



COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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Commission on Aging Meeting Summary Monday, December 15, 2025

9:00 am - 11:00 am

- LOCATION:** Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams
- PRESENT (In- Person):** Chair William Way, Vice-Chair Kathleen Cameron, Commissioner Michael Bouchard, Commissioner Kate Chutuape, Commissioner Mollie Gelburd, Commissioner Karen Gorman, Commissioner Kristen Johnson, Commissioner Peggy Jones, Commissioner Audrey Kremer, Commissioner Charlie Sabatino, Commissioner Kasia Shaw, Commissioner Roland Watkins, Commissioner Catalina Calachan
- ABSENT:** Delegate Adele McClure
- EXCUSED:** Commissioner Carole Lieber
- STAFF:** Dustin Manhart, Rachel Coates, Maimoona Bah, Claudia DeLoatch, Jennifer Collins, Amanda Mayer, Kathleen Kramer, Jim Baker
- GUESTS:** Claire Jacobsen, Victoria Dale, Jim Morris, Joan McDermott, Barbara Fillip, Erica Wood, Michael Schuster, Matthew Margulies, Cheryl Beversdorf, Linc Cummings, Wendy Zenker, Marta Hill-Gray, Danielle Arigoni, Jessica Vasquez, Bonnie O' Leary

THE RECORDING CAN BE ACCESSED VIA: [Arlington County Government: YouTube](#)

I. Call to Order/ Welcome

Chair Way called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

II. Public Comment

- No comment provided.
- **Presentation on Wise Connect Program, Expansion to Arlington County:** Marie Brodsky, Co-Founder & CEO Wise Connect
 - Ms. Broski from [Wise Connect](#) presented the organization's technology platform for older adults, described upcoming Arlington County initiatives, and answered detailed questions from Chair Way, Commissioner Sabatino, Commissioner Calachan, Commissioner Jones, Vice-Chair Cameron, Commissioner Chutuape, and other COA about the app platform features, outreach, and collaboration.
 - She explained Wise Connects origins, the user-friendly platform for older adults, its free access, multi-language support, and upcoming daily events in Arlington starting March 2026, supported by a corporate sponsor.

- Ms. Broski described the platform's ability to filter activities by distance and preferences, upcoming AI-driven personalization, and the inclusion of both public and private resources, with a vetting process for organizations.
- She outlined the process for adding and updating county and DHS program information on the platform, combining automated and human review, and providing provider portal for direct updates.
- Ms. Broski addressed questions about access for those without computers, noting a support phone number and potential for printouts, and described outreach strategies including signage at venues, partnerships with nonprofits, digital outreach, and a pending regional partnership with Walgreens.
- She responded to questions about the vetting process for service providers, the inclusion of home care and health modification organizations, and clarified that Wise Connect is expanding regionally but not yet nationally.
- Ms. Broski noted Wise Connect received a grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH) Aging Branch to further personalize the app.
- Follow up contact: Marie Brodsky - marie@wiseconnect.us

III. Approval of the November 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chair Way, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. Minutes approved unanimously.

IV. Staff Reports

a. Community Supports & Coordination Bureau, Rachel Coates, Community Supports & Coordination Bureau Director

- Mrs. Coates provided updates on the implementation of the Area Plan, trends and recruitment updates challenges in Adult Protective Services, grant applications, and upcoming opportunities for community involvement, with support from Mr. Manhart and Chair Way.
- The Area Plan was approved by the county board and is now in the implementation phase, with ongoing updates to be shared with the group.
- Mrs. Coates highlighted vacancies in Adult Services and Adult Protective Services, noting a significant increase in case volume, particularly in financial exploitation cases, and the use of interns and temporary support to address the workload.
- Mrs. Coates reported that the team reapplied for the Benefits Enrollment Center grant, which previously helped connect over 600 residents to \$2.3 million in benefits, and is awaiting consideration in the 2026 grant cycle.
- Mrs. Coates extending gratitude to participants for supporting outreach events and emphasized the ongoing prioritization of older adults facing housing instability, as well as the need for a representative for the Carlin Springs expansion Site Plan Review Committee.
- The release of \$1.25 million in race equity grants by the county manager and encouraged sharing the opportunity with organizations focused on race-centered work.

b. Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA), Dustin Manhart, Director

- Mr. Manhart provided updates on VICAP open enrollment, outreach events, new partnerships with Meals on Wheels and Goodwin Living, staffing changes, and the status of emergency financial assistance funding.
- Mr. Manhart highlighted the work ethic and public service provided by the VICAP team, in partnership with PathForward Arlington and Meals on Wheels.
- Donations to Meals on Wheels America do not automatically benefit the Arlington chapter, and Mr. Manhart recommended that local supporters contribute directly to Meals on Wheels Arlington to ensure local impact.
- Mr. Manhart highlighted the CoA Community Engagement Forum scheduled for March 16th and encouraged participation from interested members. The first volunteer meeting is scheduled for December 19, 1:00–2:00 PM.
- Met with Goodwin Living last week to discuss potential collaboration opportunities.
- Engaged with Virginia Career Works program regarding support for displaced federal workers.
- Mr. Manhart noted an increase in ADRC walk-in visits. The Emergency Rental Assistance program opened on December 1, and funds were fully exhausted shortly thereafter.
- The AAA is currently hosting two social work interns.

