

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)

FINAL MINUTES OF VIRTUAL – VIDEO/AUDIO MEETING

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85219111244> Password: COA-m1234!
Telephone: 888-270-9936 (US Toll Free) or 602-333-0032 Conference code: 231525

Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

MEETING AGENDA

Commissioners Present: Cathy Cole (Chair/At Large), Cathy Muha (Vice Chair/Sully), Carolyn Sutterfield (Secretary/City of Fairfax), Tom Bash (Springfield), Martha Cooper (City of Falls Church), Sharron Dreyer (Lee), Joe Heastie (Providence), Kathy Hoyt (Mason), Kay Larmer (Dranesville), Phyllis Miller Palombi (Hunter Mill), Mike Perel (Braddock), Diane Watson (Mount Vernon)

County Staff Present: Tara Turner, Jacquie Woodruff, Beth Ann Margetta, Kristen Helfer Koester, and Hilda Naranjo, Area Agency on Aging; Robin Wilson, Policy Director, and Katherine Miga, Project Manager, One Fairfax

Call to Order: Chair Cathy Cole called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Roll Call and Motions to Proceed with Electronic Meeting: Chair Cole called the roll and made the motions. Secretary Sutterfield conducted the votes to establish VFOIA compliance:

- Cathy Cole motioned that the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging had a quorum present via remote connection and that each member’s voice could be adequately heard by all participating members. Motion seconded by Diane and unanimously approved.
- Cathy Cole 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 and that the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging was conducting the meeting electronically through the dedicated telephone line listed above. Motion seconded by Kay and unanimously approved.
- Cathy Cole 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. Motion seconded by Phyllis and unanimously approved.

Review of the agenda

Sharron motioned and Mike seconded that the agenda be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the minutes

Cathy Cole asked for a motion to approve the minutes from January 19, 2021. Kay made the motion; Sharron seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment: No public comment

AAA Director's Report: Tara Turner, Director, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging

- The AAA is interviewing for an Assistant Manager of AAA Programs.
- CHORE, a contracted agency program, will soon be available to clients of the Adult & Aging (A&A) division who need help with heavy housekeeping or de-cluttering. The goal is to help people avoid code issues and potential evictions.
- The Companion Pet program pilot to address social isolation and loneliness has officially launched. The animatronic pets are available to current A&A clients and those who attend Senior Centers and Adult Day Health Centers.
- Fairfax County is working with Microsoft to ensure more comprehensive ADA accommodations in its virtual platform. If and when all guests can be accommodated, the AAA may move its meetings to Microsoft. COA meetings will stay on Zoom for now.
- Postcards have not yet gone out for the CASOA survey.

Q & A: Mike asked about getting user feedback on the Microsoft platform, which some people find unfriendly. Cathy Muha asked to see an animatronic pet at a future COA meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

• COA Interim Workplan: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) Analysis to Support SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan Development

1. Presentation: "Fairfax County Vulnerability Index." One Fairfax project manager Katherine Miga explained the uses of the Fairfax County Vulnerability Index. Slides from her presentation are available online in the [February 16, 2021 COA meeting materials](#).

Key points:

- Data from the 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) was used in 2019 to create a Vulnerability Index (VI) Map that ranks Fairfax County census tracts from Very High (most vulnerable) to High, Average, Low, and Very Low (least vulnerable). Darkest color indicates highest vulnerability. (A separate COVID-19 Vulnerability Index was developed from CDC data for planning during the pandemic.)
- To create the VI's five rankings, eight ACS indicators were scored: People of Color, Low English-Speaking Ability, Low Educational Attainment, Household Income, Households without a Vehicle, Population without Health Insurance, Cost-burdened Renter Households, and Severely Cost-burdened Renter Households. These would help guide equitable service delivery and resource allocation for the county and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. Indicators may change after release of the 2016-2020 ACS data in March.
- Different county departments have used the VI map differently:
 - Public Works overlaid it with tree cover to determine where to plant.

