

**FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)  
FINAL MINUTES**

**VIRTUAL – VIDEO/AUDIO MEETING**

**Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82558623809>

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**or**

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**Participant access code: 1789207**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 2:00-4:00 pm**

**Commissioners Present:**

Carolyn Sutterfield, (Chair), Mike Perel (Vice Chair), Cathy Muha (Secretary), Tom Bash, Cathy Cole, Martha Cooper, Sharron Dreyer, Joe Heastie, Kathy Hoyt, Phyliss Miller Palombi, Diane Watson, Kay Larmer

**Staff Present:**

Tara Turner, Trina Mayhan -Webb, Jacquie Woodruff, Linda Hernandez- Giblin, Hilda Naranjo

**Others Present:**

Rebecca Thompson, Office of Supervisor Walkinshaw, Braddock District; Bonnie O’Leary, Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Allegra Joffe-Fahringer, Let’s Connect, LLC; Marie Norman, North Springfield Civic Association; Debbie Hedges, Jewish Social Service Agency; Denise Chadwick Wright, Birmingham Green; Patricia Rohrer, Fairfax County Health Department; Eileen McCartin, Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Barbara Holleb, Eldercare Advisory Services; Linda Bufano, Resident; Becky, Captioner; Kate Chutuape, Virginia Hospital Center; Scott Schroth, Shepherd’s Center serving Oakton/Vienna/Reston/Herndon (by phone); Deb Matthews, Resident; Alex Van Veen, Resident; Colin Brody, Fairfax County Health Department; Steve Descano, Fairfax County Commonwealth’s Attorney

**Call to Order; Introductions; Additions to Agenda; Approval of the Agenda; Approval of the Minutes**

COA Chair Carolyn Sutterfield called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Roll Call and Motions to Proceed with Electronic Meeting**

Carolyn explained that, in order to conduct the meeting electronically in compliance with the emergency procedures authorized by FOIA, the State of Emergency, and the Emergency Ordinance, certain findings and determinations are required for the record. Carolyn called the roll, and all the commissioners participating stated their name and the location from which there were participating. Commissioners present were:

- Carolyn Sutterfield from her home in the City of Fairfax.
- Mike Perel from his home in Braddock District
- Diane Watson from her home in Lorton, representing Mount Vernon District.
- Tom Bash from his home in the Springfield District.
- Sharron Dreyer from her home in Springfield, representing Lee District.
- Kathy Hoyt from home, representing Mason District.
- Martha Cooper from her home in City of Falls Church.
- Cathy Muha from her home in Oakton, representing Sully District.
- Joe Heastie from his home in Providence District.
- Cathy Cole from North Carolina, serving as the At-Large Representative.
- Kay Larmer from her home in Florida, representing Dranesville District.
- Phyllis Palombi from her home, representing Hunter Mill District.

Carolyn motioned that the COA had a quorum present via remote connection and that each member's voice could be adequately heard by all participating members of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging. Vice Chair Mike Perel called for a second and a vote. Martha Cooper seconded. The COA voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Carolyn motioned that the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic made it unsafe for the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging and the public to physically assemble. She further moved that the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging conduct the meeting electronically through a dedicated audio-conferencing line that the public could access. Mike Perel called for a second and a vote. Sharron Dreyer seconded. The COA voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Finally, Carolyn motioned that all agenda matters would address the Emergency itself, were necessary for continuity in Fairfax County government, and/or were statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. Mike Perel called for a second and a vote. Diane Watson seconded. The COA voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Kay Larmer motioned that the agenda be accepted. Diane Watson seconded. Sharron Dreyer motioned that the minutes be accepted. Phyllis Palombi seconded.

#### **Public Comment**

No public comment.

#### **Presentation: COVID-19 Vaccine Update Colin Brody, Assistant Public Health Emergency Management Coordinator, Fairfax County Health Department**

Colin Brody reported that Fairfax county is converting from Moderna to Pfizer vaccines. Fairfax County is provided with these vaccines due to adequate temperature-controlled storage. The County currently provides 13,500 doses per week Tuesday through Sunday. The vaccine is received on Monday; therefore, no appts are scheduled for that day. The Fairfax County Government is a major vaccination location, immunizing 900 individuals during the week with as many as 3,500 doses administered on the weekend. Many partnerships exist to allow for vaccinating as many individuals as possible. CVS is currently the only federal retail pharmacy partnership with one location in Fairfax County. This location distributes 100 vaccines per day.

There are partnerships between the state and federally qualified health centers to ensure that clients of those centers receive vaccine doses. These programs work through the state level health equity task force or the equivalent federal task force. Emergency Authorization of Johnson & Johnson in the coming weeks will increase doses distributed. This vaccine does not require the extreme temperature storage and will enable additional locations to provide distribution.

**Presentation: The Role of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office in Preventing Scams Against Seniors and an Update on the Office's Priorities - Steve Descano, Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney**

Mr. Descano reported that the Commonwealth's Attorney Office is focusing on scams committed against vulnerable populations. His office requires more dedicated resources to communicate with the community and raise awareness. The Commonwealth Attorney's Office would like to represent the community values in the criminal justice system. Mr. Descano described a few scams such as attempting to glean information and file false tax returns during tax season. He spent time answering many questions from Commissioners and participants, closing with advice, "If it feels wrong or rushed, it's probably a scam."

