



**ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING**  
c/o Agency on Aging, DHS  
2100 Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA 22204  
TEL: 703-228-1700 FAX: 703-228-1174 TTY: 703-228-1788  
EMAIL: arlaaa@arlingtonva.us

## Meeting Summary September 16, 2019

**PRESENT:** Jim Feaster, Carl Brooks, Cheryl Beversdorf, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Linda Kelleher, Jim Richardson, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider (via phone), Gwendolyn Sutton, Duke Taylor, Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Senator Barbara Favola, Sophie Shen, Cragg Hines

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

**GUESTS:** Tom Daly, Wendy Zenker, Angela Chadbourne, Erica Wood, Jennifer Collins, Amy Vennett, Sarah Robinson, Ciera Battle, Haja Sesay, Ebony Moton, Elizabeth Dakin, Lora Pollari-Welbes, Soonhoon Lee Ahn, Bonnie O’Leary, Cathy Turner, Mitch Opalski

---

### I. **Networking**

II. **Call to Order at 9:07 a.m.** Chair Feaster introduced and welcomed the two newest Commissioners Andrea Walker and Carlos Velazquez. All attendees introduced themselves.

III. **Virginian’s Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE):** Ms. Pat Findikoglu provided an overview of VOICE, a collaborative effort of 50-60 organizations across four Northern Virginia counties that strives to organize people to advocate for change. Ms. Findikoglu reported that the organization was instrumental in driving the recent legislation that lifted the driver’s license ban for citizens with outstanding court fees. Locally, the group is focused on affordable housing and is working to secure commitments from the City of Alexandria and the Arlington County Board to devote a substantial percentage of the projected revenues anticipated with the arrival of Amazon to affordable housing. VOICE is planning and facilitating listening sessions over the next 5-6 months and invited commissioners to share feedback.

**Shared Mobility Device Study Update:** Mr. Paul DeMaio and Mr. Jim Larsen provided an overview of the data from the Shared Mobility Device pilot and reviewed proposed regulatory changes for continuation of the program. Commissioners provided input on some of the key challenges noted. More information about the study can be found on the County website at <https://transportation.arlingtonva.us/scooters-and-dockless-bikeshare/>.

### IV. **Approval of July Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the July meeting were unanimously approved as written.

### V. **Chair’s Report**

Jim Feaster

Chair Feaster reminded the commissioners that the November meeting will be dedicated to reviewing the Age Friendly plans being developed by each of the committees. Before the end of October, each committee chair will submit their Age Friendly plans for review by the Executive Committee and the Age Friendly Steering Committee. Chair Feaster thanked Commissioner Snyder for presenting the concerns voiced by the Commission regarding the zoning changes for elder care to the Planning Commission last week.

### VI. **Staff Reports AAA Reports**

Rachel Coates

Ms. Coates thanked the commission for their contributions in the development of the Agency on Aging's 4-year Area Plan, a strategic plan submitted to the state agency detailing the planned services and supports for older adults and caregivers. This year, a narrative was developed to enhance the template provided by the state and Ms. Coates highlighted significant statistics. Ms. Coates highlighted a developing event in partnership with Elder Safe and Project PEACE, which is focused on ending domestic and sexual violence in our community. Ms. Coates noted that the AAA Staff were not able to attend the national n4a conference in July but shared the certificate for the achievement award received. Ms. Coates noted that the General Assembly recognized the contributions and work of all the Virginia AAAs and shared the proclamation sponsored by Delegate Hope. Ms. Coates recognized Commissioner Sutton who will roll off the Commissioner this month when she moves out of the area. Ms. Coates thanked Commissioner Sutton for her service.

### **ADSD Reports**

Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield

Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that Jeanne Booth, the ADSD Division Chief, recently left after accepting a full-time professor position at George Mason University. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield noted that ADSD is hosting five Social Work interns this year and introduced three who were in attendance. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield highlighted this week as Adult Day week and encouraged the commissioners to schedule a tour if they had not yet visited the [Arlington Adult Day](#) program. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield announced that the Guardianship program is in need of a Spanish-speaker to serve as guardian/conservator for a client.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

- a. **Executive** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster reminded the committee chairs that the age-friendly steering committee is available to help with the development of Age Friendly plans if needed.
- b. **Housing and Community Supports** (Cyndy Schneider/Linda Kelleher): Commissioner Schneider reported that she presented the Commission's position on the zoning changes to the Planning Commission, noting the stand taken was to oppose the change because it does not address affordable units. The Planning Commission voted to adopt the change as written but directed staff to study the affordability component. The County Board will take up the amendment on September 21. The Commission will participate in the Artis Site Plan Review and public hearings will take place in November and December.
- c. **Legislative** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that the committee's major activity has been promoting the NVAN platform. The committee met recently with Delegates Hope, Sullivan and Senators Ebbins and Favola.
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment** (Linc Cummings): Commissioner Cummings reported that the committee continues to work on age friendly goals and actions.
- e. **Public Information and Outreach** (Gwendolyn Sutton): Commissioner Sutton reported that the committee did not meet in August but scheduled to meet next Monday. Commissioner Sutton noted that a new chair will need to be identified.
- f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility** (Cragg Hines): No report

