



## COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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### MEETING SUMMARY

February 24, 2014

Approved at the March 24, 2014 meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lincoln Cummings, Sheila Hess, Joan McDermott, Donald Miller, Mitchell Opalski, Andrea Walker, Lena Wang, Erica Wood, Laurie Young

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Molly Davis\*, Kristi Dudash\*, Gordon Hasenei\*, Patrick Hope\*, Thomas Kerwin\*  
\* Excused

**STAFF:** Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Glenda Blake, Meredith Eisenhart, Aaron Kocian, Susan Lane

#### I. Call to Order: 9:05 a.m.

#### II. Presentation: New Commission Members' Handbook – County Board Member, Libby Garvey

- The handbook was last updated in 1997. Thought is being given to which of the many advisory bodies can be combined for efficiency.
- Commissioners were asked to review the "Framework for Civic Relationships" and submit comments to Ms. McDermott. Expectations of the County Board, advisory groups, and staff liaisons were reviewed.
- The next step involves CoA's review of charter format to ensure it is in the new format.
- Discussion items included:
  - External communication with the County Board liaison needs to be vetted to ensure it is in alignment with County policy. Clarification will be forthcoming on social media, i.e., the CoA's Facebook page.
  - Three or more members meeting is considered open to the public.
  - Metrics should cover: What good? For whom (and how many)? What's the benefit?

#### III. Minutes Approval

**MOTION:** Unanimously approved the minutes of the January 27, 2014 meeting as presented.

#### IV. Chair's Report

- A. Annual Report: Sent to the County Board on January 16, 2014. Ms. Garvey was complimentary of the report and would be interested in more measures on services and needs.
- B. CoA/LTCRC Joint Meeting: Commissioners received an invitation for the joint meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The agenda and scheduled times were reviewed.
- C. Other: Ms. McDermott attended the Senior Center Committee's meeting at Lee Center on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and found it very interesting.

#### V. Director/Staff Report

- A. Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield:

The Arlington Commission on Aging, a body of residents experienced in matters concerning older people, advises the Arlington Agency on Aging and the Arlington County Board on aging issues.

- Expressed the hope that most of the members of both commissions will attend the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to enhance collaborative efforts.
- Thanked members for willingness to meet one to one to discuss vision, goals and interests.
- Announced Public Hearing on Monday, March 17, at 9:00 a.m. at DHS –Auditorium. Flyers were distributed.
- Announced County Manager’s FY 2015 proposed budget with no budget cuts expected in DHS. The Nursing Case Management (NCM) program is expanding its fee collection. NCM Supervisor, Ms. Amy Vennett was introduced to provide an overview.

B. Amy Vennett:

- NCM program prevents frequent hospitalizations and nursing home placements.
- Has operated for many years without a fee, relying solely on tax funding.
- Adoption of Community Services Board sliding fee scale; average fee is expected to be \$13 per month or less. Clients who cannot afford to pay anything will still be given services at no charge, so no one will lose or be denied the service for financial reasons.
- Policies and procedures are being developed now. A number of payment options will be available. The nurses will not collect fees.

## VI. Committee Reports

- Budget (Mitch Opalski): The proposed FY 2015 budget contains no budget cuts. Mr. Kocian has set up a meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> to review the proposed budget with the committee.
- Legislative (Joan McDermott): Ms. McDermott, accompanied by Ms. Young and Anne Hermann from the CSB, met with legislators to advocate for the 2014 NVAN legislative platform. They also, met with Arlington Legislative Liaison, Pat Carroll. Ms. Carroll may be invited to an upcoming meeting. GA session may be extended to continue working on Medicaid Expansion. The Financial Exploitation bill passed unanimously in the both the House of Delegates and the Senate. Tabled bills: The No Excuse Absentee; improving compensation for healthcare workers and promotion of neighborhood villages programs throughout the state. Ms. Wood provided updates on budget amendments: RAFT amendment was not included in budget. The House amendment on Public Guardianship, allotting \$300,000, was included. NVAN will email its support for that soon.
- Membership (Linc Cummings): Eight candidates were interviewed. Recommendations were forwarded t to the County Board for appointment at the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Public Information and Outreach (Jim Morris): The Speakers Bureau letter and flyer have been distributed. Mr. Cummings sent the Speakers Bureau letter to the Arlington Condo Association e-mail distro.
- New Media (Laurie Young): Posted a Facebook photo of County Board Member, Libby Garvey speaking to CoA.
- Senior Centers (Sheila Hess): The Lee and Madison Center visit reports were distributed. The next committee visit will be to Aurora Hills Senior Center on April 7<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.
- Strategic Planning (Joan McDermott): The committee has been planning the Joint Commissions’ March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Review of the Elder Readiness Task Force recommendations will begin in May to identify accomplishments and what work needs to be done.
- Supportive Services and Housing (Erica Wood): Plans are underway for the distribution of their Aging in Place information; a link will be added on the new CoA webpage and Facebook page. Efforts continue with the Public Information and Outreach Committee more ideas on distribution. Mr. Hasenei has offered to create a flyer on Aging in Place. Other efforts include:

Assistive Technology outreach; monitoring the Affordable Housing Study, and keeping abreast of the Arlington Neighborhood Villages project.

