

As approved by the COA on April 9, 2008

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING # 397
Wednesday, March 12th, 2008

Braddock Hall – 9002 Burke Lake Road Burke, VA

The meeting of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging (COA) was called to order by Tena Bluhm, Chair, at 1:04 p.m.

Commissioners present: Tena Bluhm, Elly Doyle, Eileen Duggan, Jack Fritz, Charlie Gorsey, Sally Hottle, Joeseeph Heastie, Anita Kapper

Commissioners absent: Ian Kremer

Staff present: Grace Starbird, Ursula Barretta

Others present: Connie Fullerton, Saranel Osborne, residents of Fairfax County. From Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Victoria Schall.

Minutes: The draft minutes of the February 20th, meeting were reviewed and the following changes were made: Page 6, fourth paragraph, the word “of” added to the “committee of the whole”. Page 3, 5th paragraph, following sentence added “He has created an e-mail newsletter to maintain contact with his constituents; the newsletter will contain information relevant to the senior population”.

Also added on page 6, 6th paragraph, the following sentence added: “There will be instances where even though services are available people will not be able to stay in their homes because they have not been retrofitted”.

Motion: Eileen Duggan motioned to adopt the minutes with correction.

Seconded by Jack Fritz.

Action: The motion passed.

50 + Action Plan Monitoring/Tracking by COA-Grace Starbird gave each Commissioner a notebook which included the work plan for the 50+ Action Plan. It also included a revised contact list and revised initiatives. Grace Starbird advised that when filing the report, to put the letter and number of the topic and the update in an email to Carolyn Carter. Staff will

enter the information into the master document. That document will be brought to each Commission meeting and will be passed around and this master will then be revised into the scorecard that will be finalized for the BOS Aging Committee.

Examples of this approach were the reports sent by Jack Fritz and by Chairperson Tena Bluhm. These were shared with all as an example. Grace Starbird indicated that the date for the COA-BOS Aging Committee meeting where the first scorecard will be discussed is being changed because of the Board's schedule conflict. Sometime in July has been recommended by staff. The dates to finalize the scorecard remain the same so all COA contacts and submissions need to be completed by May 6. The scorecard can not be posted until the Board of Supervisor's has received it.

Because the actions are ongoing (or may not yet have been started), the scorecard is an update for the BOS. Many may continue over several years with significant events along the way.

Chairperson Tena Bluhm commented that the guest from the last COA meeting, Jane Edwin, from Mount Vernon at Home, plans to contact COA members for updates since the COA members are now the experts on progress of the 50+ activities. The COA members present agreed that they could be contacted.

FY 2009 Advertised County Budget Timetable and COA's Role:

On March 5th the COA meeting to prepare for testifying on the County budget was held. Tena Bluhm, Eileen Duggan, Sally Hottle and Ian Kremer met with Barbara Antley, Director of the Adult and Aging Division of Family Services, Grace Starbird, Carolyn Carter, and Marike Hannam and Christina Hokenson, both from the finance division of family services.

They reported that there are no aging services cuts in the budget, however there is a documented need for the creation of two new merit positions in Adult Protective Services and also increased funding for senior food programs. Both these requests can be funded through funds available within the department because of the streamlining of adult services but it will require approval in the County budget to create the positions and to transfer the funds for the food program.

There has been a 30 % increase in APS investigations. Currently the county caseload does not meet the caseload standards recommended by the state of Virginia because of staff overload.

The commissioners will also testify to the need for increased funding for the Meals on Wheels Program (MOW). The funds are needed because of the increased food costs, transportation costs and increased number of people on waiting lists for food service. Currently, a pilot project called Meals by Mom is being implemented. This program sends two weeks of frozen prepared meals via UPS to people who due to circumstances such as medical reasons are not able to be at home to receive them when delivered.

Eileen Duggan commented that the COA is not asking for more money, but rather, asking to reallocate available money. Eileen Duggan went before the Human Services Council to testify for these changes. Grace, Barbara, and Dana were present to support her.

After discussion, it was decided that for the April 2 Board of Supervisor's budget hearings, Tena Bluhm would provide the first testimony and lay out the COA priorities. Eileen Duggan will follow with testimony which expands on the specific requests. Ian will follow to point out that the future requires awareness and greater funding for seniors needs.

