



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

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**Meeting Summary
September 21, 2020**

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

ABSENT: Chloe Burke, Linc Cummings, Alfonso Lopez

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Carl Brooks

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

GUESTS: Gelareh Bassiry, Angela Chadbourne, Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Allegra Joffe Fahringer, Molly French, Stephen Izaguirre, Claire Jacobsen, Kathleen Kramer, Joan McDermott, Jim Morris, Bonnie O'Leary, Mitch Opalski, Christine Sheehy, Erica Wood, Wendy Zenker

I. Call to Order /Welcome and Introductions

Chair Feaster began the meeting by introducing two new members of the Commission, Alfonso Lopez and William Way.

II. COVID Scams, Justice Reform and Updates from the Office of the Attorney General (AG) of Virginia:

Stephen O. Izaguirre, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia began his presentation with an overview of the Virginia AG's responsibilities and services. They included prosecuting internet/phone scams and identity theft incidents. The AG's office also handles Medicare/Medicaid fraud complaints. Stephen described his office's approach as a triad system representing the AG's office, citizens and law enforcement. He cited recent offers for COVID-19 home test kits and offers to help seniors "shop online" as examples of scams to be avoided. Suspected crimes can be reported via the 703-833-FRAUD hotline or online. He concluded by noting that the perpetrators of many online/phone crimes are based overseas and therefore more difficult to prosecute in the U.S.

III. Approval of the July Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the July virtual meeting were unanimously approved as written.

IV. Chair's Report

Jim Feaster

Chair Feaster presented the slate of new officers for election which included Linda Kelleher for Chair and Jim Richardson for Vice Chair. On motions made and seconded, Commissioners unanimously approved the slate via the "raise your hand" feature of MS Teams.

Commissioner Kelleher thanked both Chair Feaster and Vice Chair Brooks for their outstanding efforts over the past few years, particularly in establishing Arlington County as both an AARP "Age Friendly" community and as a "Dementia Friendly" community.

V. Staff Reports

AAA Report

Rachel Coates

Ms. Coates thanked Chair Feaster and Vice Chair Brooks for their leadership and congratulated Chair-elect Kelleher and Vice Chair-elect Richardson. She updated Commissioners on the continued “Assistance from a Distance” operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, noting increased requests for rent/mortgage payments and with food security through AFAC and Meals on Wheels. Ms. Coates noted that the DHS was currently recruiting a newly approved Nutrition Coordinator to assist with these expanded efforts. Ms. Coates reminded committee chairs to submit requests for committee meetings to her, Helen King and Chair-elect Kelleher, including dates/times and an agenda. Once approved, the meetings will be published on the Calendar of Events and the online public calendar.

ADSD Report

Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield

Ms. Bah-Duckenfield congratulated Chair Feaster and Vice Chair Brooks and the new Commission leadership. She reported the implementation of a new check-in procedure for DHS staff to monitor exposure to COVID-19. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield noted that Arlington’s assisted living facilities had greatly diminished their COVID-19 outbreak status even as the county’s overall case numbers remained steady over the past few months. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield noted that ADSD would be sending a survey to Long Term Care Residences in mid-October to help determine what types of assistance would be most valuable to them during the ongoing pandemic. These outcomes will be evaluated by the Commission’s LTC committee.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. **Executive** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster reported that the committee met in late August to discuss forming a new committee on long-term care facilities. He asked Commissioners for help in recruiting for a vacancy on the Commission.
- b. **Housing and Community Supports** (Cyndy Schneider/Linda Kelleher): Commissioner Schneider reported that the committee is planning to meet in late October.
- c. **Legislative** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that recently proposed legislation to help fund paid leave for Long-Term Care Resident staff sponsored by Senator Barbara Favola and others had not passed.
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment** (Linc Cummings): No Report
- e. **Public Information and Outreach** (Cheryl Beversdorf/Carlos Velazquez): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that an October 26th meeting is planned and will focus on the friendly caller program and a proposed Senior Ambassador program.
- f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility** (Jim Richardson): Commissioner Richardson reported that the Committee will meet on October 8th. The agenda will include strategy for 2021 safety and pandemic-related service issues. Commissioner Andrea Walker and Christine Sheehy are recent additions to the committee.

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 Parks and Recreation's 55+ program staff conduct meetings via zoom and continue to adhere to CDC guidelines regarding ongoing outdoor activities and facilities usage. Transportation to outdoor events will continue for eligible seniors via Red Cab coupons throughout the duration of the pandemic.

Rachel thanked Jennifer Collins and her staff for their assistance in delivering 55+ Social Café Meals directly to participants.

- d. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)** (Wendy Zenker): Ms. Zenker noted that ANV membership had increased 25% during the months of the pandemic. ANV continues to offer Zoom training sessions to inform volunteers of safety procedures during the pandemic. Wendy noted that transportation requests had increased the most during this period.
- e. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott): Ms. McDermott invited Commissioners and guests to register and attend the upcoming VA Governor's Conference on Aging webinar on Advanced Care Planning.
- f. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood): Ms. Wood reported that the Council had formed a new committee to address nutritional needs. She reported that the Council approved a 2020 Legislative Platform that includes 7 recommendations. She invited Commissioners to attend the Council's virtual Best Practice awards ceremony on September 24th. Arlington County's AAA will receive a third-place award for the medication safety program.
- g. **Dementia Friendly Arlington** (Martha Villanigro-Santiago): Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that the group has not met. She noted that Goodwin House had recently received recognition. Ms. Coates added that ADSD had recently added Caitlin Stauffer as a Behavioral Health Specialist in the Senior Adult Mental Health program who plans to build on her work with Dementia Friendly Arlington.
- h. **Lee Highway Alliance** (Cragg Hines): No report
- i. **NOVA Falls Prevention Alliance** (Rita Wong): No report.
- j. **Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter noted that legislative priorities for 2021 have been set. He invited Commissioners and guests to attend the virtual Legislative "Breakfast" on October 2nd.
- k. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster): No Report.
- l. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the committee met in September for an update from County EMS staff and would meet on November 20th for a Medicare update.
- m. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that the committee met in September to discuss COVID-19 changes affecting STAR program participants.
- n. **Vision Zero** (Carl Brooks): No Report

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Announcements and Public Comment

Erica Wood noted that Mary Marshall's residents needed laptops to enable telehealth appointments and combat social isolation.

Maimoona announced that a new Community Supports and Coordination Bureau (CSCB) Chief within ADSD would be announced soon.

X. **Adjournment at 11:10 a.m.**

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, October 19th at 9:00 a.m.