**Old Business**

Commissioners shared the following updates:

- Diane Watson reported that Dementia Friendly Fairfax (DFF) continues to remain active. The DFF Task Force met in December and January, Champion Trainers Diane Watson and Allegra Joffe- Fahringer presented, with technical support from AAA and ServiceSource. at four virtual sessions in January and February. There are now 122 Dementia Friends trained through DFF.

Diane attended the Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) meeting on January 13. Dr. Ben Schwartz, Fairfax County Epidemiologist presented. Diane also serves on the LTCCC Response and Impact Committee. The committee met several times in January and February. The committee has focused on problems identified during the pandemic, addressing social isolation, and communication regarding vaccines for high-risk groups. Identified high-risk groups include older adults and adults with disabilities without access to devices, those who live alone with mobility issues, those who speak minimal English, those who have difficulty navigating technology, and those who have brain injury, dementia, cognitive disorders and/or other physical limitations such as blindness, deafness and mobility.

- Phyllis Palombi recently wrote an article for her local paper regarding different stages of the pandemic. Phyllis continues to consult with Jacquie Woodruff, Area Agency on Aging, regarding a podcast program on isolation and older adults with questions from listeners.
- Cathy Cole reported that, in response to the Covid-19 Response Plan for Older Adults, the 50+ Technology Committee was asked to consider possible approaches to alleviating social isolation among the older adults in our community. Think Tank is the new initiative created to challenge individuals and the community to discover ways to address isolation. The challenge will soon go live with the website launch and Board of

### Supervisors announcement.

- Carolyn Sutterfield reported that the Fairfax County Department of Family Services Advisory Social Services Board Annual Report has been produced, and commissioners have received copies. The report covers the five divisions of DFS: Adult and Aging, Children Youth and Families, Domestic and Sexual Violence, Self-Sufficiency, and Healthy Minds Fairfax. Carolyn congratulated ASSB Chair, David Jonas, board members and Director Michael Becketts for a fine report.

The Human Services Council minutes reflect the appointment of Chris Leonard to replace Tisha Deeghan as Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services. The Commission on Aging has worked with Chris as Director of Neighborhood and Community Service and looks forward to his strong guidance during this time of challenge and beyond. Sam Hudson, Office of Strategy Management for Health and Human Services, gave a report on changes proposed for the County's land development policy as well as specific components of the comprehensive plan related to creating healthier environments.

### **Director's Report**

Tara Turner reported that the Adult and Aging Division is undergoing a strategic realignment. A Caregiver Unit is being built out to meet the growing needs of the caregiving community. Registered Dietitian Maria Loh, who currently works within the Livable Communities Development unit, will be realigning with other nutrition programs. Jacquie Woodruff will remain as liaison to the Commission on Aging and will continue to oversee legislative items and other support services.

The AAA is expecting \$346,000.00 from the state. This funding is distributed from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and will be allocated specifically to nutrition.

Jacquie Woodruff provided an update on the COVID-19 Response Plan for Older Adults. The plan is now posted on the older adult website along with a self-guided questionnaire for reflection on individual wellness. The Health Department COVID-19 webpage has posted communications updates including holiday guidance around COVID-19. The Health Department has started a blog for older adults with vaccine information. Tara Turner filmed a Public Service Announcement for Channel 16 to be aired soon. Maria Loh's Holiday cooking segments that aired in December are posted on the website. There have been a few educational offerings and others are planned for 2021. The Community Services Board will offer Mental Health First Aid for Older Adults early this year. ServiceSource is working with Neighborhood and Community Services to collect donations for the purchase of tablets for older adults. Volunteer Solutions continues to partner with places of worship to serve as pick-up locations for meals on wheels. They also continue to provide caring cards and virtual social visiting. The Volunteer IT On-Call service continues for people who would like to learn about technology.

### **New Business**

Mike Perel reported that the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) have initiated a study to identify the needs of the

pickleball community and determine how to address the growing popularity of the game. On their study website, they are asking for public comment. Mike proposed a motion (as listed on the agenda) that the commission discuss and vote on draft comments (provided by Mike Perel) for the COA to send to the FCPA. Mike made a motion to send a letter with proposed amendments, in support of pickleball courts, from the COA to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Tom Bash seconded. The COA voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Jacquie Woodruff reported that two Vaccine forums were conducted in Fairfax County, via Zoom, for older adults and people with disabilities. The forums were well attended with some registration requests denied because of Zoom meeting limitations. Jacquie asked the commissioners whether the Commission on Aging would be interested in sponsoring a future vaccine forum, should the need arise. Cathy Cole motioned that the commission would participate in organizing and participating in a future COVID-19 vaccine forum should the need arise. Sharron Dreyer seconded the motion. The COA voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**Announcements**

Sharron Dreyer announced that by the end of February all Greenspring residents requesting a vaccine should be fully vaccinated.

**Adjournment**

Diane Watson motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Sharron Dreyer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Muha, COA Secretary.  
Approved: March 17, 2021

DocuSigned by:  
*Cathy Muha*  
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Cathy Muha, COA Secretary

05/05/2021 | 8:55 AM PDT

Date

DocuSigned by:  
*Carolyn Sutterfield*  
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Carolyn Sutterfield, COA Chair

05/03/2021 | 4:26 PM EDT

Date