## **VIII. Liaison Reports**

- a. **Age-Friendly Arlington** (Laurie Young): No report
- b. **Alexandria Commission on Aging** (Mitch Opalski/Linc Cummings): No report.
- c. **Alliance for Senior Programs/Senior Adult Council** (Andrea Walker): Commissioner Walker reported that Senior Center staff continues to advocate for resolution regarding issues with Red Top Cab. Commissioner Walker reported that the Lee Center Director recently resigned. She noted a retirement planning workshop held last Saturday attracted more than 60 people.
- d. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)** (Wendy Zenker): Ms. Zenker reported that the Administration for Community Living recently awarded the Volunteer Care Corp grants to

- Oasis. The contract is \$4M for innovative models to maintain independence and she noted there may be local opportunities to take advantage of the grant. Ms. Zenker reported the Coffee and Conversation lineup for October includes VICAP, Organ Transplants and Geriatric Care Managers.
- e. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott): No report.
  - f. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood): Ms. Wood reported the Council meets on Wednesday to discuss and adopt their policy platform.
  - g. **Dementia Friendly Arlington** (Martha Villanigro-Santiago): Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that training for the public safety sector is being developed and will be offered this fall. The goal of the training is to raise awareness of how to interact with a person with dementia. The group is also working on awareness presentations for the faith communities. Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago noted that the group meets on the third Thursday of every month at Goodwin House.
  - h. **Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission** (TBD): Commissioner Richardson reported that he attended the last 2 EPAC meetings to maintain a CoA presence after Commissioner Crotty's passing. He reported that the first meeting he attended was about the Department of Homeland Security National Threat Intelligence Consortium (NTIC). He reported the NTIC publishes bulletins of current threats and that these bulletins are not specifically tailored to the older adult community. Commissioner Richardson reported that he would be happy to share the liaison to EPAC with another commissioner.
  - i. **Lee Highway Alliance** (Cragg Hines): No report.
  - j. **NOVA Falls Prevention Alliance** (Rita Wong): Ms. Coates reported on behalf of Dr. Wong that the week of September 17<sup>th</sup> is Falls Prevention Week. A list of events can be found on [novafallsprevention.com](http://novafallsprevention.com). If anyone is interested in leading either the SAIL or A Matter of Balance class, contact Dr. Rita Wong. Commissioner Beversdorf added that Dr. Sarah Papas and Dr. Julie Ries were guests on a recent episode of the Aging Matters television show to discuss falls and falls prevention.
  - k. **Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter noted that the annual NVAN breakfast is scheduled for Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 8 am at the Fairfax Country Club. He reported that Sandy Markwood, n4a CEO, will provide the keynote speech.
  - l. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster): Commissioner Walker reported the committee received a presentation on the shared mobility devices pilot. Ms. Walker noted that the PAC will support scooters on the sidewalks with a 6mph speed limit.
  - m. **Public Spaces Master Plan** (Jim Feaster): No report
  - n. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the next meeting will be held September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The program will focus on Nursing Homes and Long-Term Care.
  - o. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter): No report

## IX. Old Business

## X. New Business

## XI. Announcements and Public Comment

Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that she presented on ageism to a group at Our Lady Queen of Peace. She noted the group was active in social justice.

Commissioner Kelleher reported that Hannah Withers has joined the staff as the Volunteer Coordinator. Commissioner Kelleher noted that Culpepper Garden is hosting their first 3<sup>rd</sup> party fundraiser at Rocklands on November 12<sup>th</sup> and passed out fliers.

Erica Wood announced that a Dance Party Benefit will be held as part of the Culpepper Garden 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Dance Party is planned for Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

Commissioner Beversdorf reported that Cathy Turner from Virginia Hospital Center was a recent guest on her show discussing exercise and healthy aging and Debbie Jones from the hearing center discussed hearing devices on a recent show.

Commissioner Sutton announced the Virginia Hospital Center will host a falls prevention expo on September 27<sup>th</sup>. She also shared the Fall Healthy Aging Lecture Series.

Commissioner Kanter reported that annual Northern Virginia Dementia Care Consortium will be held at the Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Centreville on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**XII. Adjournment at 11:03 a.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: October 21, 2019**

**9am – 11am**

**Arlington Department of Human Services (DHS)**

**Lower Level Auditorium**