

## Final minutes as approved by the COA on December 17, 2008

# FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Braddock Hall – 9002 Burke Lake Road Burke, VA

Commissioners present: Tena Bluhm, Eileen Duggan, Joe Heastie, George Myers, Sally Hottle, Anita Kapper, Shak Hill, Lin Wagener, Danielle Wight

Commissioners absent: Elly Doyle, Jack Fritz

Staff present: Grace Starbird, Carolyn Carter, Brenda McGrail

Others present: Marijke Hannam, *Management Analyst, Dept of Administration for Human Services*; Christina Hokenson, *Management Analyst, Dept of Administration for Human Services*; Steven Rabin, *Citizen*

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

### **Adoption of Agenda, Public Comment Period, Review and Adoption of October minutes**

A motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting and accept the draft minutes of the October 15, 2008 meeting as it stands was accepted and approved by all present.

Steven Rabin, a resident of Fairfax County for 34 years introduced himself to the commissioners. He went on to present them with a subject that was important to him – a generic problem, he stated, that affects the elderly who have retired or been let go from their employments because of age, but who remain productive. These thousands of mature adults who are not at retiring age but want to remain productive will not be able to pay taxes if unemployed. He urged the COA to put the issue on the forefront of their agenda.

### **Review of the November 7 Board of Supervisor's Fairfax 50+ Committee meeting - Comments and Discussion**

Comments made by the COA were:

- Board of Supervisors were candid and attentive

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- The possibility of meeting at an earlier time of the day and any day except on a Friday. As it is difficult to attend a meeting on Friday from 2pm – 4pm
- The lack of microphones made it quite difficult to hear speakers. Meetings should be scheduled in rooms that have microphones
- The topic of Volunteer Services did not have enough floor time and suggested that Supervisor Herrity might consider a follow-up meeting on the issue of volunteerism.

The COA will follow up with a letter to Supervisor Herrity about the BOS Fairfax 50+ Committee meeting, stating their appreciation to the Board for the work they are doing to make Fairfax County aging friendly and looking forward to hearing back from them on the 3 agenda items discussed at the meeting: shared housing, the effect of economic turndown on older adults and volunteer services.

### **FY 2010 budget: State of the County Budget and review of the FY 2010 Budget process**

Marijke Hannam and Christina Hokenson, the Budget Team supporting the Department of Family Services, gave an overview of the FY 2010 Budget Process. Their budget summary outlined the

- a. FY 2009 Fiscal Reality - Revenue growth projected to be only 1%
  - Agency salary budgets reduced by a cumulative 4%
  - Deficit of \$58 million projected due mainly to slowing sales tax revenues
  - One furlough day for staff on January 2 2009 which would save approximately \$2 million
- b. FY 2010 Fiscal Outlook - \$157 million deficit in schools and \$350 million Countywide, totaling more than \$500 million in 1 year.
  - Agencies asked to identify 15% of their budget as potential reductions
- c. FY 2010 Line of Business (LOB) Reduction Process of what has been done so far and what to expect.

The team stated that the various presentations by the agencies have been put on the website for public viewing to educate the community on the fiscal climate and also to obtain feedback and input from the public.

In conclusion, Ms. Hannam encouraged the COA to read the LOBs to become familiar with what the various agencies in human services and the county are doing.

### **FY 2010 Review of Possible Proposed Cuts as provided by Departments to the Board of Supervisors and COA Position and Message re: Input to the FY2010 County Budget**

After reviewing the working draft document of the Proposed FY 2010 Budget Cuts Impacting Older Adults in Fairfax County, and an extensive, comprehensive discussion by the COA, it was decided that for the December 10 presentation

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to the Human Services Council (HSC), the COA would write a letter and present the 3 most important services that absolutely cannot be cut.

Tena will meet with Carolyn and Grace to compose a message to the HSC based on the COA's discussion and conclusions.

### Director's Updates

Grace Starbird encouraged the COA to attend "Reinventing Your Home" on Saturday, November 22 from 8am – 1:30pm at the Government Center.

Grace also communicated that the study for the One Stop Center for Transportation Information which encourages the use of public transportation is complete. Presenters will speak about the results of the study at the next COA meeting on December 17.

### COA Member Activity

Anita Kapper shared that she had attended the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC) public hearing on housing and community development needs. Some topics of discussion were: funds being moved from prevention to use in intervention situations, and cutting back on the amount of assistance provided in an emergency – utility, rent, etc. in order to assist more people.

Sally Hottle mentioned that the Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC), dedicated to the interest of the older adults and persons with disabilities, supports a tax increase as part of the response to the large local deficit..

She attended the luncheon for caregivers and it was very well attended. There was a demonstration of assistive services the County offers.

Lin Wagener. None at this time

Tena Bluhm stated that she is excited about the Reinventing Your Home event and envisions that it will be outstanding. She reminded volunteers from the COA to arrive at the event at 7am.

She also mentioned that she attended the health assessment meeting and the county is being assessed to determine if the health care services that are provided by the County meet standards and the needs of the public.

Eileen Duggan None at this time.

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George Myers None at this time  
Joe Heastie None at this time.

Shak Hill None at this time.

Danielle Wight None at this time.

### **Old Business**

None at this time.

### **New Business**

The COA end of year luncheon has been set for the next meeting on December 17. The commissioners decided on a 'bring your own bagged lunch' event starting 12 noon.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was offered at 3:26pm by Lin Wagener and seconded by Sally Hottle. There were no objections to the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda McGrail