Elly Doyle commented that one problem with the pilot program is that people are dropping off food but they don't have anyone checking in on the recipients of the food. Grace Starbird explained that this program is for persons on the waiting list who can heat their own meals. Planning for the possible use of UPS to deliver meals for ongoing clients is being considered and will not be used when clients need daily contacts.

**Proposed policy change to the Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) One Year Action Plan for FY 09.
(Anita raised the issue and addressed it later in the meeting under her report)**

COA Vacancies - Tena Bluhm commented that the COA has two vacancies; one in the Lee District and the other in Falls Church City. Supervisor McKay's staff is aware of the vacancy but have said they have not received an official notification of Fred's resignation. Tena Bluhm will contact Fred Hoffman to ask him for his resignation in writing.

After some discussion, it was decided that Tena Bluhm would make another contact with Falls Church concerning an appointment of a COA member. It was noted that the senior citizens committee in Falls Church meets at the same time as the Commission.

Older American's Month Proclamation.

The proclamation is scheduled for May 5th. County staff is finalizing the details with the Office for Public Affairs.

No break.

Director's Report:

See attachment B and staff unit meeting report.

The April 12th Reinventing Your Neighborhood event is coming up and there has been considerable interest. The Board of Supervisor's Auditorium holds 350 people and maybe at capacity so make reservations now.

Building For All Committee meetings are going on. Supervisor Bullova has been in the news regarding the universal design townhouses in Burke Center. There is interest in having a builder build a model universal design home in Fairfax that would be open to the public and to builders.

Amy Trang has just been hired at Area Agency on Aging as the Multicultural Outreach Coordinator and she will supervise the volunteer Vietnamese, Korean and (soon) Chinese information lines as well as developing new programs.

We soon will fill Roseann Tergis's vacant position. Her replacement will work more closely with the COA.

Grace said she will be on leave during May and the first two weeks in June but staff are being assigned to cover all projects so things will run smoothly at the AAA.

Member Updates:

Sally Hottle:

She gets the South County Chronicle and in March 2008, they interviewed Carolyn Carter in regard to the 50+ Action Plan. A copy of this was passed around.

Faith Communities in Action met and John Hudson did a presentation on the special needs registry. She passed out a brochure regarding the registry. There was also a request for food for the County's rapidly depleting food banks. Many shelves are bare.

Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) held a meeting and David Broder participated on a panel presentation. Issues of concern for personal care assistants are low wages, lack of benefits, and transportation costs. We need to emphasize that these are critical issues. A subcommittee of the Access Committee compiled a document enumerating recommendations for making the government building totally accessible for seniors and people with disabilities. The document was presented to the Access Committee last Wednesday evening for recommendations and approval. When the document is completed and has been presented to the LTCCC facilities management, I will be able to bring complete information about its content to the COA.

The LTCCC, Interfaith Summit will be on June 11th at George Mason. Its focus is to inform the county's faith community representatives about resources and how to build programs for older adults.

Elly Doyle:

She went to Vincent Hall last Thursday to view a unit which featured universal design elements. The unit they wanted to show was not ready. Vincent Hall is not considered affordable housing; however Chesterbrook Gardens has some units which incorporate universal design.

Included in the county's proposed budget, is the use of the 1 cent for Housing to also cover staffing costs. This needs to be monitored.

Jack Fritz:

He has been making his calls and contacts concerning Safety and Security in the 50+ Plan. There's lots happening in the County (see his update that was passed around)

Tena Bluhm:

The presentation of testimonies on the budget hearings went well. Supervisor Bulova asked for more information about the request for reallocation of funds for budgeting of two merit positions and increase for food service for MOW and congregate meals.

Grace Starbird and I visited Supervisor Herrity after the testimonies. He is very supportive of senior issues and 50+ Action Plan. He said that after the budget is completed he plans to become more active on senior issues. In a Board meeting he asked that the 50+ Action Plan "encourage universal design concepts to meet the needs of every age and degree of mobility and that it can be easily adapted to new construction as well as renovations".

