

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Dranesville District Office, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101

Commissioners Present: Tena Bluhm (Chair), Eileen Duggan (Vice Chair), Joe Heastie, Suzanne Rudiselle, Julie Ellis, Maureen Renault, Kenneth Malmberg, Nazir Bhagat, Faviola Donato-Galindo

Commissioners Absent: Mary Jo Rasmussen, Sally Hottle

Staff Present: Sharon Lynn, Jacquie Woodruff

Others Present: Tom Bash, *Broker, Long-term Care Insurance Programs*; Cherie Lejeune, *Chair of Human Services, Federation of Fairfax*; Mimi Coogan, *Resident*; Jennifer Boysko, *Supervisor Foust's Aide*; Bob Eiffert, *LTCCC*; Patricia Rohrer, *LTCCC*; Linda Ham, *Resident*; Renoka Chandler, *Resident*

Guest speakers: Nancy Mercer, *Vice Chair of the LTCCC*; Chris Hyland, *Executive Director of LCA*

Call to Order, Adoption of the day's Agenda

The Commission on Aging (COA) meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson Tena Bluhm. The minutes of March 16 meeting was motioned to be approved as read by Eileen and seconded by Ken.

Public Comments

Jennifer Boysko from Supervisor Foust's office reported that Dranesville hosted a successful aging event yesterday. Both Eileen Duggan and Sharon Lynn spoke at the event.

Linda Ham expressed concern that such a low percent of the county budget goes to older adults, who represent an increasingly large percentage of the population. She also stated that the McLean senior center is in need of renovation. Eileen responded that she would love to see a new building to replace Lewinsville, but will also speak with her about the potential center without walls approach.

What is Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) & Life Circle Alliances (LCA)?

Nancy Mercer, Vice Chair of the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council, spoke about the work of the LTCCC. LTCCC was formed in 1989 to address gaps and silos among the many groups who serve older adults and people with disabilities. The group works on projects such as recognition of direct care workers, training for Korean service providers, and Disability Navigator. Julie Ellis stated that only one only psychiatrist serves older adults in Northern Virginia and requested that LTCCC focus on locating more.

Chris Hyland, Executive Director of Life Circle Alliance, explained that LCA was originally CareFax LTCCC. Life Circle Alliance identifies, showcases and raises funds for creative ideas for long-term care. Their goal is to raise \$200,000 this year. Life Circle Alliance hosts the Kudos for Community Caregivers breakfast. This year Gail Sheehy, author of 'Passages in Caregiving,' will be the keynote speaker. Cherie Lejeune commented that many non-profits are replicating similar projects and asked how this can be avoided. Chris stated that Life Circle Alliances wants to build partnerships; not duplicate programs.

Fairfax Area Agency on Aging's Acting Director's Report

Sharon reported that two Area Agency on Aging employees, Shannon Dodd and Ruth Reagan, received outstanding performance awards.

At the recent Hospital Transitions Care Team meeting, representatives from various groups discussed a model for all Inova hospitals to lower rate of readmission. The plan includes health coaches to help understand discharge plans with community services involved from the beginning. The health coaches are nurses from Inova who will receive four weeks of training.

Sharon attended the V4a met in Blacksburg. There was discussion about CCEVP (Care Coordination for Elderly Virginians Programs); Fairfax calls this Care Coordination.

Sharon and Jacquie met with Marlae from Supervisor Herrity's office to discuss the 50+ Action Plan focus groups. Supervisor Herrity is considering a delay in the timeline.

COA Member Activity and Reports

Julie will attend the Senior Center Council Meeting at Linconia this Friday. Region 1 will be hosting a Caregiver Forum.

Suzanne visited the universal design house with BFAC. House managers at Fellowship Square Foundation will have their first meeting at the end of month. Herdon/Reston FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help) is looking for grants because there is desperate need for those who no longer have financial resources.

Maureen will take visit facilities and lunch with Supervisor Frey from 10:00 – 4:00 this Friday. She is launching a Neighbors Care aging in place initiative in her neighborhood. The first meeting will be May 4th. Presentations to Aerospace Corporation in Chantilly began as marketing adult day centers and have been well-received. Maureen's goal is to build a "suitcase-able" debriefing about aging services for corporations. She is exploring approaches for the COA to get more involved in social media.

Joe thanked Tena & Eileen for covering pre-guardianship panel in his absence. He will update the COA website.

Eileen was impressed with the Great Falls Citizens Association Fair hosted by Supervisor Foust. Eileen spoke on the panel, and Sharon offered final remarks. Eileen requested that Sharon present her condensed overview of AAA services to the COA. A steering committee has been formed in McLean to figure out what the aging population in McLean wants and needs.

Faviola stated that she is glad to be back. She will meet with Supervisor McKay in early August.

Nazir is also happy to be back. He will meet with Supervisor Gross and would like to visit some facilities with her.

Old Business

On April 26, Tena and the COA will receive Supervisor Herrity's proclamation declaring May as Older Americans Month and endorsing the nation-wide theme of "Older Americans: Connecting the Community." The many volunteers who enrich the lives of older adults will be recognized during the proclamation and at a reception to follow.

Joe stated that the COA receives many requests and should each time consider how the request intersects with the mission of the Area Agency on Aging and the COA.

Tena stated a goal to modify the COA by-laws in 2011. Ken motioned that bylaws be rewritten; Eileen second. The motion passed unanimously. Ken will chair the Bylaws Committee. Joe and Faviola will serve on the committee.

Tena reminded commissioners with terms ending in May should contact their supervisor for re-appointment.

Eileen's testimony at the Board of Supervisor's Budget Hearing was featured in the recent Commissioner's Corner in the Golden Gazette and elicited much positive public feedback. Sally Hottle's 20 years of service with the COA will be highlighted in the next Commissioner's Corner.

Updates for COA representative/liaison positions:

- Tena – CCFAC
- Julie – Caregiver South County; Senior Citizens Council
- Eileen – LTCCC, Senior Citizens Council
- Nazir – BFAC
- Joe – NVAN
- Sally – LTCCC
- Mary Jo – something for Fairfax City
- Faviola
- Ken – Kings Park Civic Association
- Maureen – MAPP, Neighbors Care; corporate outreach
- Suzanne – FISH & Fellowship House foundations

New Business

The COA received four requests for COA representation.

- CCFAC requests a COA representative to serve for three years to assess funding available for community development block grants. . \$10 million per year is allocated every other year. Meetings are at 7:30 on the first Tuesday at the Government Center. Tena will serve initially and will inquire about whether a rotation is possible.
- Oakton Library has requested representation at one meeting to discuss what would make a friendlier space for older adults in a redesign. They will provide more information.
- LTCCC Mobility & Transportation Committee would like COA representation at monthly meetings. Eileen will switch from the Senior Services Committee to the M&T Committee.

- Encore Creativity for Older Adults offers opportunities with singing groups in Mt. Vernon. Grace Lynch will advertise events.

Meeting Adjournment

Julie motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Eileen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.