

Attachment C Notice of July 2025 COA Meeting

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)

Pennino Building – Room 505
12011 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA

FINAL MINUTES

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00pm

Commissioners Present: Cathy Cole (Chair/At Large), Cathy Muha (Vice-Chair/Sully), Sharron Dreyer (Franconia), Joe Heastie (Providence), Irv Katz (City of Falls Church), Kay Larmer (Dranesville), Manisha Maskay (City of Fairfax), Mike Perel (Braddock) and Diane Watson (Mt. Vernon), Juan Tuason (Dranesville District), Brenda Irons-LeCesne (Hunter Mill District)

Commissioners Absent: Jim Kirkpatrick (Secretary/Springfield)

Commissioner Vacancies: Mason District

County Staff Present:

- DFS – Adult and Aging: Trina Mayhan-Webb, Teebe Negasi
- DFS – Fairfax Area Agency on Aging: Beth Ann Margetta, Linda Hernandez-Giblin, Jazmin Herring,
- DFS – Data Analytics Unit: John Ruthinoski

Guests: Supervisor Walter Alcorn, Jenine Christian Insight Memory Care Center; Elena Alergant, NVRides; Alejandra Caballero, Supervisor Walkinshaw's office; Gwen Minton, Supervisor Alcorn's office.

Call to Order and Roll Call: Cathy called the meeting to order at 1:05pm 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 and minutes of the May 21 meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Director's Report

- Beth Ann provided the report on behalf of Tara Turner. Beth Ann thanked the COA for attending and supporting at the BOS Older Adults Committee (OAC) meeting on June 3rd.

- Silver Shield will be housed within the AAA as of 10/1/25. The AAA is currently working on translation of select materials and will follow up on the potential of regional messaging around scam awareness/protection.
- DFS continues to monitor Federal changes related to older adult services. Specific to the AAA, it had excellent news when the President's proposal to zero out Long-Term Care Ombudsman funding and SHIP funding was removed from the proposal and supported continued Federal funding in those spaces. The proposal to split Older Americans Act programming between CMS and ACL was also removed from the proposal which was a large victory to keep all Older Americans Act programming together.
- In response to the Board of Supervisors' Older Adult Committee meeting, Mike asked if the Silver Shield and scam information could be advertised through Fairfax County alerts. Beth Ann acknowledged that this is being explored internally.

Presentation – Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Area Plan Overview – Nesanet Berhane, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging

- Nesanet provided an overview and update of the Area Plan.
- There is an annual requirement for public input on the plan. In the coming weeks, the AAA will post the Area Plan on the County's website for the public to provide input.
- Brenda asked about the type of outreach done to get inclusive input from diverse communities. Nesanet shared that there was an announcement in the Golden Gazette about the opportunity for public comment. Manisha recommended other networks, such as promotion through the libraries.
- Commissioners asked about which demographics are tracked, disaggregate data among the regions, additional information about the increase in numbers and trends.
- Nesanet advised COA to visit the DARS website for information about program eligibility and criteria. Nesanet will provide follow-up information requested.
- Information on transportation was discussed: some of the funding goes to FastTran to support transportation to Congregate Meals sites. Although not part of the Area Plan, the group mentioned the NCS Taxi Pilot program that runs through summer 2025.
- Discussion of restrictions on program eligibility conflicts between receiving Meals on Wheels and attending senior centers for socialization.

District Host: Supervisor Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District

- Supervisor Alcorn shared highlights from the Hunter Mill District. He highlighted county and non-profit work with older adults. While there is no senior center, the Reston Community Center and Vienna Community Center provide programming for older adults. Reston for a Lifetime and the Shepherd's/Lamb Center, Reston Association play important supportive roles in the community.
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- Population, Transit and Housing developments are growing. The Supervisor shared updates on developments. Has asked county staff to provide a report on senior housing to his office in July.
- Food Access: Cornerstone in Sterling is helping support pantries. The Capital Area Foodbank is also highly involved. Committee for Helping Others (CHO) in Vienna is an all-volunteer organization.

- Coming off the Board of Supervisors' Older Adult Committee, Supervisor Alcorn looks forward to how the county can address the rise of scams. Bitcoin scams were discussed and how some countries, like the UK, have been able to address this type of scam.

Old Business

- Each SHAPE IDC will work to define their mission, evaluate brainstormed initiatives, and prioritize initiatives for the third year of the SHAPE Plan.
 - SHAPE H Mission discussion:
 - Irv shared the mission statement developed during the last SHAPE H IDC meeting: "To champion a future where equity in housing transcends generations, focusing on affordable, accessible and integrated living solutions for older adults, adults with disabilities and caregivers." Nuance is that housing is about creating communities that are inclusive, not older adults isolated from others.
 - Priority 1: Advocate for Affordable Housing Strategies for Older Adults, Caregivers, and adults with disabilities.
 - Priority 2: Explore and promote housing approaches which enable older adults to age in place.
 - Supervisor Alcorn mentioned that in various county policy plans, there are elements that consider older adults such as highlighting universal design. He is also looking at countywide plans and how they consider equity – in this space older adults do come up.

New Business:

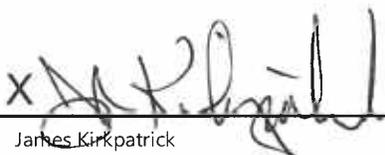
- COA Officer Election Slate:
 - Irv has offered to serve as Chair. Cathy Cole has offered to serve as Vice Chair. Jim has offered to return as Secretary. No other interest voiced by other commissioners in running for leadership positions.
 - Commissioners were encouraged to contact Cathy if they are interested in open roles/positions.

Tribute to Joe:

- The meeting concluded with a warm recognition and farewell to Providence District appointee, Joe Heastie for his dedicated service to the commission.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 3:08 was unanimously approved. Next meeting will be July 16, 2025.

Minutes approved on July 16, 2025



James Kirkpatrick
COA Secretary



Catherine Cole
COA Chair