

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)

FINAL MINUTES OF VIRTUAL – VIDEO/AUDIO MEETING

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81007441572>

Password: COA-m1234!

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

Wednesday, January 18, 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), Kay Larmer (Dranesville) Carolyn Sutterfield (City of Fairfax)

Commissioners Absent: Joe Heastie (Providence District) (excused)

County Staff Present: Tara Turner, Jacquie Woodruff, Ana Valdivia - Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, Michael Becketts – Director, Department of Family Services (DFS)

Call to Order: Chair Cathy Cole called the meeting to order at 1:01 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. Kay 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 requested the agenda be accepted, with the addition of a report from Michael Becketts regarding changes in SNAP and Medicaid. Cathy Muha seconded. Motion carried.

Presentation: Michael Becketts, Director, Department of Family Services re: imminent SNAP and Medicaid changes

Department of Family Services Director Michael Becketts reported that pandemic-era Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Emergency Allotments will end in February. These have been in place since 2020 due to the Public Health Emergency (PHE). Beginning in March, SNAP allotments will return to the normal amount, without the added supplement. Currently 180,000 residents receive Medicaid. During the PHE, the federal government established a Continuous Coverage requirement for Medicaid, which prohibited case closures (with few exceptions). Beginning April 1, the Continuous Coverage requirement is ending, and states are expected to resume processing of Medicaid redeterminations with a required completion of June 2024. It is estimated that approximately 17% of Medicaid enrollees, or 31,000 residents, may lose their Medicaid coverage between April 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Director Becketts asked for new ideas and venues for communicating the decrease in SNAP allotments. The decrease in SNAP funds and potential loss of eligibility for other services is concerning. Neighborhood and Community Services is ready to support residents who reach out to them. Tool kits with this info for Boards, Authorities, and Commissions is almost ready for distribution.

Commissioners commented that a wide range of avenues should be used to inform recipients. Director Becketts' goal was for each recipient to hear about the changes from at least three different sources including stores, parks, recreation sites, and possibly schools.

Approval of Minutes:

Cathy Cole moved that the draft minutes from the December 21, 2022 meeting be approved. Diane offered one correction. The Dementia Friendly Task Force meets every other month in addition to the Dementia Friendly informational sessions that are offered in alternate months. Mike motioned that the amended minutes be approved. Irv seconded. Carolyn abstained from the vote due to her absence from the December meeting. Amended minutes were approved.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Welcome from Braddock District: Irma Mejia-Lewis, Staff Aide for Supervisor James Walkinshaw

Supervisor Walkinshaw was unable to welcome the COA due to a conflict. Irma Mejia-Lewis, Supervisor Walkinshaw's aide, welcomed the COA and thanked commissioners for their service. Braddock District now has a wellness center for older adults that opened last year. A small Community Center near Annandale High School will open in March. The Braddock District is the location of the first county stand alone pickleball courts not shared with tennis courts.

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

Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults (CASOA) race and ethnicity data tables are being formatted and will soon be available.

The Agency is mandated by Richmond to use the PeerPlace database. The change is being handled in increments. Caregiver and Support Services programming have now been transitioned to the new system.

Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance (VICAP) Coordinator Mari De Leon has been appointed to serve on an Administration for Community Living workgroup. She is one of nine and the only representative from Virginia. The workgroup will address the needs of older adults living in the community who need help with Medicare options and other issues.

Presentation: Countywide Strategic Plan and the SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan - Lori Epp, Countywide Strategic Plan Staff

Lori Epp reviewed the goals, drivers, and background of the Countywide Strategic Plan. Strategic Plan goals include vision, integration, focus, and progress. Strategic Plan key drivers include equity, community outcomes, data integration, and inclusive engagement. The vision establishes long-term goals, looking ahead 10 to 20 years. The nearer term focus is 3 to 5 years with measurable goals in ten distinct areas. Those areas do correspond to the SHAPE the Future of Aging areas. Lori discussed SHAPE the Future of Aging and Strategic Plan alignment.

Lori thanked the COA for their work on the SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan.

Presentation: Older Americans Act and the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging - Tara Turner

Tara reviewed the Older Americans Act that authorizes Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) around the country and also provided an organizational chart for the Adult and Aging Division and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

Area Agencies on Aging were established under the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1973 to respond to the needs of Americans 60 and over in every local community. By providing a range of options that allow older adults to choose the home and community-based services and living arrangements that suit them best, AAAs make it possible for older adults to “age in place” in their homes and communities.

Not all AAAs provide the same services. Core services include protection of elder rights, (including abuse prevention and long-term care ombudsman programs), caregiver services, nutrition, health and wellness, and support services. All these are tailored to meet local needs. The average AAA offers more than a dozen additional services. The most common offered are insurance counseling, case management, and Senior Medicare Patrol. The Fairfax AAA is required to submit an annual Area Plan to the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). Each AAA must have a community advisory committee. The Fairfax Area Commission on Aging is that advisory committee for the Fairfax AAA.

Old Business

- Diane Watson reported that Irv Katz gave a presentation to the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) on Generations United, encouraging meaningful cross-generational contact. GrandInvolve and the Friend Mobile updates were also discussed. Of particular concern is the decline in Villages from a high of 12 to seven currently active ones.

Initially, The Dementia Friendly Fairfax (DFF) Initiative was put forth by Insight Memory and Goodwin House (now called Goodwin Living) in 2019. Insight Memory continues to publicize Dementia Friendly Information Sessions and other programs for those with diagnosis of mild cognitive decline or dementia, as well as for their families and caregivers. Goodwin Living has been proud to say that their caregivers have all attended the DFF Informational Sessions to help them care for those in that community living with Dementia.

Goodwin Living, in conjunction with a George Mason University research team, is now implementing a program called Stronger Memory. Research on Stronger Memory has shown positive benefits, especially for those participants with a cognitive decline or dementia. The Research Team interviewed 100 participants before and at completion of the 12-week project period. There are some counties in Maryland using this program in their senior centers.

- Joanne Collins thanked those who responded to the recent survey requested by the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC). The next step is to confirm that respondents do live at the stated location and to corroborate the socio-demographic data already collected.
- Mike Perel attended the Transportation Advisory Commission meeting. The committee is now considering alternate means of effective transportation beyond the use of vehicles. The importance of addressing transportation for people with disabilities was underscored.
- Cathy Cole reported that discussion regarding liaison assignments with other Boards, Authorities, and Commissions (BACs) will continue.

New Business

Health Management Associates (HMA) is currently developing the first draft of the SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan. The COA will review an initial draft in February.

Announcements

- Subscription sign-on is available to receive alerts regarding Dementia Friendly events.
- The Caregivers Consortium Planning Committee is searching for a venue for the November program. The event will host about 300 attendees on Veterans Day.

Adjournment

Jim motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Diane seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 pm.

DocuSigned by:
Martha Cooper
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MO 02/16/2023 | 10:40:31 EST

Martha Cooper, COA Secretary

Date

DocuSigned by:
Catherine Cole
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02/16/2023 | 15:14:14 EST

Cathy Cole, COA Chair

Date