

# FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace Street, Herndon, VA 20170

**Commissioners Present:** Tena Bluhm (Chair), Eileen Duggan (Vice Chair), Joe Heastie, Suzanne Rudiselle, Julie Ellis, Tom Bash, Maureen Renault, Kenneth Malmberg, Nazir Bhagat,

**Commissioners Absent:** Mary Jo Rasmussen, Faviola Donato-Galindo

**Staff Present:** Jacquie Woodruff, Amy Trang

**Others Present:** Mimi Coogan, *Resident*

Guest speaker: Laura Feldman, *National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare*

## **Call to Order, Adoption of the day's Agenda**

The Commission on Aging (COA) meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson Tena Bluhm. Ken motioned that the minutes of the May meeting be approved as submitted, and Julie seconded.

## **Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **Presentation: "Entitlements: Who's Entitled to What?"**

Laura Feldman presented information about Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. These are referred to as "entitlement" programs because certain groups are "entitled" to benefits: social security recipients because they paid in; Medicaid because they meet a certain poverty level; Medicare because they are 65 or older.

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

Sharon Lynn's report was summarized in the unit updates attachment.

### **Area Plan Draft**

- Amy Trang presented the draft Area Plan, the AAA contract with the Virginia Department for the Aging. The draft includes a summary sheet with changes. Amy requested that the COA submit any questions or recommendations to her. The COA will provide final approval at the July meeting.
- Ken suggested that the COA's role of Area Plan approval be included in the updated by-laws.

### **COA Member Activity and Reports**

Tom spoke to the fire chief about the question from last meeting regarding the safety of older adults in high rises. He will update on that conversation.

Julie reported that 35 people attended a fourth caregiver forum in Region 1. The Region 1 director recruited Julie for program to mentor spouses of deployed. She hopes to recruit older adults for this program.

Maureen reported that Supervisor Frye has expressed interest in touring housing sites. She will contact the Fairfax Building For All Committee about possible livable communities field trips. Maureen held the kick-off meeting and distributed the interest survey for the Neighbors Care pilot in her neighborhood. Maureen continues her collaborate corporate outreach work with the Adult Day Health Care Centers. The centers have seen an uptick in interest calls.

Suzanne offered to arrange a COA tour to the two Fellowship Square Foundation housing sites in Reston.

Ken reported that his committee is working on updating the by-laws. Suggestions for by-laws updates should be sent to Ken, Joe, and Faviola.

Eileen serves on a committee planning a McLean forum to focus on Villages and other neighborhood initiatives. She surveyed 80 people at McLean Day. Approximately 50 of these had caregiver connections.

### **Old Business**

- Tena welcomed Tom Bash as official commissioner. Tom has worked in journalism, public policy, and long-term care. He has also served as a family caregiver.

- Tena suggested that the COA establish a policy on how to deal with requests for support, both for consistency and to protect credibility. As the COA becomes more visible to the public, the group is receiving more requests. She distributed a summary of the COA's federal Older American's Act directive and the 1996 COA bylaws.
- Tom stated that, in his three weeks on the COA, he has already been approached twice for COA support.
- The COA discussed the support of issues, rather than of people or organizations.
- Ken motioned that the COA develop a policy for requests from organizations and individuals. Julie seconded.
- Tena will send the commissioners a draft proposal for consideration.
- Joe offered to draft an activity report to assist commissioners with their meeting updates.

#### **New Business**

- Eileen discussed use of space at the Lewinsville Senior Center. The center is a multi-purpose facility that includes a senior center, day care, and residences. The senior center holds most of its activities in a single room. Requests have been made that senior center participants be able to use the upstairs dining room. Tena and Eileen will contact Department of Neighborhood and Community Services staff about the situation.
- The July Golden Gazette will highlight Sally Hottle. Faviola will write the Commissioner's Corner article for the September Golden Gazette.
- Elections for COA chair and vice chair will be held at the July meeting. Tena will run again for chair. Eileen stated that she would like to give someone else the excellent opportunity to work with Tena.

#### **Meeting Adjournment**

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