

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)

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

FINAL MINUTES

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Cathy Cole (Chair/At Large), Jim Kirkpatrick (Secretary/Springfield), Joe Heastie (Providence), Irv Katz (Mason), Manisha Maskay (City of Fairfax), Mike Perel (Braddock) and Diane Watson (Mt. Vernon).

Commissioners Virtual: Cathy Muha (Vice Chair/Sully) and Kay Larmer (Dranesville).

Commissioner Vacancies: City of Falls Church and Hunter Mill.

County Staff Present: Tara Turner, Beth Ann Margetta, Katie Jantzi, Linda Hernandez-Giblin, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging; Rebecca Mitchell, Ryan Lohr, Adult and Aging; John Ruthinoski, Kelsey Brewster, Data Analytics Unit, Department of Family Services; Susan Sigler, Neighborhood Community Services.

Guests: Elena Alergant, NV Rides and Jim Abramson, citizen.

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 and the corrected Minutes from the December 18, 2024 meeting. Members also approved unanimously the virtual attendance of Cathy M and Kay.

Public Comment: None

District Host: Braddock, Supervisor Walkinshaw (video)

- Noted that 20% of Fairfax County community members will be 65 or older in 2030 and wants to ensure that the county is the best place to age in place.
- Recently sent out a flyer to his district with information for older adults.

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

- Silver Shield will move to the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging in October, 2025.
- Noted an increase in call volume during the holidays, which is not unusual, and in response to a question Tara said that ADCR does not record each caller's location. Kay and Manisha suggested they consider doing so, which would provide helpful data.

Presentation: Donya Currie from the National Council on Aging provided a thought-provoking presentation on “Reframing Aging” and provided copies to those present. Discussion followed. Materials from the presentation are posted on the COA website, under this COA meeting.

SHAPE Subcommittee Reports and Discussion:

- **S – Services (Cathy C):**
 - They are evaluating the 50+ Ambassadors Program and have formed a subcommittee to look at how to expand the program.
 - Will review the Technology Challenge/Shark Tank package of materials for high schools to make sure they are in concurrence with Reframing Aging principles.
- **H – Housing (Irv):**
 - All initiatives were reviewed using these criteria: Is it feasible? Is it better than the status quo? Is it a priority for the community? Are resources available for implementation? As a result, some initiatives have been combined, re-worded or eliminated.
 - All initiatives will be verified and ranked at their next meeting.
- **A – Access to Mobility (Jim):**
 - Collaborating with libraries for displaying messaging for older adults is being expanded to include recreation and senior centers.
 - Incentives to attract more volunteer drivers still in play, as is a pilot Walkability Audit.
 - Current focus includes producing a comprehensive decision tree which better serves those who use the County’s website to find transportation services. Key issue is how to implement.
- **P – Personal Well-being (Diane):**
 - Looking at expanding the SAGE program.
 - Villages are discussed at every meeting but suffer from shortage of volunteers and staff. Linda noted that Season Zellman, NCS, has re-shifted her focus to the Villages.
 - Cathy M got data from the Capital Area Food Bank which will help identify geographic areas which have the most food insecurity by age groups.
 - Microgreens Gardening pilot is still in play.
- **E – Economic Stability (Kay):**
 - She is coming back from Florida in two weeks and will focus on the restaurant initiative. Looking closely at discounts for restaurants during select hours for all customers.

New Business:

- Irv and Manisha agreed to work together on a Reframing Aging Committee.

Action Items:

- Commissioners were asked to review an amendment to the COA Bylaws to officially establish an Executive Committee, which will be put forward for adoption at the February COA meeting.
- Tara will look into whether the call center can record callers' locations, perhaps by Zip Code.
- Jim and Mike will research using FASTRAN vans and school buses in off-peak hours as a transportation option for older adults with financial hardships.

Announcements: Cathy C announced that Joanne Collins (Hunter Mill) resigned from the Commission due to personal reasons. A card and a gift will be sent.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 3:08 was unanimously approved. Next meeting will be February 19, 2025.

Signed by:



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Cathy Cole, COA Chair

02/26/2025 | 1:44 PM EST

Date

Signed by:



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Jim Kirkpatrick, COA Secretary

02/24/2025 | 2:28 PM EST

Date