

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING
FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, March 16, 2011
Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Baker Court, Fairfax, Va 22032

Commissioners Present: Tena Bluhm (Chair), Eileen Duggan (Vice Chair), Suzanne Rudiselle, Mary Jo Rusmussen, Kenneth Malmberg, Maureen Renault, Sally Hottle

Commissioners Absent: Nazir Bhagat, Joe Heastie, Faviola Donato-Galindo, Julie Bloom Ellis

Staff Present: Sharon Lynn, Jacquie Woodruff, Theresa Chen, *DFS photographer*

Others Present: Tom Bash, *Broker, Long-term Care Insurance Programs*; Cherie Lejeune, *Chair of Human Services, Federation of Fairfax*, Christianna Coss, *Golden Living at Home LLC*; Jill Rosen, *Golden Living at Home, LLC*; Marie Woodard, *Thrive at Home (Personal Care)*; Mimi Coogan, *Resident*
Guest speaker: Ronald McDevitt, *Budget & Finance Director for Human Services*

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 February 16 meeting was motioned to be approved as read by Sally and seconded by Eileen.

Overview of the FY 2012 Advertised Budget Plan

Ron McDevitt, Budget & Finance Director for Human Services, presented about the FY 2012 Advertised Budget Plan. Although there are signs of economic recovery in Fairfax County, the Human Services Council will recommend that most of the balance from the Advertised Budget be saved.

Maureen mentioned that Metro Access rates are skyrocketing.

The General Assembly cut to Fairfax County was not quite as bad as anticipated, but decisions in the federal budget still have not been finalized. Human Services Council will ask that at least \$800,000 reduction be restored for home based care services.

Acting Director's Report

Sharon and Jacquie attended a public forum for community input as part of a strategic planning process to make Alexandria a "Livable Community for All Ages." Approximately 150 people attended the forum, and another 150 were registered to attend a second forum the following week. Break-out sessions provided an effective approach to generating discussion and input on various topics.

Cathy Cole & and Sharon presented information about Adult & Aging Services to a meeting of the Northern Virginia Faith Community Nurse Network. Several nurses were interested in starting Independent Living and Chronic Disease programs in their faith communities.

Commissioner Updates

Mary Jo met with Tena for a Commission on Aging (COA) orientation. She also attended Human Resources Committee and met with the Executive Committee of Mosby Woods Neighborhood Assistance. The committee has discovered that citizens have not expressed a need for help. Mary Jo sent the City of Fairfax a synopsis of COA meetings with updates about what she is doing for Aging.

Maureen sent an e-mail to her neighborhood about serving as a pilot for a Neighbors Care program. Eleven people plan to attend kick-off meeting in May. Supervisor Frey and Maureen will visit Little River Glen and Greenspring together on April 22.

Sally reported that the Government Center now has an updated assisted listening system (ALS) in the building. The Long Term Care Coordinating Council had requested an improved ALS for several years.

Eileen has been attending LTCCC meetings and is impressed with the members.

Eileen chaired the Northern Virginia Aging Network meeting as the Fairfax COA representative in March. She recommends Laura Feldman from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare as a future speaker for the COA. At the NVAN meeting, she learned that the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging will host their annual conference in Washington, DC on July 16-20. Sharon can coordinate volunteers from the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) AA and Commission on Aging (COA) who want to attend the conference.

Also, the Older Dominion Partnership will host its next statewide meeting in Richmond on May 19. John Martin, who spoke at the Board of Supervisors' 50+ Committee meeting, will speak at a fall event hosted by the Economic Development Authority. John Martin has also been invited to be the keynote speaker at the Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN) legislative breakfast in the Fall.

Ken has learned that pre-disaster recovery meetings have been taking place, and much information is available on the County website. Ken also sends Supervisor Cook a brief summary of COA meetings.

Suzanne reported that Herndon-Reston Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help (FISH) Inc., has instituted a new driver program for people in need. She has been working with Aging in Reston and the Fellowship Foundation.

Tena stated that the Building For All Committee (BFAC) will tour an FCPS student-constructed universal design house next week. The COA is welcome to join BFAC for the tour. Because the FY 2012 Advertised Budget didn't include cuts to programs for older adults, only Eileen will testify for the COA at the Board of Supervisors' budget hearings.

The commissioners agreed to meet with their various supervisors to thank them for the work they are doing for older adults (and on the 50+ Action Plan)???

Sally contacted Supervisor Herrity about the COA's proclamation request. As part of the celebration of May as Older Americans Month, Supervisor Herrity has agreed to issue a proclamation to honor older adults and the volunteers who enrich their lives. The proclamation will be issued at the April 26 Board of Supervisors meeting. County agencies who work with older adults will recognize their volunteer, with special highlighting of those who have served for 10, 20, 30, and 40 years.

Tena, Eileen, Sharon, Jacquie, and representatives from Volunteer Solutions, the Health Department, Neighborhood and Community Services, and the Long Term Care Coordinating Council met to plan a post-proclamation reception for the volunteers.

New Business

Tena received a request for COA involvement from the Economic Security Initiative, a new initiative from the National Council on Aging. Sharon and Jacquie will read the request and then advise Tena.

Tena also received a request from the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC) for a COA representative to serve a three-year term. Tena has requested more information from CCFAC about the requirements of this commitment.

The 50+ Action Plan revisions are on hold until the Board of Supervisors is ready to begin focus groups.

The COA by-laws were approved in 1996. The commissioners agreed that the by-laws should be reviewed.

The COA reviewed a request to sign on to a letter to the Board of Supervisors. The letter requests the Board's advocacy to the Department of Transportation for streamlining of the process required to improve bus stops on streets controlled by the State. Too much time and money is wasted for bus stop improvements because they have to undergo the same scrutiny as constructing a new building or road. The COA would prefer simplification of the language in the letter. Eileen motioned that the COA vote to sign on to the letter. Sally seconded. The COA voted unanimously to sign on.

Meeting Adjournment

Mary Jo motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Eileen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.