

Attachment C Notice of June 2025 COA Meeting

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)

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

FINAL MINUTES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Cathy Cole (Chair/At Large), Cathy Muha (Vice-Chair/Sully), Sharron Dreyer (Franconia), Joe Heastie (Providence), Irv Katz (Mason), Kay Larner (Dranesville), Manisha Maskay (City of Fairfax), Mike Perel (Braddock) and Diane Watson (Mt. Vernon)

Commissioners Virtual: Jim Kirkpatrick (Secretary/Springfield)

Commissioners Absent: Brenda Irons-LeCesne (Hunter Mill)

Commissioner Vacancies: City of Falls Church

County Staff Present: Beth Ann Margetta, Linda Hernandez-Giblin, Katie Jantzi Allegra Joffe, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging; Teebe Negasi and Jazmin Herring, Adult and Aging Services; John Ruthinoski, Data Analytics Unit, Department of Family Services; Leslyn Barrow, Housing and Human Services, City of Falls Church

Guests: Carolyn Sutterfield, Marie Norman, Jenny Phipps and Jane Edmondson

Call to Order and Roll Call: Cathy called the meeting to order at 1:02pm followed by introductions of attendees, including commission members, staff and guests.

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes from previous meeting: Members voted unanimously to approve today's meeting agenda (with one addition) and Minutes (with minor corrections) of the April 16 meeting. Members also approved the virtual attendance of Jim.

Public Comment: Jane Edmondson (Liaison from the Human Services Council) reported that the Board of Supervisors was able to restore 50% of proposed cuts to senior centers (\$300,000), along with keeping after-school programs at middle schools. She thanked Supervisor Lusk for the Board's efforts in balancing the budget, including a quarter-penny tax rate cut and implementing the meals tax.

District Host: Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Franconia District

- Acknowledged the passing of Congressman Connolly. He reflected on Connolly's significant contributions in areas like adult services and gave personal anecdotes from his

time working with Congressman Connolly.

- Discussed the development and impact of technology in caregiving, including sensors and AI applications.
- Emphasized protecting seniors from scams and the importance of community education and outreach.
- Discussed challenges in balancing the County budget, particularly with school funding and how the introduction of a meals tax will help.

Director's Report

- Beth Ann gave the report in Tara's absence. Beth Ann shared that staff attended the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging. The Caregiving Unit presented on Dementia Friends and the SHAPE work.
- In June, AAA staff will provide the annual review of the Area Plan to the COA.

Presentation – Donya Currie, National Council on Aging

- Focused on reframing aging from an institutional perspective and combating ageism through social marketing and community engagement.
- She discussed the importance of “flipping the script on aging” and moving beyond superficial language changes to enact real behavioral and policy shifts. She emphasized using framing that resonates with shared values like justice.
- Suggested that the SHAPE initiative's background statement could be strengthened by focusing on “we are all aging” and the fact that positive views on aging can extend lifespan by nearly eight years.
- Discussion followed on combating ageism through policy and behavioral changes. Kay suggested using social marketing campaigns similar to those for seatbelts and anti-smoking.
- Diane offered to help the commission wordsmith documents to incorporate stronger reframing language.

Old Business

- Motion was made by Sharron and seconded by Jim to approve the previously discussed revisions to the Bylaws. Passed unanimously. Cathy C noted that she has future changes in mind for the Bylaws regarding committees.

New Business:

- Cathy C noted we are moving into the third year of the SHAPE plan and we need to take a fresh look at all of our lists of initiatives at the June meeting. Are they still relevant? Are they tied to the correct subcommittee? What changes should be made?
- Following a short discussion, Cathy made a motion to establish a Legislative Committee (co-chaired by Mike and Irv) to track legislative developments and update the COA on relevant topics. Cathy M seconded and it passed unanimously. Mike said the committee would explore the Virginia mandate that makes financial professionals mandatory reporters of suspected elder abuse/financial exploitation. He noted this is already law in many states.

- Beth Ann explained the process for the BACs and the commission to submit legislative position statements to the Board of Supervisors for their legislative program.
- Cathy C noted that officer elections are coming up and that a slate for Chair and Vice Chair will be proposed next month (Jim has agreed to run for Secretary) with elections at the July meeting. She encouraged all members to consider running for Chair or Vice-Chair.

SHAPE Subcommittee Reports and Discussion:

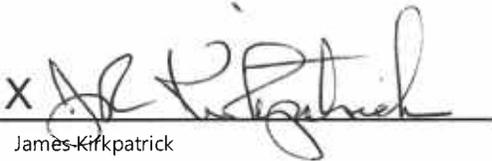
- **S – Services (Manisha):**
 - Hosted an NCS presentation on the Technology Lending Library. The lending library is available at all senior centers but underutilized. Staff training time is a barrier. Suggestions included using VR, intergenerational programs and volunteers.
 - The County is actively bringing information to farmers markets and libraries via mobile vans.
 - Ongoing work to incorporate reframing aging into the equity analysis tool.
- **H – Housing (Irv):**
 - List of initiatives has been narrowed.
 - A flyer to promote the existing resource, “A Consumer’s Guide to Homesharing” was created through an initiative.
- **A – Access to Mobility (Jim):**
 - Aiming to conduct a Walkability Pilot before the end of the school year in central Springfield. Cathy C advised coordinating with existing county sidewalk plans.
 - Mike exploring an AI tool for the proposed web-based Transportation Decision Tree to help older adults more easily find suitable transportation.
- **P – Personal Well-being (Cathy and Diane):**
 - Efforts continue to find a physician partner for a Food Pharmacy. Exploring restaurant pilot sites for alternative community gathering spaces.
 - The Stronger Memory Program is expanding to more senior centers. The manual has been translated by the county into four languages, including Korean and Farsi.
 - Culture of Connection Pilot: Quarterly meeting held; feedback being tabulated.
- **E – Economic Stability (Kay):**
 - The Advance Care Planning initiative completed a successful second session; third planned for Sully on June 2. The group is exploring presenting to caregivers. The Resource List will be added to the SHAPE website. Name changed from “End of Life Planning” to “Advance Care Planning” to be more inclusive of related topics.
 - Silver Shield Scam Jam was highly successful with 350 attendees. Will be an annual event. Mike emphasized the need to intercept scam money, not just educate.
 - Bright Paths continues to offer financial planning seminars.
 - Still seeking a champion for a Time-Based Discount Pilot at restaurants. Kay is working to establish a pilot in Fairfax City and will remain on the E-Committee to launch initiatives.

Tribute to Kay Larmer:

- The meeting concluded with a warm farewell and recognition of Kay Larmer for her dedicated service to the commission as she moves to Florida.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 3:02 was unanimously approved. Next meeting will be June 18, 2025.

Minutes approved on June 18, 2025

X 

James Kirkpatrick
COA Secretary

X 

Catherine Cole
COA Chair