



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING
 c/o Agency on Aging, DHS
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**Meeting Summary
 March 21, 2016**

PRESENT: Mitch Opalski, Nels Andersen, Valerie Crotty, Lincoln Cummings, Jim Feaster, Pamela Hawkins, Cragg Hines, Mary Ann Johnson, Joan McDermott, Erica Wood, Laurie Young

EXCUSED: Gordon Hasenei, Patricia Sullivan, Lena Wang

STAFF: Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Rachel Sparico

GUESTS: Jennifer Collins (DPR), Anita Walgreen (ANV), Elise Burns (ANV)

I. Called to Order and Welcome at 12:40 (Mitch Opalski)

II. Approval of February Meeting Minutes (Mitch Opalski)

Minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Consideration of Proposed FY2017 Area Plan for Aging Services, including fee scale waiver request, and proposed FY17 County Budget

Ms. Bah-Duckenfield shared the proposed FY2017 Area Plan for Aging Services fee scale waiver request, and explained that the cost of living is much higher in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD metro area, than the rest of Virginia. Arlington, like other northern Virginia AAA's request a waiver from the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to adjust the income scale to be more aligned with our area median income than state. The waiver is requested for non-federally funded AAA services, which in Arlington include Homemaker (Personal care) and Money Management. Other Arlington programs are not based on income because they receive federal OAA funds.

The AMI for this region equals \$76,440, with an anticipated 2% increase, equivalent to \$182 per month from 2015. For an individual earning 60% of the AMI, (between \$38,221-\$45,864 yearly, and \$3,185-\$3,822 monthly), they would be requested to pay a maximum hourly rate of \$16.00 for Homemaker services, and \$12.00 (monthly) for Money Management services.

No one is denied because of an inability to pay. Ms. Young made a motion, and Ms. Crotty seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Chair's Report (Mitch Opalski)

Mr. Opalski shared a general update on the County FY2017 Budget, reporting no significant cuts or decreases in funding to ADSD and DHS programs. He reports a modest increase to the Affordable Housing Investment Fund. Other areas of focus include:

- a. Automatic rest room door at the Lee Center will require extensive renovations to the entire center. Currently, the Lee Center rest rooms are accessible; the Commission

voted to continuing advocating for the implementation of an automatic door at the Lee Center. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Funding Requests

- i. Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV) requests Commission support for their request to the County Board for \$30,000 for general operating funds. Mr. Cummings voiced support but in the amount of \$15,000. Ms. Crotty seconded Mr. Cummings motion. There was discussion about the ANV budget. Ms. Walgreen, President of ANV, reported the organization received county funding in 2014, but not 2015, and would not define this request as on-going or one-time, as they will assess their needs in the future. Ms. Crotty encouraged County funds support individuals who cannot afford membership, and encouraged the model of other village movements to be supported by the membership, not tax funded by government. There was support for a non-profit in Arlington focused on Aging issues, and continued outreach to diverse, and under-represented populations. There was a request of the source of these funds if approved, and recommended to include in the letter support of surplus or “non-allocated” funds. The motion to support ANV at \$15,000 was defeated. The motion to support ANV at \$30,000 with the inclusion of “with funds from surplus, or non-allocated funds” passed.
- ii. Culpepper Garden requests one-time funds totaling \$108,000 for care subsidies of 30 low-income residents. The Commission has supported this allocation of funds in previous years. Ms. Wood shared feedback from the Community Engagement session on Housing voiced the need for affordable, assisted-living level of care. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Affordable Housing Implementation Plan comments

- i. Mr. Opalski shared a letter from Commissioner Patty Sullivan requesting the Commission comment on two items related to the Affordable Housing Implementation Plan: 1) commend the County Manager and the Board for making a commitment to the implementation of the plan by funding these programs; and 2) comment on the Real Estate Tax Relief program. After some discussion, it was determined that these comments are more appropriate in a letter to the Board, but not the Budget letter. Mr. Opalski shared the County board is exploring the formation of a workgroup to discuss Real Estate Tax Relief.

V. Announcements and Public Comment

- a. Mr. Andersen mentioned locating or relocating a senior center closer to metro. Aurora Hills Senior Center is located on the Yellow/Blue metro line.
- b. Ms. Walgreen thanked the Commission for their support.
- c. Comment and discussion of Community Engagement Forum
 - i. More than 90 persons attended including Mr. Christian Dorsey, Arlington County Board, and Senator Barbara Favola.

- ii. Suggestions include: extend the length of the forum, as some breakout sessions could have continued; spend more time in the breakout sessions; do more outreach; and share updates and notes with participants.

Next meeting –Monday, April 18, 2016 at 9:30am at Department of Human Services, Lower Level Auditorium, Arlington, VA 22204.