c. Aging & Disability Service Division (ADSD), Maimoona Bah, Aging and Disability Services Division Director

- Ms. Bah discussed the RAFT program: rebranding efforts, selection for a new pilot initiative with private hospitals (DBHDS) for diversion services, ongoing dementia program activities, and collaborative training efforts with Virginia Hospital Center (VHC) case managers.
 - The RAFT dementia program is marking its third year, continuing to receive increasing referrals for caregivers of individuals with cognitive impairment.
- Ms. Bah further announced plans for a DHS resource fair in the new year and ongoing work on the department's racial equity action plan, with potential integration with the age-friendly plan.
- She closed by acknowledging the hard work of the VICAP team inclusive of volunteers and staff, and that the Medicare open enrollment season ended.

V. Chair's Report & Executive Committee: Chair Way

- Chair Way and Mr. Manhart mentioned that the Community Engagement planning committee plans to invite Professor Jason Falvey, University of Maryland School of Medicine to serve as a speaker/panel member with a focus on topics such as older adult isolation and transportation.
- If any COA members are interested in representing the group on the Site Plan Review Committee for the Carlin Springs expansion, please contact Chair Way, Mr. Manhart, or Mrs. Coates.

- Chair Way highlighted the Path Forward Arlington Amazon wish list and encouraged contributions to support those in need.
- Chair Way expressed gratitude to COA members for their service and advocacy efforts.
- Chair Way further shared that the organization AASP provides computers and training for Older Adults.

Legislative Updates: Commissioner Gorman and Erica Wood

- Commissioner Gorman shared that the committee met with the Disability Advisory Commission to discuss overlapping legislative priorities, including transportation, housing, and digital access, and scheduled a follow-up call for continued advocacy coordination.
- Mrs. Wood reported that NVAN met with Arlington's legislative delegation and Senate/House staff to advocate for budget amendments supporting long-term care ombudsman funding, Area Agencies on Aging, and CNA recruitment and training.

VI. Committee & Work Group Updates

a.) Aging Equity & Engagement: Commissioner Watkins & Commissioner Gelburd

- Commissioner Watkins and Commissioner Gelburd highlighted webinars on fraud and scams, expanded outreach venues, a survey for committee input, and potential panel discussions on senior LGBTQ issues, with plans for increased activities in 2026.

b.) Health & Wellness: Commissioner Shaw & Commissioner Chutuape

- Commissioner Chutuape described work on dental services resources, outreach on age-friendly practices, collaboration with hospital committees, and plans for a Spanish-language presentation on aging, with regular meetings scheduled for 2026.

c.) Housing & Supportive Services: Commissioner Kremer

- Commissioner Kremer reported efforts to address home safety, evictions, and code enforcement, including collaboration with Fairfax County and Arlington's hoarding task force, and outreach to civic associations.

d.) LTC Residences: Commissioner Sabatino

- Commissioner Sabatino summarized achievements including a meeting at Carlin Springs Nursing Home, collaboration on a report for small household models, improved data sharing with the Ombudsman, and development of a planning guide for Community Advisory Councils.

e.) Transportation: Commissioner Calachan & Commissioner Jones

- Commissioner Calachan detailed independent living residence visits, multilingual surveys, participation in Arlington's transportation advisory group, and ongoing work to update the transportation booklet and enhance accessibility information.
- Commissioner Jones expressed gratitude to Commissioner Calachan for her work ethic and service.

VII. Liaison Updates

- **Age-Friendly Arlington** (Commissioner Cameron):
 - Commissioner Cameron shared an AARP request for short videos highlighting spin-offs from age-friendly work, such as the Walking School Bus and See Me Flags, and discussed collaborating with Mrs. Coates and others to produce these videos.
- **Alexandria Commission Legislative and Program Updates:** (Micheal Schuster)
 - Mr. Schuster reported on Alexandria's legislative package supporting NVAN provisions, the completion of their age-friendly plan, and the launch of the Alex 311 program for coordinated housing and code complaints.
- **Updates from Arlington Neighborhood Village** (Wendy Zenker)
 - Ms. Zenker announced that ANV, reached 500 members, is conducting a fundraising campaign for its financial aid fund, and invited members to a holiday lunch event.

Old Business, New Business, Announcements (No reports)

A motion to adjourn was made by Chair Way. The upcoming hybrid COA meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2025, via Microsoft Teams/ 2100 Washington Blvd, Sequoia 1, Auditorium. The meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.

Prepared By: Claudia DeLoatch; December 15, 2025; DHS, ADSD, QA Administrative Assistant