, 2014

Approved at the October 20, 2014 meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lincoln Cummings, Kristi Dudash, Gordon Hasenei, Cragg Hines, Thomas Kerwin, Joan McDermott, Andrea Walker, Erica Wood

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Molly Davis\*, Sheila Hess\*, Patrick Hope, Mitchell Opalski\*, Lena Wang\*, Laurie Young\* \* Excused

**STAFF PRESENT:** Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Meredith Eisenhart, Erik Gabriel, Aaron Kocian, Susan Lane

I. **Call to Order:** 9:00 a.m.

II. **Voting Options – Linda Lindberg, Arlington County’s Voter Registrar (Spoke from PowerPoint: Voting Options in Arlington for Seniors and Voters with Disabilities; also distributed Arlington Election Day Guide, Chapter 4: Guide to Voters with Disabilities)** Ms. Lindberg discussed what County staff do prior to elections to ensure polling place accessibility, the rules for Absentee Voting by mail or in-person, services offered to voters on election days, and curbside-voting. She noted that the new photo ID law applies to anyone voting in-person, whether on election day or prior via in person absentee voting. She detailed photo IDs valid for voting purposes and what the Registrar’s Office is doing to help people obtain valid photo IDs this fall. The touch screen machines must be phased out next year due to a new law from the General Assembly requiring a paper trail. Ms. Lindberg then answered Commissioners’ questions.

III. **Minutes Approval:** Unanimously approved the minutes of the July 21, 2014 meeting as presented.

IV. **Chair’s Report (Joan McDermott)**

- Thank You to Retiring Commission Members: Thanked Tom Kerwin, Sheila Hess, and Kristi Dudash for their services to the Commission on Aging.
- Report on Executive Committee Meeting, August 12, 2014: Met because there was no regular CoA meeting in August, to decide the following:
  - o Agreed the CoA will co-sponsor the Leckey Forum. (Flyer on CoA webpage.)
  - o Selected times for Candice Rose to do Housing Study presentations to the Commission on Long-Term Care Residences – on September 10 meeting and at the CoA’s Housing and Supportive Services Committee September 23 meeting.
- Committee Reports: Asked committee chairs to send her their committees’ annual reports electronically before the October 20th meeting as input to the annual report.
- Housing Study: Events - **Community Forum**, September 22, 6:30 p.m., Washington Lee High School and **Community Workshop**, October 11, 9:00 a.m., Fairlington Community Center
- Other:
  - o The County Board approved the Arlington County Advisory Group Handbook 2014 at their July 24 meeting. (Distributed.)

**The Arlington Commission on Aging, a body of residents experienced in matters concerning older people, advises the Arlington Agency on Aging and the Arlington County Board on aging issues.**

- o Don Miller has resigned from the CoA. Ms. McDermott thanked him for his service.
- o NVAN meets on September 16. Ms. McDermott announced their annual Legislative Breakfast on October 1.
- o Ms. McDermott attended a conference on September 2, "Housing America's Older Adults," co-sponsored by the AARP Foundation and the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University. A main idea from the conference: "Housing is the linchpin of well-being."

#### V. Director/Staff Report (Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield)

- Introduced AAA Masters in Social Work Intern, Rachele Thompson.
- CoA presentations from October – February will focus on AAA services in the Area Plan.
- Reviewed highlights of the new Arlington County Advisory Group Handbook 2014.
- Distributed and briefly reviewed the Governor's ten-step plan to expand healthcare services to over 200,000 Virginians who are uninsured.
- Ms. Eisenhart and Ms. Bah-Duckenfield have conducted four interviews with different Arlington County departments and will present the findings at the next Strategic Planning Committee.

#### VI. Committee Reports

- Legislative (Joan McDermott): Met on August 11 to work on the pre-General Assembly forum to be held at Fairlington Community Center on November 7, being co-sponsored by the Alexandria CoA. State legislators from both jurisdictions have been invited to discuss issues affecting older adults.
- Membership (Linc Cummings): Recommendations on a good field of candidates were sent to the County Board for appointments to be made in September for terms starting October 1.
- Public Information and Outreach (Gordon Hasenei): At their September 9 meeting, continued work on the PowerPoint. Distributed flyers for The Beacon's Virginia 50+ Expo on October 26.
- Strategic Planning (Joan McDermott): At their September 17 meeting, they will hear results from the ADSD aging study's first four interviews.
- Supportive Services and Housing (Erica Wood): At their September 23 meeting, Candice Rose will report on the Affordable Housing Study. The committee has completed its "Aging at Home" flyer. Ms. Wood named the places it is already displayed and distributed, and asked for suggestions on other venues. The committee is highlighting 55+ classes on "aging in place" by displaying the list on the CoA's web and Facebook pages. The Assistive Technology sub-committee is hard at work on the AT suitcase project, thanks to funding from the Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs.
- Transportation: Cragg Hines has been appointed chair of this committee for the coming year.

