

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)

Pennino Building – Room 200 & 206
12011 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA

FINAL MINUTES

Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Cathy Cole (Chair/At Large), Joanne Collins (Secretary/Hunter Mill), Carolyn Sutterfield (City of Fairfax), Sharron Dreyer (Franconia), Jim Kirkpatrick (Springfield), Diane Watson (Mount Vernon), Kay Larmer (Dranesville), Joe Heastie (Providence), Mike Perel (Braddock)

Commissioner Remote: Cathy Muha (Vice Chair/Sully)

Commissioners Absent: Irv Katz (Mason)

County Staff Present: Tara Turner, Beth Ann Margetta, Ana Valdivia, Linda Hernandez-Giblin, Katie Jantzi, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging

Call to Order: Chair Cathy Cole called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

In-person Commissioner quorum present. Diane motioned to approve Cathy Muha's remote participation. Cathy C. seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Review of the Agenda: Sharron motioned to approve the agenda. Diane seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the minutes: Mike motioned that the draft June 21, 2023, minutes be approved. Diane seconded. The draft minutes were approved.

Public Comment: No public comment. Members of the public identified themselves. Dana Jones, Director of Human Services, City of Falls Church attending. Chair Cathy Cole invited Dana Jones to join the Commissioner's table to represent City of Falls Church. Still awaiting the appointment of a new Commissioner to represent the City of Falls Church.

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

- On July 17, the Area Plan was submitted to DARS. Plan will be under review for questions and clarification until September. Plan will be finalized by Oct 1st.
- Fifteen Helping Hands volunteers assisted 9 adults with cleaning and yard work, logging 95.2 volunteer hours.
- Giuliana Valencia, the Supervisor of the Caregiver and Support Services Unit, is currently at the National US Aging Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah presenting on the Caregiver Alert Notification Program.

- SHAPE DFS Data Analytics Team (6 members) will be responsible for a well-rounded comprehensive strategy for SHAPE planning across committees. The data analytics committee of SHAPE still needs to be determined.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion: SHAPE the Future of Aging Initiative Development Committees – COA

- SHAPE Initiative Development Committee document details confirmed participants on each committee; COA Commissioners are the Chair of their respective committee assignment.
- First meeting of the SHAPE steering committees will be in-person with subsequent meetings being held virtually. It is not a public meeting.
- Can still recommend additional committee members.
- Chair Cathy Cole requested Commissioners to provide several dates for August availability and to look at partners' portal and the prior 50+ Committee Plan led by Carolyn. Guidance will be forthcoming about the first meeting.
- AAA will reach out to committee members to schedule the first meeting and to find meeting space.
- Per Tara Turner, it is a priority for the Commissioners and a majority of the members to participate in the first meeting. An AAA Equity team member will support the committees.
- Initial email will provide link to the SHAPE plan and set the stage for identifying short, medium, and long-term goals. Per Chair Cathy Cole, by Fall narrow down targets and by Oct/Nov determine action steps.

Commissioner Updates:

Carolyn Sutterfield / City of Fairfax

Human Services Council (HSC) May Meeting –

- Economic Mobility Pilot Project (EMPP) was launched with initial support from the HSC's Innovation Fund program. The EMPP aims to help families improve their financial stability through paying off debts, pursuing further education, improving access to technology, or other means of overcoming the inertia of limited resources. Fairfax County's program is open to working families with at least one adult and one child under the age of 16 whose current income falls between 160% and 250% of the current federal poverty guidelines. Guaranteed income may have long-term consequences for families struggling to ensure a more successful financial future by building wealth earlier and in turn could affect older adults in the long run.
- The remaining HHS Innovation Fund monies will be made available through a competitive RFP process to projects designed to impact economic and social wellbeing.

Cathy Muha / Sully

- Equity, Aging & Disabilities needs a new liaison to the committee.