- Fairfax County Park Authority used it to determine Rec Center Scholarships for free and reduced-price lunch kids.
- Cable and Consumer Services used it to plan outreach events.
- Health Department and Fairfax County Public Schools used it to select elementary schools for weekend and after-school COVID vaccine clinics.
- The county’s Early Childhood Vulnerability Index offers a model for a potential Older Adults VI. It uses 13 indicators in five sub-indices—socioeconomic status, housing and transportation, race/ethnicity and language, health, and early childhood system/school readiness—to identify “Locations of Opportunity” (e.g., libraries, health care centers, schools) where programs for young children in targeted populations can be housed. A potential SHAPE overlay might use free or low-cost data from reputable sources (Census, CDC) and disaggregate some of it by age to create indicators.
- What can’t a VI do? It can’t analyze root causes of a current situation. It can’t identify “Who benefits from?” and “Who is burdened by?” current programs and policies.

Q & A:

Mike: Are indicators weighted? And is this VI unique to the county or taken from somewhere else? Miga: Indicators are not weighted, but they could be, depending on what is most important to particular services and programs. Though similar to those in other jurisdictions, this VI is ultimately unique to our county. One Fairfax policy director Robin Wilson added that there is no one standard methodology for creating this kind of index.

Tom: How will the Equity Lens benefit older adults and people with disabilities? These groups are not in the indicators. And how will we know when equity is achieved? Miga: You can locate groups through indicators such as age, disability, or low income that show areas with lower well-being for those populations now. We do have census data on population-level disability and households with at least one disabled person. You will know equity is achieved if you revisit the same indicators five years after a program has been implemented. Look for closing the gap.

Martha: Could a reduction in vulnerability be caused by an exodus of low-income residents when new high-end housing is built? Miga: The change would show up in indicators like a decreasing number of households with a disability or how income has changed.

Phyllis: Does the county know things like how many people are 65-75 or 75-80, are mobile or immobile, have access to health care or not? What about a health or mental health perspective? What diagnostic categories are in certain age groups? Miga: Some data is out there. The CDC has data. The census gives us a picture by 5-year units—for instance, the growth of the group over 80. Health data is available by census tract for things like high blood pressure or diabetes. If you want to subdivide by age, that’s only available at the county level. You might have to extrapolate from where people live.

Jacque reminded the group that the Board of Supervisors approved the Department of Family Services’s analytics team to support the 2022 CASOA data when it comes in. The team has started looking at COA questions and input regarding the 2019 survey data. They will coordinate

with demographers in Management and Budget who weren't involved last time. Cathy C. asked to see the 2022 survey questions in advance. Jacquie will send what the AAA has.

Cathy M: Is there data on types of disabilities—hearing, vision, mobility—that affect the FC population? Miga: The ACS asks for that data, but specific locations may not be available. Robin added that the Community Health Dashboard identifies different disabilities by census tract. Cathy C. asked if someone at AAA is developing a specific VI for older adults and people with disabilities. Tara said it's not currently in the works, but the AAA could allot staff time if the COA requests it. Cathy would like to submit a request for a VI now, ideally before the BOS Older Adults Committee meets in March. Jacquie told commissioners that their March meeting has been canceled and not yet rescheduled. Tara said the COA will definitely meet with the committee as planned in September to share CASOA survey results, if not before.

2. Discussion of Future SHAPE-related Presentations

- State of Housing — Sharron Dreyer and Carolyn Sutterfield

1. Carolyn summarized her research into the following reports related to housing that were presented to the COA since 2017 (full report was sent to commissioners after the meeting):

- *Understanding the Housing Needs of Fairfax Residents with Disabilities and Older Adults and Recommendations for Affordable and Accessible Housing for These Residents*, Long Term Care Coordinating Council Housing Committee, 2017;
- “Communitywide Housing Strategic Plan,” approved by the BOS, April 2018;
- “Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project (Proposed Consolidated Draft): Accessory Living Units,” presentation by Casey Judge and Carmen Bishop, Department of Planning and Zoning, July 2020;
- “Current and Future Housing in Fairfax County,” presentation by Ahmed Rayyan and Toni Clemons-Porter, Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), November 2020;
- *Demographic Reports 2020, County of Fairfax, Virginia*, Department of Management and Budget, March 2021; and
- “A Strategic Plan for a Vibrant, Sustainable, and Inclusive Fairfax County,” presentation to COA by Judith Cabelli, HCD, June 2021.

