



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS
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**Meeting Summary
October 19, 2020**

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

ABSENT: Alfonso Lopez, Sophie Shen

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

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

GUESTS: Zachary Castro, Angela Chadbourne, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Shasta Douglas, Molly French, M. Hill Grey, Melanie Hansen, Claire Jacobsen, Joan McDermot, Jim Morris, Jennifer Odum, Mitch Opalski, Lora Pollari-Welbes, Christine Sheehy, Rita Wong, Erica Wood, Wendy Zenker, Jim Feaster, Kathleen Kramer

I. Call to Order /Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kelleher called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed members, guests and our presenter, Gretchen Reinemeyer, Director of Elections for Arlington County.

II. Voting in Arlington: What You Need to Know

Gretchen Reinemeyer, Director of Elections for Arlington County began her presentation with an overview of the Arlington County Voter's Website at <http://www.vote.arlingtonva.us>. She noted that in addition to all past options, new safety standards had been enacted due to the pandemic. She reviewed the expansion of early voting as well as the option for registered voters to request a ballot by mail and then return via first-class mail or official county-wide drop-boxes. Those submitting a ballot by mail or drop box can verify its receipt online. For in-person voting, a mask is encouraged but not required per state guidelines. Although ballots can be counted starting October 6th, they cannot be tallied until 7 pm on Election Day. Ms. Reinemeyer concluded by noting that long-term care residents have been encouraged to vote by mail and that "curbside" voting for handicapped residents is available at all voting locations via assistance from poll workers.

III. Approval of the September Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September 20th virtual meeting were unanimously approved as written.

IV. Chair's Report

Linda Kelleher

Chair Kelleher informed Commissioners that former Vice Chair Carl Brooks had resigned due to other commitments and asked them to assist her in selecting a new Commissioner. She noted that the County Board will recognize former Chair Feaster at its meeting on October 20th and invited members to join this meeting virtually.

Chair Kelleher congratulated Rachel Coates on becoming Bureau Chief for ADSD's Community Supports and Coordination Bureau (CSCB), taking over from Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield who was recently appointed Aging and Disability Service's Division Chief.

V. Staff Reports

AAA/CSCB Report

Rachel Coates

Ms. Coates updated Commissioners on recent activities, noting that Medicare open enrollment was underway and virtual one-on-one counseling can be scheduled through Arlington VICAP. She noted that Hilton Hotels and Meals on Wheels volunteers continue to assist with the Friendly Caller Program, which contacts around 120 Meals on Wheels participants at least once a week to combat social isolation. A new DHS effort to host virtual community conversations on race and equity in the County has also been initiated. Ms. King noted that a new survey on a zoning amendment for outdoor cafes in the county would be distributed later this week.

ADSD Report

Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield

Ms. Bah-Duckenfield thanked Commissioners and guests for their high level of participation as we continue to meet virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that all Division programs were still being conducted as “assistance from a distance” with some in-person services continuing as before. DHS is currently looking at plans for reopening to the public when safe. She announced that a virtual information session for the Long-Term Care Committee will be held on Thursday November 19 at 1 pm.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. **Executive** (Linda Kelleher): Chair Kelleher reported that the Executive Committee will meet in late October. She asked Committee chairs to consider virtual meetings every other month.
 - i. **Age-Friendly Arlington** (Joan McDermott): Ms. McDermott noted that the panel overseeing the AARP approved plan would meet later in October and asked that this meeting be added to the calendar of events.
- b. **Housing and Community Supports** (Cyndy Schneider/Linda Kelleher): Commissioner Schneider reported that the committee will be meeting virtually for the first time in late October. Members of the organization “Livability 22202” will speak on current resident needs in South Arlington.
- c. **Legislative** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that the next virtual meeting would be held in November to discuss legislative priorities for 2021.
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment** (Linc Cummings): Commissioner Cummings noted that the first virtual meeting of the Committee was set for November 10th to discuss implementing various aspects of the Age-Friendly Arlington plan in 2021
 - i. **Alliance for Senior Programs/Senior Adult Council** (Jennifer Collins/Andrea Walker) Ms. Collins noted that the November edition of the 55+ Guide was now available and listed continuing outdoor activities in keeping with safety guidelines. Both the ongoing 55+ Social Café meals and new at-home activities are delivered to seniors weekly.
- e. **Public Information and Outreach** (Cheryl Beversdorf/Juan Carlos Velazquez): Commissioner Velazquez reported that an October 26th meeting is planned and will focus on Alzheimer’s in communities of color and a proposed Senior Ambassador program.

- f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility** (Jim Richardson): Commissioner Richardson reported that the Committee met on October 8th and discussed strategies for 2021 safety and pandemic-related service issues. Metro Paratransit is in the process of updating its services and reviewing requirements for employee sick leave. Commissioner Andrea Walker and Christine Sheehy are recent additions to the committee.
 - i. **Lee Highway Alliance** (Cragg Hines): No report
 - ii. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Andrea Walker/Jim Feaster): Commissioner Walker noted that the County was assessing sidewalk safety through the end of December. ART bus services continue on a limited basis during the pandemic.
 - iii. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter) No Report
 - iv. **Vision Zero** (William Way) Commissioner Way noted the recent report on traffic accidents via the Vision Zero website. He asked Commissioners and guests to participate in the website's on-line survey.

VII. Liaison Reports

- a. **Alexandria Commission on Aging** (Mitch Opalski/Linc Cummings): Mr. Opalski reported that the AARP-Age-Friendly Alexandria program would pursue its five-year renewal next year.
- b. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)** (Wendy Zenker): Ms. Zenker noted that ANV members had increased activities related to food deliveries and assistance with transportation to doctor's appointments during the past months of the pandemic. ANV is now working directly with AFAC to assist community members.
- c. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott): Ms. McDermott noted the Arlington Library's monthly virtual program "On Death and Dying" from October to February.
- d. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood): Ms. Wood reported that the Council would meet virtually in January 2021 and had posted 7 legislative recommendations on its website including adding Medicaid coverage for dental care.
- e. **Dementia Friendly Arlington** (Martha Villanigro-Santiago): Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago noted that October was National Caregiver's month.
- f. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Mr. Morris reported that the next meeting will be held November 20th and the topic will be the annual Medicare update.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Announcements and Public Comment

Erica Wood noted that the Fenwick Foundation had donated laptops to increase telehealth and friendly caller communications for Mary Marshall's residents.

Rachel Coates forwarded a supplemental message from presenter Gretchen Reinemeyer noting that emergency ballots for Covid-19 patients are available. A designated proxy can

pick-up and drop-off this type of pandemic-related voting choice on behalf of those who are isolated during the next weeks.

XI. Adjournment at 10:55 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:
Monday, November 16th at 9:00 a.m.**