At a Board meeting, he asked for "unanimous consent that the Board direct staff to compile a short list of contractors with expertise in universal, accessible, or adaptable design to be made available to residents upon request. Without objection, it was so ordered. "

He has made a proposed action to the Board of Supervisors to "create and fund two additional merit positions in the FY 2009 budget for APS". And asked the Board of Supervisors to direct that these positions be paid through reallocated Adult and Aging funds".

After the testimonies on April 2, I visited with Supervisor Bulova to ask for her support for the two requests that were made in the testimonies. She said that she is very supportive of the requests. She was also complimentary of the effort within the AAA in providing their services in an efficient way resulting in cost savings which could be used to finance the merit positions and increase in food services.

The Reinventing Your Neighborhood event was a resounding success with an estimated 325-350 persons attending the event. The program will be broadcast on Channel 16 on April 24 at 8 PM. Evaluation forms were given out and I will bring the results at the next meeting.

Building for All Committee is in the process of planning an education program about Universal Design.

The Planning and Zoning Department has assigned ombudsman duties to Tina Goss in addition to her other duties. She assist citizens in obtaining assistance if needed in using Universal Design in renovations or additions in their homes.

FACT the organization that involves high school students in building homes, has incorporated Universal Design in the home in which they will start in either July or August. The home is located in the Green Springs area. The county authorized additional money to incorporate Universal Design into the homes.

Eileen Duggan:

Legislative Summary of 2008 General Assembly:

Disappointingly, None of NVAN's budget amendments were funded in this session. Most programs were scaled back due to the economic downturn. NVAN small successes involved issues that required no government funding.

(1) The Area Agencies on Aging were designated as lead for *No Wrong Door*; (2) An adult fatality review team was created in the Medical Examiner's Office (based on assurance to the General Assembly that private funding would be available), (3) All licensed residential day programs, services or facilities were told that they must report disease outbreaks to local health authorities or to the Commissioner.

Two other Health and Human Services bills passed. One increased current filing fee add-on for legal aid. Another expanded provisions of VDA's four year plan, requiring VDA's consultation with state and local agencies (including AAAs).

Planning for NVAN 9th Annual Legislative Breakfast:

Jacquie Woodruff and Joan Maha, Chairs of the breakfast event, requested input on the fall legislative breakfast. Carolyn Carter agreed to host the event in her home on Tuesday, June 10, to develop the legislative platform. Breakfast will begin at 8:30, with the meeting following at 9:00. Participants are asked to bring food.

Divided We Fail:

Amber Nightengale, Associate Director of Community Outreach, AARP Virginia, made a presentation on AARP's 18-month initiative, Divided We Fail (DWF). DWF is a partnership among AARP, Business Roundtable, Service Employees

Union (SEIU) and the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). DWF's purpose is to engage American people, businesses and non-profit organizations and elected officials in funding bi-partisan solutions to ensure affordable , quality health care and long-term financial security. It plans to host candidate forums, town hall meetings and other events yet to be determined. DWF's platform can be accessed at www.dividedwefail.org. AARP is requesting that individuals and local agencies endorse the platform and support the principals in it.

At the OSHER Institute, Chairman of the Board, Gerald Connolly will discuss the 50+ Action Plan.

Anita Kapper:

At the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC) meeting, they discussed the 50+ Action Plan. CCFAC took a vote on whether to support a 25% set aside for housing residents with disabilities. Anita was one of two members who voted against it. Anita felt that the 25% set aside was an excessive amount. The proposal did pass and will go before the Board. At this point, the proposal is out for public comment.

The COA deliberated regarding whether they would vote to support, or not support, Anita's vote against the 25 % set aside. It was decided that due to lack of information, that the COA would not vote as a group and that they would not write a letter to HCD in support of Anita's vote to against the set aside. They would let Anita's vote with CCFAC stand for itself. March 31st is the date for which testimony on the proposal will be provided to the BOS.

Anita Kapper explained that the Fairfax County Public Schools have some technical programs for children to build a universal design home in Springfield.

Old Bussiness:

The letter for Fred Hoffman was passed around for commission member's signatures.

New Business:

Motion to adjourn was made by Sally Hottle.

This motion was seconded by Eileen.

Action: Meeting adjourned. At 2:57.