

**FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)
FINAL MINUTES OF VIRTUAL – VIDEO/AUDIO MEETING**

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82820661655>

Password: COA-m1234!

Telephone: 888-270-9936 (US Toll Free) or 602-333-0032 Conference code: 231525

Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Cathy Cole (Chair/At Large), Cathy Muha (Vice Chair/Sully), Carolyn Sutterfield (Secretary/City of Fairfax), Tom Bash (Springfield), Joanne Collins (Hunter Mill), Martha Cooper (City of Falls Church), Sharron Dreyer (Lee), Joe Heastie (Providence), Kay Larmer (Dranesville)

Commissioners Absent: Kathy Hoyt (Mason), Mike Perel (Braddock), Diane Watson (Mount Vernon)

County Staff Present: Tara Turner, Jacquie Woodruff, Kristin Helfer Koester, Kathleen Thomas, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging

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 Cathy Cole called the roll and read the motions. Vice Chair Cathy Muha read the motions and Cathy C. conducted the votes.

- Cathy M. 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. Sharron seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Cathy M. 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. Kay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Cathy M. 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. Martha seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the minutes and agenda: Cathy C. motioned to approve the minutes from May 18, 2022; Tom seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Cathy C. motioned and Carolyn seconded that the agenda be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Introduction of Hunter Mill representative: Joanne Collins replaces former commissioner

Phyllis Palombi. Joanne moved to Virginia from New York in 2016. She joined Volunteer Solutions and served as co-coordinator for Meals on Wheels in the Reston area for five years.

Public Comment: none

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

- Welcome to commissioner Joanne Collins!
- The AAA will be working soon on development of the Area Plan for FY2023, pending receipt of funding allocation notices for next year.
- The AAA will support Supervisor Palchik's Older Adults Roundtable on Caregiving in the Providence District in late July. Details will appear in the July *Golden Gazette*.
- September 30 is the date for NVAN's 2022 legislative breakfast.
- The AAA is close to hiring the consultant who will coordinate the SHAPE strategic plan process and help to capture information from focus groups and other outside inputs.
- The AAA has received a preliminary report from Polco on the 2022 CASOA. It does not contain final data on the number of surveys distributed and percentage of responses.

OLD BUSINESS

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

- **Economic Stability and Planning Speaker:** Shane Rock, Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington (JCA)

Mr. Rock's topic was the free 50+ Employment Expos hosted by the JCA for job seekers in Maryland and Northern Virginia. During the COVID emergency, all have been held virtually. The most recent was June 14 in Montgomery County. The program is on break until the fall; Montgomery will hold an Expo in September, date TBD; no Virginia events are scheduled yet.

JCA hasn't compiled data from the 2022 50+ Employment Expos. (That will be sent to Jacquie later.) In FY 2021 there were eight Expos, five for Montgomery County (paid for by the county) and three for Northern Virginia (partly underwritten by a Cafritz Foundation grant). Each was at least 4 hours long. The format includes two morning skills workshops with professional trainers. (Topics are rotated through different Expos, so people attending more than one get exposed to different skills.) After a lunch break, employers have 10 minutes to describe their company and current openings and take questions. At the April 2021 Northern Virginia 50+ Employment Expo, potential employers included Temporary Solutions, George Mason University, Flights Professionals, Homewatch Caregivers of Fairfax, Lowe's, Wegman's, and more.

Following an Expo, employers and participants are invited to complete an online survey. One third of employers say they have hired someone at an Expo; 100% say they gained contacts and received applications. Newly employed participants may not answer a first survey. A second is sent after six months to check whether they found a job.

Q&A

- *Do you have trouble lining up employers?* No, the job market is hot right now; employers want to be at Expos. JCA doesn't track jobs offered; in general, options range from home care to private for-profit, private nonprofit, and public sector positions. The focus is on large corporations; they know the value of the older adult employee.
- *Who are the attendees? What are they seeking?* Most are looking for part-time jobs, sometimes with options for remote work. Age range is mostly 50-60. The number of people attending has increased recently from 250 or 300 to closer to 400.
- *What are the most popular workshops? Who are the trainers?* The LinkedIn training is a winner; it teaches participants how to use LinkedIn effectively for their job search. Other trainings have focused on how to network in the COVID era, how to market yourself successfully, mindful volunteering, the importance of company culture, and "You got the interview, now what?" Trainers are mostly consultants, many working pro bono.
- *Do Expos serve persons with disabilities?* Montgomery County does. (Kay suggested that young adults aging out of the disabilities support system could also use this kind of help.)

