

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING
FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Franconia Governmental Center, Community Room
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

Commissioners Present: Kay Larmer (Vice Chair), Tom Bash, Sharron Dreyer, Carolyn Sutterfield, Joseph Heastie and Denton Kent

Commissioners Absent: Richard Chobot (Chair), Eleanor Fusaro, Bob Kuhns, Dan Henderson, William Shackelford

Staff Present: Sharon Lynn, Mena Nakhla

Others Present: Kathi Brown, *AARP National Office*; Alicia Williams, *AARP National Office*; Bob Eiffert, *Fairfax County Health Department*; Ronald McDevitt, *Fairfax County Department of Administration for Human Services*

Call to Order, Adoption of Meeting Agenda, Review and Adoption of Draft Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Kay Larmer called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. Sharron motioned that the agenda be accepted. Tom seconded.

Carolyn motioned that the minutes be accepted. Joe seconded.

Public Comment

Alicia Williams and Kathi Brown, AARP National Office, introduced themselves.

Public Hearing: Waiver to Provide Priority Services

A public hearing was held to allow for the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging to apply for a Waiver to Provide Priority Services. No public comments received.

Presentation: The Human Services Council (HSC) – Ron McDevitt, Division Director, Financial Management

Ron McDevitt provided an overview of the HSC and HSC priorities and budget recommendations during the last budget cycle. The HSC shared with the Board of Supervisors that there are over 4000 employees working in Human Services in Fairfax County. Additionally, 30 percent of students in the public school system receive free or reduced lunch. The HSC shared the demand for aging services within transportation, recreation and housing.

Old Business

A question was raised regarding advocacy processes for older adults' services. Sharon stated that advocacy can be done at any time with the BOS, but, specifically for budget-related items, advocacy occurs after the advertised budget is posted. Kay suggested that commissioners share issues of concern with their board member.

Commissioners reported that the BOS Fairfax 50+ Committee included positive reports from Fairfax 50+ Champions, indicating progress on initiatives.

Commissioners reported that Creative Aging Festival events have been well attended. Sharon stated that GMU professors are engaged in a study at Insight Memory Care Center examining how music has positive effects on the brain and an individual's sense of well-being.

New Business

Denton requested information beyond the organizational chart for a better understanding of the spectrum of all older adult services, including the interconnections between agencies working with and for older adults.

Funding for the Fairfax 50+ Senior Reach Initiative was discussed. Denton noted that the COG in Denver is an Area Agency on Aging, and it funds a similar program. Denton asked if the Fairfax AAA can fund this Fairfax 50+ priority initiative. Sharon stated that the original Senior Reach program in Colorado received a large grant from the federal government. The Fairfax AAA does not have any funding that could be used for mental health services. Sharon will research the source of the funding that the Senior Reach program in Colorado receives from DRCOG.

As part of the Human Services Needs Assessment, Bob Eiffert is leading a focus group regarding needs of older adults and people with disabilities. After individuals respond to a questionnaire, focus groups will decide as a group on priorities. The Human Services Needs Assessment is an initiative of the Human Services Deputy County Executive. A report will be issued by the end of the year.

Commissioner Updates

Carolyn reported that Carl Varner is reaching out to Rebuilding Together to be an active partner in the home modification guide. The aim is for a guide specific to the Fairfax County area.

Sharron was interviewed about the COA on Channel 16. Sharron was also invited by Greenspring to speak about the Fairfax 50+ Community Action Plan.

Denton reported that the Housing Latitude/Incentives event has been moved back from June to September. Denton also reported that the Trends workgroup is progressing well and hopes to have a report by the end of the year.

Tom provided updates on the NV Rides and Mobility Management grants. He noted that Lyft and Uber are moving into the transportation arena for older adults. Tom also reported that Pre-Notification 911 was not funded, but will be considered. He hopes to work with the Northern Virginia General Assembly Delegation to help with funding.

Director's Report

Sharon announced that Volunteer Solutions won a \$2,000 Commonwealth Council on Aging Best Practices Award. The Commonwealth Council on Aging will present the award at the next COA meeting. A light lunch will be offered for the celebration.

The Meals on Wheels program has completed the transition to three deliveries per week as a result of implementing the flash frozen meal program. Initially on Monday and Wednesday, participants received two days of meals with one day of meals delivered Friday. However, now the program has received enough additional funding that a weekend meal can also be provided. A few routes continue to receive five deliveries per week with a hot entrée.

Rich and Mary Chobot presented information on "Being a Patient" and provided resources at the food pantry program at the Chantilly Library.

Adjournment

Joe motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Denton seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.