



**ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING**

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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**Meeting Summary  
November 16, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Linda Kelleher, Chloe Burke, Cheryl Beversdorf, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Carol Patch, Jim Richardson, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider, Juan Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker, William Way

**Absent:** Sophie Shen

**Members Excused:**

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

**GUESTS:** Jose Aramayo-Pefaure, Carl Brooks, Angela Chadbourne, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Jim Feaster, Allegra Joffe Fahringer, Molly French, Claire Jacobsen, Joan McDermot, Jim Morris, Bonnie O'Leary, Mitch Opalski, Lauren Wester, Erica Wood, Laurie Young, Wendy Zenker

**I. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Kelleher welcomed Commissioners and guests to the virtual meeting and asked phone attendees to identify themselves via the chat function. Rachel introduced the guest speaker, Julius Spain, President of the Arlington Branch of the NAACP.

**II. Race Equity and Updates from Arlington NAACP**

Mr. Spain began his presentation by reminding all of the need to keep ourselves and our families safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Spain provided an overview of the NAACP including the Arlington Branch where he is president. The local Arlington branch was started in the early 1940's and now has more than 600 members. Activities are organized around the 5 committees: Housing, Criminal Justice, Education, Political Action and a newly formed Environmental - Climate Justice committee. Plans for a Committee on Health Equity are in the works. Mr. Spain noted continuing challenges in the work of ensuring that African Americans and other minority groups are included in decision-making processes. He concluded by noting that an increased focus was needed to ensure health and nutrition equity for all residents during the current healthcare and economic crisis.

**III. Approval of October Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the October 19th virtual meeting were unanimously approved as written.

**IV. Chair's Report**

Chair Kelleher welcomed the newest Commissioner, Carol Patch, who is retired after a 30-year career with the Red Cross. Chair Kelleher reported that each of the committees have now met at least once and reminded all that committees will meet every other month for now. Chair Kelleher noted that the Commission's bylaws are in need of review and requested a couple volunteers to help with the effort, noting that the bylaws will need to be approved by the Commission on Aging and the County Board. Chair Kelleher noted that she would be contacting all commissioners regarding committee assignments. She reminded Commissioners that the expectation is that each serve on at least 2 committees and that each committee should have a chair and co-chair. Chair Kelleher noted that the Legislative Committee had prepared an overview of the 2020 and 2021 NVAN Legislative Platform. Commissioner Lopez added that the Delegates have been notified that there will be a significant limitation on the number of bills each delegate can introduce for the 2021 General Assembly. Chair Kelleher remarked that Melissa Andrews from Leading Age will be the speaker for the December meeting.

## V. Staff Reports

**ADSD-CSCB Staff Report:** Community Supports and Coordination Bureau Chief Rachel Coates welcomed Commissioner Patch and Commissioner Lopez to the meeting and announced that ADSD's Helen King had been appointed as Acting AAA Director. During County FY 2020, Ms. Coates reported a 183% increase in the Home Delivered Meals program, largely attributed to the pandemic and an increase in need. She reported the ADRC continues to receive a high volume of requests for rental assistance. Ms Coates noted that the newly formed Long-Term Care Committee would meet on November 19th and encouraged all interested to attend. Ms. Coates provided an update on the AAA's Friendly Callers Program, noting the partnership with Hilton Hotels will be coming to an end and invited anyone interested to let her know. Ms Coates asked the Commission to begin thinking about the 2021 Community Engagement Forum, which will be virtual.

## VI. Committee Reports

### a. Executive

Chair Kelleher invited Commissioner Lopez to comment on the upcoming Legislative session. He reported that the 2021 General Assembly session will be hybrid virtual session this year. He noted that the wish list is great and that there is a lot of cleanup from the last session.

- i. **Age-Friendly Arlington:** Laurie Young reported that the Age Friendly Task Force would meet in late November to discuss monitoring the age friendly action plans, noting that the task force plans to liaise to the CoA committees.

### b. Housing and Community Supports

Commissioner Schneider reported that the committee met virtually in October. The committee heard a presentation from Livability 22202 and then discussed the age-friendly work plan.

### c. Legislative

Commissioner Kanter reported that a virtual meeting was held in October to review legislative proposals focusing on the current response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- i. **Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN):** No Report

### d. Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment

Commissioner Cummings reported that the committee recently held its first virtual meeting to review its mission statement. Members will meet again in December to discuss a 2021 work plan for implementing Arlington's Age Friendly domain priorities.

- i. **Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council:** Commissioner Walker reported that interviews are underway for the Operations & Nutrition Supervisor position. She announced that the 55+ guide will be issued quarterly and the Winter 2021 55+ Guide will be published online in December. Commissioner Walker reported that since March, 662 meals have been delivered to Social 60+ Café participants and noted that reopening plans will likely start with the congregate nutrition programs.

### e. Public Information and Outreach

Commissioner Beversdorf reported that her committee will meet in November to review AARP's new Fraud Prevention Program. She noted that a November program of Aging Matters focused on Medicare and featured ADSD's Michelle Thomas.

- i. **Steering Committee:** Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the Steering Committee will meet November 20<sup>th</sup> and the topic is the annual Medicare Update.
- f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility**

Commissioner Richardson reported that William Way will serve as co-chair. Among the Committee's four Age Friendly objectives was the need for increased safety training for older drivers and pedestrians.

  - i. **Pedestrian Advisory Subcommittee:** Commissioner Walker noted a review of Vision Zero's crash data.
  - i. **Bike Arlington Subcommittee:** No Report
  - ii. **Transit Advisory Subcommittee:** Commissioner Kanter noted that metro transit usage was at 20% of pre-pandemic levels. ART bus service continues to be free during the pandemic.
  - iii. **Vision Zero:** Commissioner Way noted the need to focus on senior safety education.

**VII. Liaison Reports**

- a. **Alexandria Commission on Aging:** Mitch Opalski reported that long-time Alexandria City Council member Del Pepper has announced she will leave the council next year.
- b. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV):** No Report.
- c. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC):** Joan McDermott reported that the Arlington Library would continue its senior programs online with a presentation on palliative care set for December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- d. **Commonwealth Council on Aging:** Erica Wood reported that the council will have its next virtual meeting in January.
- e. **Dementia Friendly Arlington:** Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that the group had not met recently. A new support group for Latino caregivers has been formed to share guidance and educational resources.

**VIII. Old Business**

Chair Kelleher noted that there will not be a Legislative Forum this year. The Legislative Committee will reach out and connect to delegates individually. Ms. Coates asked Committee Chairs to send information on their virtual meeting dates to be included on the Calendar of Events.

**IX. New Business**

Commissioner Scheider moved that the Commission on Aging become an official partner of Arlington's' Missing Middle initiative. The motion was unanimously approved.

**X. Announcements and Public Comment**

Commissioner Beversdorf announced that Aging Matters now has a website, [www.agingmattersonline.com](http://www.agingmattersonline.com).

Kate Chutuape noted that the 2021 Senior Resources Guide would be published in January.

Allegra Joffe Fahringer of <https://letsconnect.life> will hold an online panel on Memory November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**XI. Adjournment at 11:05 a.m.**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Monday, December 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.**