The JCA website is <https://accessjca.org>. The direct link to information on the 50+ Employment Expos is <https://accessjca.org/employment-expos/>.

● **COA Analysis Findings.** Discussion on what commissioners have learned so far in preparing for SHAPE. Cathy C. wants the information collected in a chart for the BOS. Carolyn suggested having commissioners work in pairs to summarize previous discussion on particular topics.

Personal well-being and nutrition

Cathy M. wants to see more proactive options. She mentioned intergenerational possibilities in highlighting nutrition and urban gardens with older adults and students.

Inflation

Kay is concerned about how inflation is affecting our constituency. Can we address the gasoline crisis by helping older adults get out to shop? Cathy M. asked how inflation is affecting housing and home maintenance. Cathy C. mentioned food pantries and prescription discount cards as responses to inflation. Carolyn noted that inflation is an immediate concern affecting all ages, not part of the 2023 SHAPE plan. Cathy C has planned for the COA to hear from Ann Thomas of ElderLink about challenges her money-management clients are facing.

Economic stability

Legal services/end of life planning are concerns. Sharron mentioned a volunteer group that does wills (Wills on Wheels). Carolyn added power of attorney, health care proxy, etc. People can help their loved ones by getting their affairs in order. Joe noticed an increase in fraud and abuse.

Older immigrants

Joe asked about legal implications of providing services for undocumented older adults. He believes in helping all residents of Northern Virginia who need services. Tara said most AAA services do not require citizenship, but for anything involving federal money people must have documentation. She added that Legal Services of Northern Virginia offers advance health care directives and power of attorney forms for low-income residents aged 60 and older.

Transportation

Carolyn queried the status of the swipe card. Cathy C. asked about ideas for addressing “the last mile,” from bus stop to front door. Cathy M. cited concerns for pedestrian safety—a need for bus shelters, better crosswalks. Martha asked about the impact of new types of transportation—scooters, bicycles. Can older people still move about safely? Jacquie says FC Planning & Development is looking at the impact of scooters; the COA could ask them to speak at a meeting.

- **Commissioner Updates:** none

NEW BUSINESS

- **COA Election Slate:** Officers proposed for the July election include Cathy Cole, Chair; Cathy Muha, Vice Chair; and Martha Cooper, Secretary. There were no additional nominees.

- **Remarks from Lee District Supervisor Rodney Lusk:** Supervisor Lusk shared with the COA a number of ways that the Board of Supervisors is addressing the needs of older residents:
 - Project for senior housing at VanDorn Street and Oakwood Road, in a former stormwater management facility transferred from VDOT to the county. Units for households at 30% AMI to 60% AMI will be managed by Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing.
 - Property tax relief program for seniors and people with disabilities, 25% up to 100% reduction based on income, to help counter escalation of home values.
 - Recent General Assembly legislation related to Supplemental Nutrition at Farmers Markets is up for final budget approval.

In response to a question on how housing is allocated between older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income residents, Lusk said the County addresses these areas separately with specific projects, sometimes combining options, such as housing for those with disabilities who are also aged. The biggest problem, he said, is availability of land, followed by increase in the value of housing in general. The county needs to repurpose public lands, reach out to nonprofit land owners. Lusk cited a Inova HealthPlex project bringing in 1,200 new workers at 30% to 50% of AMI, who will need affordable housing. The County has authorized \$50 million for affordable housing in the next 10 years, and the BOS has extended its goal to 10,000 units.

- **County Legislative Program for Virginia General Assembly.** Jacquie Woodruff provided an update on the Fairfax County Legislative Program for 2023, which will be presented to the General Assembly in January. Some requests are drawn from the Human Services Issues Paper that the COA sees each year. Continuing concerns include independence and self-sufficiency for older adults and people with disabilities, funding for programs that promote self-sufficiency, more money for home service staff and family caregivers, and improved accessibility in public places, housing, and transportation services. One pending accessibility item is approval for public groups to be able to meet remotely outside of the COVID emergency. Full remote access was not approved this year, but some changes will take effect in September. Jacquie will attend a training session this month and report back at the July COA meeting.

- **Announcements:** none

- **Adjournment:** Kay motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Sharron seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 pm.

Minutes prepared by Carolyn Sutterfield, COA Secretary.

Approved: July 20, 2022

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