## VII. Liaison/Meetings Reports

- Alexandria Commission on Aging (Linc Cummings): Discussed affordable housing at their meeting. The City bought an older residential motel with 34 units to turn into affordable housing units.
- Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs (Andrea Walker): Chair, Nort Beckerman, presented a proposed restructure of the Alliance at their February meeting.
- Arlington Interfaith Council (AIC) (Joan McDermott): Dr. Davis has expressed interest in attending these meetings going forward.
- Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) (Andrea Walker): ANV plans to open in March but needs more members and volunteers. The goal is 50 members to open. 20 membership applications have been submitted with 34 new volunteers. ANV's application for 501(c)3 was filed with the IRS on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The ANV and the County are working on a memo of understanding to offer 55+ memberships to ANV members. Upcoming ANV programs at senior centers: Your Home's Long-Term Health and Fitness (March 6<sup>th</sup>, Walter Reed), Preparing Your Home to Age in Place (March 19<sup>th</sup>, Aurora Hills), Low Maintenance Landscaping (March 25<sup>th</sup>, Lee).
- Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (Kristi Dudash): At the last meeting, Libby Garvey presented the new Commission Member's Handbook. David Morrison, an Arlington regional planner, is replacing Debbie Powers as staff liaison to this commission. The commission is discussing such issues as emergency planning priority areas, budget communications, special considerations for children in emergencies, and sheltering in place for longer periods.
- Affordable Housing Study (AHS) (Candice Rose): Home Ownership Task Force's February 19 meeting focused on the supply of affordable housing, which in Arlington means condos. The biggest challenge is identifying incentives to increase production. Ideas on incentives to encourage builders to create affordable units are welcomed. An overview of the scope of work and the consultant team's approach for the Housing Study will be provided at their February meeting by Dr. Lisa Sturtevant of the Center for Housing Policy and the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis. A presentation of the Supportive Studio model will be given by Arlington Department of Human Services staff.
- Long-Term Care Residences Commission: February meeting cancelled due to snow. Ms. Wood distributed a brochure from Volunteers of America profiling their four Arlington projects.
- Senior Adult Council (SAC) (Andrea Walker): The Council is planning a celebration to recognize Ms. Blake's 40+ years of service to the 55+ program. Ms. Walker attended Ms. Blake's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The Council's Executive Committee will discuss with County officials on February 26<sup>th</sup> its desire to get the director slot filled for the overnight travel program.
- Steering Committee (Lena Wang): The March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be a legislative update by Delegate Patrick Hope.
- Transit Advisory Committee (Fran DeSilva): At their February 11 meeting, Oleg Koton gave a report on the bus stops in Arlington. Most shelters are paid for by grants. More money is needed for up-keep and building shelters. Steve Del Giudice gave a report on the ART House Planning. Proposed ART increases are: regular fares from \$1.50 to \$1.75, for Students/Seniors from \$.75 to \$.85, STAR Zone 1 from \$3.00 to \$3.50. This is the first proposed increase for these ART programs in 4 years.

## VIII. Old Business: None.

**IX.** New Business: Delegate Krupicka’s House Joint Resolution No. 173 was distributed and the parts on the benefits of the Village concept were read. There was discussion on the CoA supporting the ANV. **MOTION:** The motion was unanimously approved that the Arlington Commission on Aging supports the Arlington Neighborhood Villages organization in its concept and implementation. Ms. McDermott will send a letter from the CoA expressing this support to the ANV and County Board.

**X. Announcements and Public Comment**

- Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield: A Home Expo will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center. Area contractors will have information on remodeling and Universal design. ADSD staff will have a resource table and members of the Supportive Services and Housing Committee may participate as well.
- Joan McDermott: Steve Holmes, Executive Director at Culpepper Garden, is retiring. The Interim Director will be Vicki Kirkbride. Culpepper Garden is preparing for renovations, among which will be: park benches, replacement of lobby furniture, upgraded security features, and upgraded kitchens in all apartments.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.