



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS
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Meeting Summary July 20, 2020

PRESENT: Jim Feaster, Carl Brooks, Cheryl Beversdorf, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Linda Kelleher, Jim Richardson, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker

ABSENT: Chloe Burke, Sophie Shen,

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Carlos Velazquez, Senator Barbara Favola

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

GUESTS: Tom Daly, Michelle Thomas, Wendy Zenker, Erica Wood, Laurie Young, Joan McDermott, Angela Chadbourne, Rita Wong, Christine Sheehy, Emily Collins, Mitch Opalski, Kay Hoang, Bonnie O'Leary, Brandon Zweig, Claire Jacobsen, Jennifer Collins, Molly French, Jennifer Odlum, Jim Morris

I. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Chair Feaster opened the virtual meeting at 9:00 am. He welcomed Kate S. Chutape, MPH, Manager, Senior Health for the Virginia Hospital Center, as the newest Commissioner.

Jim Baker offered all participants an overview of Microsoft Teams.

II. Update on Age Friendly Arlington

Jim Feaster/Laurie Young

Chair Feaster announced that the final "Building an Age Friendly Community-Arlington County VA Action Plan 2020-2023" had been endorsed by the County Board in June and was submitted to AARP for final acceptance. Ms Young noted that AARP will send a formal acceptance of the plan. She acknowledged timelines will likely need to be adjusted to account for impact caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

III. Update on COA Transportation Committee Action Plan

Jim Richardson

Commissioner Richardson presented the Transportation Committee's current plan based on the age-friendly action plan. He noted the committee will use reports provided by the Metropolitan Washington Council on Government, the Arlington County Police Department and Virginia Department of Transportation (see attached presentation).

IV. Approval of February Minutes

Minutes from the February meeting were approved as written. Commissioner Cummings abstained from the vote.

V. Chair's Report

Jim Feaster

Chair Feaster noted a request from the AARP for the Commission to formally pledge support for the upcoming 30th Anniversary of the ADA. A motion to send a letter of support was made and unanimously approved.

VI. Staff Reports

AAA Report

Rachel Coates

Ms. Coates began her report by noting the passing of two former Commissioners, Martha Wilson and Tom Kerwin, as well as the passing of US Representative John Lewis. Ms. Coates highlighted the busy months that have followed the national COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on DHS/AAA community services. Arlington DHS/AAA now offers "assistance from a distance"

including nearly all ADRC contacts as virtual, an increase demand for rental/mortgage assistance and expanded meals-on-wheels/AFAC services. MOW now provides bulk, weekly deliveries to 200 clients. A “Friendly Callers” program has recently been initiated to check in with our most vulnerable 60+ population and provide meaningful connections.

DHS / ADSD COVID Response

Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield

Ms Bah-Duckenfield reported that the greatest impact on the community has been on long-term care facilities. She reported that 91% of Arlington County COVID-19 fatalities occurred in the 60+ population. Nearly 75% of the fatalities were long-term care residents. Ms Bah-Duckenfield acknowledged the hard work of the local long-term care communities, and noted she has been in constant contact with them throughout the crisis. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield proposed that the Commission stand up a separate Long-Term Care Committee.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. **Executive** (Jim Feaster) Chair Feaster reported that the Executive Committee will meet virtually in August. The Executive Committee will discuss resuming committee meetings, noting all meetings require the use of Teams (per Arlington County Communication Guidelines), must be announced in advance, and must have a provision for public comment.
- b. **Housing and Community Supports** (Cyndy Schneider/Linda Kelleher): Commissioner Schneider reported that the committee has continued efforts to advocate for affordable units in planned assisted living facility. The committee has been successful in raising awareness with County Board members on the need for affordable assisted living units, especially for low income residents. Commissioner Schneider also reported that the Alliance for Affordable Housing created a webinar on Accessory Dwelling Units. The link to the webinar can be found on their website.
- c. **Legislative** (Herschel Kanter): No Report
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment** (Linc Cummings): No Report
- e. **Public Information and Outreach** (Cheryl Beversdorf/Carlos Velazquez): No Report
- f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility** (Jim Richardson): No Report.

VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. **Age-Friendly Arlington** (Laurie Young) See Chair’s 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 the Parks and Recreation’s 55+ programs have switched to all outdoors or virtual activities during the past months. The Alliance continues to meet online and is now part of Amazon’s “Charity of Smiles” network.
- d. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)** (Wendy Zenker) Ms Zenker reported that many ANV activities had moved online and that membership fees were waived to support the growing needs. Volunteers have performed 340 service requests in the past three months, including assisting neighbors with rides to doctor’s appointments.
- e. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott) No report.
- f. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood) Ms Wood reported that the Council met virtually in June and will meet again in August. Ms Coates added that the Arlington AAA had recently received an award from the Council for its medication take-back program.
- g. **Dementia Friendly Arlington** (Martha Villanigro-Santiago) Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago expressed her appreciation for the current public awareness campaign on how to assist dementia patients during the pandemic.
- h. **Lee Highway Alliance** (Cragg Hines) No report.
- i. **NOVA Falls Prevention Alliance** (Rita Wong): Ms Wong noted that virtual SAIL classes are occurring weekly and the 55+ program has information on these session.

The Matter of Balance classes have to be conducted in person, and the alliance hopes to resume these classes in September.

- j. **Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter noted that the next virtual meeting was set for Tuesday, July 21st.
- k. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster) No report.
- l. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf) Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the Steering Committee met virtually on July 17th and heard the Legislative Update from Del Patrick Hope. The next virtual meeting is scheduled for Friday September 18th at 10 a.m. and will feature a presentation by Arlington County first responders on Dementia response.
- m. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter) No report.
- n. **Vision Zero** (Carl Brooks) No report.

IX. Old Business

- X. **New Business:** Commissioner Brooks reported that elections for a new Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission will be held in September. The Committee nominated Linda Kelleher for Chair and Jim Richardson for Vice Chair.

- XI. **Announcements and Public Comment:** Ms McDermott announced that the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging has been postponed to May 2021. She reported that webinars will be offered in July and August of 2020

- XII. **Adjournment at 11:00 a.m.**

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, September 21st at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual