



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS
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Meeting Summary

March 19, 2018

PRESENT: Laurie Young, Gwendolyn Beck, Cheryl Beversdorf, Carl Brooks, Valerie Crotty, Linc Cummings, Jim Feaster, Cragg Hines, Herschel Kanter, Cynthia Schneider, Sophie Shen, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Duke Taylor, Martha Wilson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Senator Barbara Favola

STAFF: Jeanne Booth, Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Jim Baker, Rachel Coates

GUESTS: Erica Wood, Angela Chadbourne, Mitch Opalski, Don Hunter, John Reed

- I. Call to Order at 12:55 p.m.
- II. Discussion and Updates about **Arlington County's Age-Friendly Initiative**

Chair Young shared updates around Arlington's AARP Age-Friendly Initiative including a meeting with Erica Wood and Mitch Opalski, promoting the Engagement Forum on Aging Matters, and initial conversations with universities for an intern to support these efforts. This Commission will pursue the [AARP Age-Friendly Initiative](#). An Age-Friendly community is a place where persons of all ages and abilities can live, work or volunteer safely and comfortably. Chair Young shared the Commission is in the process of gathering information for the application and approval process. She plans to schedule a meeting with the Strategic Planning Committee to discuss the Age Friendly process, structure, and the need to define and implement the domains. She emphasized the need for commitment from Commissioners which will help shape the long-term planning. The initiative will involve other County departments and key stakeholders to ensure the Age-Friendly standards are met. You can find information about the [Livability Index](#) and the domains [here](#). Next steps will focus on planning an event in June with key community stakeholders.

Highlights from the Community Engagement Forum were shared. Commissioner Taylor shared his initial thoughts about the significance but reports the 360° wraparound, including the gentleman who requests fitness equipment in his residence. Other key takeaways focused on intergenerational communication, different medias for outreach and communication, broader representation from across the community, and how we promote events and raise awareness. Ideas for future consideration include consider Channel 8 as a resource, deliver with Meals on Wheels to witness service delivery in action, rotate to different venues for each Engagement Forum, host the Commission at Virginia Hospital Center, and focus on missing middle-class and missing middle. Chair Young shared that with the suggestions, action plans and implementation is critical.

There was a discussion about implementing a Community Ambassador program similar to Alexandria. This will be a part of the Age-Friendly discussion and part of the restructure of this Commission's committees. AAA staff and partners will provide support with training volunteers and outreach. Mr. Opalski will retrieve Alexandria's blueprint for the Community Ambassadors programs. Special concern shall be considered for persons who are socially isolated and for those for whom language may be a barrier.

- III. Approval of February Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Chair's Report

Laurie Young

- a. Consideration and Proposed FY2019 Area Plan for Aging Services, including fee waiver request
 - i. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield shared details related to the fee waiver. The Area Plan and Fee scale were adopted unanimously.
 - ii. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield shared highlights related to the FY19 County Budget and encouraged advocacy around the state and federal budgets with regards to funding for Older Americans Act and no cuts to Aging programs, like SHIP / VICAP.
- b. Proposed FY19 County Budget and Vote
 - i. Chair Young reports this Commission received requests for Letters of Support from two Community organizations:
 1. Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV) CPHD Grant Funding
 - a. Arlington Neighborhood Village requests a letter of support from this Commission for \$11,000 for their Financial Aid Fund in grant funds through Arlington County's CPHD budget. There was a discussion about ANV's budget and their previous requests to this Commission. Commissioner Crotty shared that most Villages are self-supported. Commissioner Kanter recommends ANV be a featured program at a future COA meeting. There was a motion by Commissioner Beversdorf to draft a letter in support of their \$11,000 request and seconded by Commissioner Brooks, with 8 yays and 4 nays the motion passed. Additional support shall be contingent upon submission of the ANV budget and a written request.
 - b. There was also a discussion about ANV's request to the County for \$30,000 in ongoing funds, but this will be discussed further at the April COA meeting.
 2. Arlington Independent Media (AIM) Budget Reduction
 - a. AIM is facing a 20% reduction in budget, totaling \$90,852. AIM has been around for 35 years and features Commissioner Beversdorf's show Aging Matters. Commissioner Beversdorf shared the loss of funding may result in the closing of AIM. In the past, AIM had received funding through Comcast where 1% of their profits went to AIM until that arrangement ended. There was a concern about the negotiations of the loss of funding from Comcast. Commissioner Hines shared that with support we must urge the former funding schedule to be resumed and restored at the earliest possible moment. Commissioner Hines made a motion to support AIM's request with the added proposition that AIM seek to renegotiate the previous funding source to include Comcast as well as Verizon and Commissioner Crotty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. ADSD Staff Reports

Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield

- a. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield thanked Commissioners and staff for their support at the 2018 Community Engagement Forum.

- b. Save the date for May 10th at 4pm for a meet and greet with Mr. Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

- a. Commissioner Feaster shared that the LTC committee met at Brookdale and was an excellent meeting and encouraged all Commissioners to attend one of these programs.
- b. Commissioner Hines shared that the Transportation committee will meet tomorrow at DHS at 1pm and hear a legislative update from Adam Ebbin.
- c. Chair Young shared that CBD oils / medical marijuana was approved by the Governor and signed with an emergency amendment to be effective immediately.

VIII. Announcements and Public Comment

- a. Guest John Reed requested this Commission's support or consideration for more Housing Grants for seniors, disabled and for children, by shifting funds the Real Estate Tax Relief (RETR) program. He voiced concern about raising the eligibility age for Housing grant from 62 to 65 and he recommends lowering the age to 50 and eliminate the restrictions on disabilities and families with children. Chair Young asked for clarity on his request for this Commission and shared that this request has much more complexity for this Commission; the COA participated on the RETR working group, the Accessory Dwelling working group and the Affordable Housing Study. She invited Mr. Reed to share his recommendations and requests with the COA's Supportive Services and Housing sub-committee.
- b. Commissioner Kanter shared that DES Transportation staff and friend to this Commission, Steve Yaffe is retiring on April 11th.

IX. Adjournment at 2:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 16th at Department of Human Services (DHS) 2100 Washington Blvd. Lower Level Auditorium