#### VII. Liaison/Meetings Reports

- Alexandria Commission on Aging (Linc Cummings): Mr. Cummings has found his time attending the Alexandria CoA interesting and useful for comparing Alexandria's issues to Arlington's.
- Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs (Nort Beckerman): The Alliance has switched from a board-only organization to a membership organization to assist fund-raising efforts.
- Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) (Andrea Walker): The program manager was hired as of September 1. ANV has 77 members, seven of whom are getting financial assistance, and 70 volunteers. The new Board of Directors was elected in August and installed in September. AARP and ANV are cohosting "Modifying Your Home to Fit Your Changing Lifestyle" on September 17. ANV is holding an Open House on September 30, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the National Rural Electric Cooperative.
- Community Development Citizens Advisory Council (CDCAC) (Linc Cummings): Work has begun.

- Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (Kristi Dudash): In July, they had a presentation by Fire Chief, Jim Schwartz. Ms. McDermott met with EPAC Chair, Steve Kral, to discuss emergency communication issues caused by going from copper wire to fiber optics.
- Long-Term Care Residences Commission (Joan McDermott): At their September meeting, Candice Rose did the Housing Study presentation and they discussed the MOU between the County and Medical Facilities of America, Cherrydale Rehab and Nursing Center.
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Cragg Hines): Mr. Hines is now the CoA liaison. Three items the group is discussing: pedestrian issues on S. Eads Street, September 19 is Parking Day, and whether or not the County should do a study on the issue of news boxes impeding pedestrians.
- Senior Adult Council (Andrea Walker): Aurora Hills Senior Center has a new director. September is National Senior Center month. It is important for 55+ members to complete the survey. The Office of Senior Adult Programs 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration is on October 24, 5-8 p.m. at NRECA.
- Steering Committee (from Lena Wang): September 19 meeting topic is “Mental Health Issues and the RAFT program.”
- Transit Advisory Committee (from Fran DeSilva): Had a bus tour of Arlington transit projects.
- Vertical Village (from Molly Davis): Applying for a grant with the Weinberg Foundation.

#### VIII. Old Business:

- Approval 2015 Legislative Platform: Ms. McDermott reviewed the NVAN Platform and asked for a straw-vote on approval (as there was no longer a quorum). It was approved unanimously.

#### IX. New Business:

- Congratulatory Letter to Tom Fonseca, 2014 Virginia Elder Rights Coalition Winner: Ms. McDermott described the award and reasons why Mr. Fonseca won it. The CoA agreed to send him a congratulatory letter.
- Nominating Committee (Andrea Walker/Lena Wang): Ms. McDermott has asked the committee to present its slate for Chair and Vice-Chair at the October CoA meeting.

#### X. Announcements and Public Comment

- From Lena Wang: Virginia Hospital Center is offering “Safe Transition Home Program” with Philips Lifeline to offer most VHC discharged patients a free Lifeline medical alert service for two months.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

#### Addendum to the Minutes:

A meeting of the Commission on Aging (CoA) Executive Committee was called to order immediately after the regular CoA meeting adjourned at 11 AM on Monday, September 15, 2014. Executive Committee members Joan McDermott, Chair; Erica Wood, and Gordon Hasenei; and Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Program Director of the Arlington Agency on Aging, were present. One item of business was considered.

Because several CoA members left the regular meeting early, a quorum was no longer present. Under Old Business, the CoA was asked to approve the NVAN 2015 State Legislative Platform and send it to the County Board and Legislative Liaison for possible inclusion in the County Legislative Package.

Chairman McDermott called a meeting of the Executive Committee to approve the NVAN 2015 State Legislative Platform. The members voted unanimously to approve it and send it on to the County Board.

Having completed its business, the Executive Committee adjourned at 11:05 AM.

NOTE: The CoA Bylaws provide for the Executive Committee to exercise the powers and duties of the Commission between meetings.