

Attachment C Notice of January 2024 COA Meeting

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)

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

DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

Commissioner Absent: Joanne Collins (Hunter Mill)

County Staff Present: Dr. Michael Becketts, Marie Gibbon, Department of Family Services (DFS); Tara Turner, Beth Ann Margetta, Linda Hernandez-Giblin, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging; Becky Mitchel, Adult and Aging; John Ruthinoski, Kelsey Brewster, Data Analytics Unit, DFS.

County Staff Remote: Trina Mayhan-Webb, Teebe Negasi,, Adult and Aging; Katie Jantzi, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging; John Ruthinowski, Kelsey Brewster, Data Analytics Unit, DFS.

Guests: Supervisor Smith, Kodili Agwa, Jane Edmonson, Marie Norman, Allegra Joffee, Kodili Agwu, Kim Ward; and Elena Alergant, NV Rides.

Call to Order: Chair, Cathy Cole called meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Commissioner Roll Call:

Chair Cathy Cole called the roll, and commissioners participating in-person stated their name and district representation.

Review of the Agenda: Sharron made a motion to adopt the agenda. Manisha seconded the motion and the Agenda was adopted without objection.

Approval of the minutes: Review of the November, 20, 2024, minutes. Irv made a motion to approve the minutes. Sharron seconded the motion. Members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Public Comment: No public comment. Members of the public identified themselves.

District Host: Springfield, Supervisor Smith

- Supervisor Smith thanked Commission members for their work on SHAPE.
- She created a task force to update Centreville's comprehensive plan to include better walkability and identifying a public place where people can gather.
- The Supervisor shared a few other updates including: a highlight of the Western Fairfax Christian Ministry creating a choice pantry, using volunteers to help organizations donate food items. The Health Department has a new Respiratory Illness Dashboard: [Respiratory Illness Dashboard | Health](#). The Supervisor also noted changes to her staff.

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

- VICAP has promoted Edma Khishigdelger to Local VICAP Coordinator.
- Caregiving Unit will present at USAging conference on the caregiver alert program.
- The AAA turns 50 in 2026. Tara asked the COA for ideas on how best to celebrate this anniversary.

SHAPE Planning

- **H - Housing:**
 - Discussion focused on affordable housing for older adults and their caregivers, integration of universal design in new projects and advocacy for accessible housing policies. Collaboration with commissions like the Housing Commission was emphasized.
 - Not every vacant office building can be converted into housing units. Other facilities, such as hotels, motels and schools are easier to convert.
 - Questions: How many seniors in Fairfax County are in homeless shelters and are all affordable housing units also accessible for those with disabilities?
 - Irv reviewed his four criteria for prioritizing all initiatives: Is it feasible? Is it better than the status quo? Is it a priority for the community? Are resources available for implementation?
- **S – Services:**
 - Five of the 12 initiatives are in progress and they are looking at common themes among all the SHAPE initiatives, pointing out that advocacy and education are critical for all.
 - Cathy C. reviewed the remaining 7 initiatives, noting that the county's Silver's Shield anti-scam program will now be run by the AAA.
 - Efforts are underway to improve staff understanding of resources and services to ensure better public-facing support.
- **E – Economic Stability and Planning**
 - Fairfax City has offered to partner with "Wise Cities" to work with restaurants to have special times for seniors to be there, perhaps during their down times.

- The committee recognized the need for integrating dementia awareness across all initiatives, with a suggestion to consolidate efforts under a broader commission-wide strategy.
- Develop and present individual committee initiatives involving dementia-friendly elements.
- Collaborate on cross-agency training and outreach strategies.
- Explore partnerships with community organizations for broader impact.

NEW BUSINESS

- The commission discussed signing onto a connectivity pilot led by the CCAAD to mitigate social isolation among older adults. Commissioners agreed to proceed.
- Dr. Becketts announced that the new 311 service in Fairfax County will provide access to information on all county services. More details to come.
- The COA was asked to provide feedback on the older adults' website.
- **Announcements:** Kay is stepping down as Dranesville Commissioner due to her relocation to Florida. Her last meeting will be in April.

OLD BUSINESS

- Next month: feedback on all the liaison roles for each Commissioner.

Announcements:

1/15/25, COA Meeting (in person) – Braddock is host.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:02pm.

Minutes prepared by Jim Kirkpatrick, COA Secretary.