

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

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

### **FINAL MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Commissioners Present:** Cathy Cole (Chair/At Large), Joanne Collins (Secretary/Hunter Mill), Jim Kirkpatrick (Springfield), Mike Perel (Braddock), Sharron Dreyer (Franconia), Diane Watson (Mount Vernon), Joe Heastie (Providence), Irv Katz (Mason)

**Commissioners Remote:** Kay Larmer (Dranesville)

**Commissioners Absent:** Cathy Muha (Vice Chair/Sully)

**County Staff Present:** Linda Hernandez-Giblin, Beth Ann Margetta, Ana Valdivia, Katie Jantzi, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging; John Ruthinoski, DFS: Data Analytics Unit

**County Staff Remote:** Trina Mayhan-Webb, DFS: Adult & Aging; Kelsey Brewster, DFS: Data Analytics Unit

**Call to Order:** Chair Cathy Cole called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. In-person Commissioner quorum present. Cathy Cole determined remote participation with Commissioners ability to hear and speak; introduction of Commissioners. Sharron motioned to approve proceeding with the meeting and Jim seconded. The COA voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**Review of the Agenda:** A motion was made to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted without objection.

**Approval of the minutes:** Review of the March 20, 2024 minutes. Sharron motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Irv seconded; the draft minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:** No public comment. Leslyn Barrow, Human Services Specialist representing the City of Falls Church today at the COA meeting. Still awaiting the appointment of a new Commissioner to represent the City of Falls Church.

**District Host: Dranesville, Supervisor Jimmy Bierman – in-person**

- Supervisor Bierman thanked the COA for the invitation to speak. A lifelong resident of Dranesville, he was elected to the BOS this past November.
- Older adults want to age in place because Fairfax County is a great place to live. Downsizing can be a challenge. Supervisor Bierman prioritizes senior housing in the county. Discussion of expanding and maintaining affordable housing in the county.

- Discussed various topics with COA commissioners – home sharing, senior tax relief, ZMOD, ADU’s, walkability, transit corridors, meals tax, and office building conversion to affordable housing.

**AAA Director’s Report: Beth Ann Margetta, Program Manager, for Tara Turner, Director, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging**

- National Volunteer Week, is April 21-27, we are grateful for the meaningful contributions (including your own!) to our community.
- Our registered dietician will be hosting 3 registered dietician interns in 2-week community rotations in May, June, July. We hope to help build capacity and learning for those interested in nutrition for older adults!
- A proclamation honoring May as Older American’s Month and Adult Abuse Prevention month will take place in May. Linda and Beth Ann will share details on date and time once solidified.
- The Market research project is still actively underway. A check-in meeting will take place with the vendor this Friday to be briefed on data, focus group, and survey efforts thus far. Cathy Cole and Joanne Collins will remain part of this process.

**Presentation – SHAPE “E” Initiative, Financial Planning Seminars – Maria Jose Cantoni, Financial Empowerment Center Director, Britepaths**

- Financial workshop - Budgeting on a Fixed Income to be introduced initially into three senior centers as a pilot program. Multi-lingual volunteers are trained by Britepaths. Measure success with the pilot programs.
- The slide deck presentation was developed collaboratively at the IDC committee level.
- Kay thanked Maria Jose Cantoni and AAA staff for approving the pilot seminars. Workshops may be recorded by OLLI.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Data Analytics Mapping Update: John Ruthinoski**

- GIS Map Requests for SHAPE Initiatives Form – IDC committees can request a map to inform the implementation of a SHAPE initiative.
- What to expect from the form – Who is the audience for the map? Do you need an overlay? Do you know other places for data? Census categories are available.
- Data Analytics Unit will determine the best way to produce a map.

**SHAPE the Future of Aging Initiative Development Committees – COA Commissioner Updates**

**“E” IDC - Kay Larmer**

- Silver Shield Initiative – BOS to approve flyer for Department of Tax Administration Mailing pending mid-May meeting.
- End of life planning – Martha Cooper to Chair the subcommittee.

**“P” IDC - Cathy Muha and Diane Watson**

- Isabella Solano (Herralink) – Anti-aging program to connect older & young adults using art workshops.
- Maria Loh (DFS) – develop food insecurity resource manual for food pantries.

**“A” IDC - Mike Perel and Jim Kirkpatrick**

- Waiting on NVRides volunteer driver incentive survey.
- Increase walkability – equity analysis of increasing stop light timings in the county.

**“H” IDC – Sharron Dreyer and Irv Katz**

- Home modification and accessibility resource guide.
- Sharron – increasing number of seniors becoming homeless. Why does this happen? What is the reason for becoming homeless and how do we prevent?
- Need cross fertilization amongst the BAC’s – need COA representative on affordable housing commission.

**“S” IDC – Cathy Cole and Joanne Collins**

- Market Research equity analysis review and update. (Kathleen Thomas)
- Status of initiatives – Disability needs assessment, DSB forums and Mobile fleet (CARE Mobile)
- Embodied Labs initiative overview. ElderLink is champion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Chair Cathy Cole Update:**

Vision setting for year 2 of SHAPE.

CC to present COA statement on the budget to the BOS.

**Announcements:**

**May 14, 2024, 1:30pm BOS Older Adults Meeting at FCGC**

**June 12, 2024, 12noon COA Meeting (virtual) – Hunter Mill is host.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Sharron motioned to adjourn meeting. Mike seconded and motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.

Minutes prepared by Joanne Collins, COA Secretary.

Approved: May 15, 2024

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Joanne Collins, COA Secretary

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Date

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Cathy Cole, COA Chair

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Date