2. Sharron proposed a “State of the Union”-type panel presentation on the current status of the recommendations, initiatives, and goals laid out in those earlier reports, as well as what is new in the pipeline. Although the COA's official focus is on affordable housing for seniors, we need to be aware of, and interested in, what is coming for “workforce” housing—for teachers, firefighters, policemen, and their families, as well as the lower-income care providers residents may need as they age. It's all connected.

Topics to be covered could include what is in the County's pipeline of affordable housing; what magisterial district is it in; what is the target population (including income guidelines, age, household composition and disability); when is it expected to come on-line; and how will existing affordable units be preserved. This is where a Vulnerability Index could be helpful, showing where affordable housing is already adequate and where it is needed.

Possible presenters might include Judith Cabelli or Vin Rogers from HCD, as well as someone from the Department of Planning and Development who could address the same topics from the perspective of private development in the pipeline. Other housing topics not specifically related to affordability might include home repair and maintenance. Jacquie or other AAA staff may have additional recommendations.

Discussion:

- Carolyn suggested inviting Jerry Poje from the Human Services Council to be on the panel. A longtime proponent of affordable housing in the county, he will have his finger on the pulse of what's happening.
- Cathy M. supported including workforce housing in the panel, as well as the need for funding to help older adults and people with disabilities stay in their current homes.
- Diane asked who maintains affordable housing once built. Sharron said it's the developer.
- Mike asked about other ways to make housing affordable: rent controls, preservation of existing housing, raising wages. Sharron noted that preservation of existing housing is a major concern for HCD.
- Sharron also pointed out that other elements of the SHAPE plan—well-being, mental health, economic stability—are closely related to housing. Carolyn cited the 2018 housing strategic plan that ties housing to economic growth, equity, and sustainability.
- Joe suggested that Carolyn's report and Sharron's comments be reviewed to generate a set of questions for a panel to discuss.
- Cathy Cole asked commissioners to send her and Jacquie questions for invited panelists. Carolyn suggested that we continue to discuss questions for the panel on March 16.

3. State of Mental Health — Postponed until the March 16 meeting.

• **Commissioner Updates**

- LTCCC Tech Committee (Cathy C.): Speakers from OSHA and the Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing talked about the technology needed to conduct hybrid (in-person plus virtual) meetings in the future, especially in classrooms.
- Mt. Vernon District (Diane): A Town Hall meeting at Mt. Vernon High School featured vendors and representatives from county agencies. At a "Lorton Vision" public event, community surveys were discussed. Affordability and transportation were key concerns.
- Human Services Council (Carolyn)—To promote better connections between HSC members and the county boards, authorities, and commissions concerned with human services, chair Michelle Menapace asked each member to become a liaison to one of the BACs. The group learned that two churches, First Christian in Falls Church and a Baptist church in Lee District, will include affordable housing in redeveloping their properties.
- Film Club: Phyllis said the club is making a calendar of films for 2022. About 20 people discussed "Still Alice" at the February 16 event. Mike reported that March 9 will feature "The Intern," a lighter film on themes of agism and what different generations can teach each other. He asked commissioners to post a notice in their district newsletters.

NEW BUSINESS

● **Announcements:** Virtual Fairfax County Housing Symposium, organized by FCRHA and the George Mason School of Business, Thursday, March 17, 9 am to 3:30 pm. Register at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/housing/2022housingsymposium>.

● **Adjournment:** Carolyn motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Martha seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Carolyn Sutterfield, COA Secretary.

Approved: March 16, 2022

DocuSigned by:
Carolyn Sutterfield

Carolyn Sutterfield, COA Secretary

04/07/2022 | 9:44 PM EDT

Date

DocuSigned by:
Catherine Cole

Cathy Cole, COA Chair

04/28/2022 | 10:24 AM EDT

Date