

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

**FINAL MINUTES OF VIRTUAL – VIDEO/AUDIO MEETING**

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81737616094>

Password: COA-m1234!

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

**Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Commissioners Present:** Cathy Cole (Chair/At Large), Cathy Muha (Vice Chair/Sully), Martha Cooper (Secretary/City of Falls Church), Jim Kirkpatrick (Springfield), Joanne Collins (Hunter Mill), Sharron Dreyer (Franconia), Irvin Katz (Mason), Mike Perel (Braddock), Diane Watson (Mount Vernon), Joe Heastie (Providence), Kay Larmer (Dranesville), Carolyn Sutterfield (City of Fairfax)

**Commissioners Absent: None**

**County Staff Present:** Tara Turner, Jacquie Woodruff, Ana Valdivia - Fairfax Area Agency on Aging; Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer and Robin Wilson, Policy Director of One Fairfax

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

**Roll Call and Motions to Proceed with Electronic Meeting:** Chair Cathy Cole called the roll. Cathy Cole read the motions and Cathy Muha conducted the votes.

- Cathy Muha 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. Diane seconded. Motion carried.
- Cathy Muha 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. Sharron seconded. Motion carried.
- Cathy Muha 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 carried.

**Agenda Approval:** Cathy Cole moved that the agenda be accepted. Cathy Muha seconded. The motion carried.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Cathy Cole moved that we accept the minutes of the January 18<sup>th</sup> COA meeting with the correction that Mike Perel made in advance. Mike seconded. The motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

### **Welcome from City of Fairfax – Councilmember Tom Ross**

The Mayor of the City of Fairfax asked Tom Ross, a City Council member, to represent the City at the Commission on Aging meeting. Ross also serves on the Advisory Board for Fairfax Village in the City. He spoke enthusiastically about the City's governance, and the changes it is undergoing from small town to small city. The CUE bus for residents is now free to all, and the City is lending support to two affordable housing projects: a 54-unit Permanent Supportive Housing building being developed at Fairfax Circle by the Lamb Center and Wesley Housing, and 10 townhomes on a property owned by the First Presbyterian Church.

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

- The Aging Well! Resource Guide is now available online through the Fairfax County website. (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/aging-well-resource-guide>)
- The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman maintains certification as a SAGECare Platinum credentialed organization. Ombudsman staff completed LGBT+ cultural competency training to receive credentialing through 2023.
- Tara thanked the COA for its feedback on the draft SHAPE the Future of Aging report. She noted that all feedback was carefully reviewed. Certain suggestions may not be found in the revised report, based on careful consideration by staff and Supervisors.
- When DFS revisions are finalized, the report will go to Supervisors Pat Herrity and James Walkinshaw.
- A COVID emergency transportation and medication delivery program will end. Other systems are in place to meet those needs.
- The upcoming SNAP reduction will affect every recipient. The reporting requirements for the Senior Nutrition Farmers' Market vouchers have not been established. This will determine how AAA will respond and whether it can be accomplished by volunteers.

### **Presentation: One Fairfax and the SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan – Karla Bruce and Robin Wilson, One Fairfax Staff**

When you look at Fairfax County spatially, there are pockets of disadvantage. Not all residents experience the same benefits, access, health, depending on where they live. A map prepared by the Northern Virginia Health Foundation called the "Getting Ahead Report" demonstrates some of these inequities. It reveals the impact of our systems, how they promote or constrain opportunity. An examination of history and the commitment to equity guides decision-making for all county programs. Equity looks at the existing structures and systems and aims to make the opportunities equal.

Equity is fairness, not sameness. The example given was seeing a soccer game where everyone has the same size stool (equal) but the ground underneath slopes downward making it impossible for those downhill to see the game. We shouldn't be able to predict outcomes based on group identity, to determine advantage or disadvantage based on social characteristics. Who is

vulnerable? Where are they? What opportunity is missing? How can we build opportunity? The aim is to ensure people can participate in the county and be economically stable.

Commissioners expressed interest in how the county reaches people who speak different languages and people with a range of physical and other disabilities. One Fairfax does include people with mental health challenges. A website lists the populations that One Fairfax addresses. This is accomplished through training for all employees on how to incorporate race and other measures in their work. One Fairfax staff offered to provide FACOA and other BACs with this training.

The Vulnerability Index was developed based on data from CDC.  
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/one-fairfax> - see 'Data and GIS.'

Community involvement and advocacy are essential for the allocation of funds and implementation of plans. Funding gets allocated when new voices are heard.

### Commissioner Updates – COA

- Carolyn reported on the **Human Services Council (HSC) meeting**. The HSC discussed the changes in Medicaid and SNAP and the impact on recipients. The County can provide some assistance, but cannot make up the difference between COVID supplements and their regular support.
- Cathy Muha reported that the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council's **Equity and Aging and Disabilities Committee** continues to work through the second part of the detailed survey on health care literacy.
- Joanne reported that the last **Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Council (CCFAC)** met on January 10<sup>th</sup>. CCCFAC worked on funding categories for the Coordinating Council Funding Pool. The committee is currently receiving public comment on the allocation of \$7.8 million from HUD for housing. The next public meeting will be April 13th.
- Mike noted **NV Rides** offered 13,000 rides in 2022 driven by 516 active drivers. They could use more drivers. They are searching for a service coordinator.
- Mike reported that **NVAN** and the **Transportation Advisory Council** did not meet.
- Diane stated the **50+ Community Ambassadors** need more ambassadors. **Dementia Friendly** Fairfax is modifying its tool kit. They hosted 59 participants for the dementia informational session. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) **Behavioral Health Committee** is focusing on mental health first aid for older adults. They are presenting this topic to various groups. The **LTCCC's** behavioral health care mobile has been noticed and appreciated.
- Joe had no new developments to report regarding guardianship. He noted the guardianship process takes a long time.
- Sharron noted the people enter housing independently through the **Fairfax Regional Housing Authority** eventually need additional support. Services such as door-knocking (welfare check) might help.

- Kay will serve as liaison for the **Health Care Advisory Board (HCAB)**. Kay announced the retirement of Dorothy Keenan, the founder and director of **Grand Involve**. Grand Involve was an initiative of the 50+ Community Action Plan. The COA discussed honoring Dorothy at a future meeting.

**Announcements**

- To receive alerts regarding Dementia Friendly events, anyone can subscribe to Fairfax Alerts.
- Carolyn noted that the City of Fairfax is hosting the **Home for Life - 2023 Expo** at Stacy Sherwood Community Center on 3/31/23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Diane Watson motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Kay seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  
*Martha Cooper*  
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*MC* 03/16/2023 | 14:20:56 EDT

Martha Cooper, COA Secretary

Date

DocuSigned by:  
*Catherine Cole*  
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03/17/2023 | 10:34:01 EDT

Cathy Cole, COA Chair

Date