Mike Perel / Braddock

NVAN –

- Platform items for 2024: Legislative - Expand public access to electronic meetings, eviction reduction, and expand access for Auxiliary Grant recipients to beds in newly constructed assisted living facilities; Budget – increase Auxiliary Grant rate, sick leave for direct care workers, and guardian training requirement.

Diane Watson / Mt. Vernon

- LTCCC (Long Term Care Coordinating Council) changing name to Coordinating Council on Aging.

Sharron Dryer / Franconia

- Senior housing on Van Dorn St is about to open.

Kay Larmer – Dranesville

- GrandInvolve’s new acting Director is Michelle Duell.

NEW BUSINESS

COA Officer Election –

- Gavel passed to Joe Heastie. In June, the slate nominated were Cathy Cole (Chair), Cathy Muha (Vice Chair) and Joanne Collins (Secretary). Joe called for motion to elect as a slate. Diane motioned to elect as a slate. Kay seconded and motioned passed unanimously. Joe called to elect the nominated officer slate of Cathy Cole (Chair), Cathy Muha (Vice Chair) and Joanne Collins (Secretary) for the next COA term. Sharron motioned to elect, Kay seconded, and motion passed unanimously. Gavel returned to Chair Cathy Cole.

COA Meeting Host District Schedule –

- Give advance notice to Supervisors. In September, the Mt. Vernon District will be the host for the COA meeting.

County Legislative Program for VA General Assembly, AAA – Beth Ann Margetta

- The County’s annual process for developing the draft County legislative program for the 2024 Virginia General Assembly (GA) is underway. County agencies and BACs can submit new legislative and budget initiatives and position statements for consideration.
- The process is a bit different this year as there is no Human Services Issues Paper. Last year, the legislative program and Human Services Issue Paper were streamlined, and the issue paper was incorporated into the legislative program.
- Adult & Aging (A&A) submitted position statements are consistent with those provided last year. These positions support funding for Adult Protective Services, Independence and Self Sufficiency for Older adults & people with disabilities, and Long-Term Care workforce needs:
 - A&A supports state funding for additional Adult Protective Services social workers. As the older adult population has increased in Virginia, so has the demand for APS services, but state funding has remained stagnant.

- A&A advocates to support funding for programs that promote the independence, self-sufficiency, and community engagement of older adults and people with disabilities. A&A also supports additional funding for home care workers and resources for family caregivers.
- A&A continues to support legislation to improve the quality of long-term care in Virginia's skilled nursing facilities, to ensure better health outcomes and quality of care for medically frail individuals, including older adults and individuals with disabilities. Also support legislation that helps nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities to recruit and retain highly qualified, well-trained staff (which is currently difficult due to low wages, limited benefits, and stressful working conditions).

Presentation: Equity Overview and DFS Equity Analysis Tool – Linda Hernandez Giblin, Volunteer Solutions, AAA

- DFS Equity Analysis Tool – internal document can be used for SHAPE committee work.
- Everyone plays a role in advancing equity and SHAPE provides us with a big opportunity to act differently.
- Equity Analysis Framework for Proposed DFS Policy and Business Process Changes – look to this document to determine what questions would work well in the SHAPE committees. A modified tool will be developed to support the Initiative Development Committee work.
- SHAPE steering committee recruitment
 - Consider: Is everyone at the table who needs to be there? Start as comprehensive as you can. (Tara Turner)
 - Were the people who participated in the town halls & focus groups able to stay involved? These groups were put together with diversity in mind. (Carolyn)
 - Narrow down as committee what are priorities & then determine if additional people need to be brought to the table. (Tara Turner)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sept 19 COA Meeting – Mt. Vernon is District host.

ADJOURNMENT

Cathy C. motioned to adjourn the meeting, Cathy M. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Joanne Collins, COA Secretary.

Approved: September 20, 2023

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Joanne Collins
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Joanne Collins, COA Secretary

Date

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Catherine Cole
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09/26/2023 | 09:26:55 EDT

Cathy Cole, COA Chair

Date