

**Fairfax Area Coordinating Council for Aging and Adults with Disabilities**

**Equity in Aging & Disabilities (EAD) Committee Meeting Notes**

**Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 9:00 – 11:00 p.m.**

**Notetaker: Season Zellman**

**Attendees:** S. Orlene Grant- Committee Chair, Debi Alexander, Kenderly Franklin, Andrew MaGill, Katherine Montgomery, and Danielle Waite.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Orlene S. Grant, Committee Chair.

**Approve Summary Notes of December 17, 2024, Meeting:**

The notes were then approved as written.

**Conversation Series with Equity Leads**

**Guest Introductions**

Land Development Services (LDS)- Equity Co-Leads, Helman Castro, Director of Operations and Danielle Badra, Public Information Officer.

**LDS Equity Presentation**

Orlene Grant led the conversation on Land Development Services Equity plan. LDS noted the size of the county compared to other jurisdictions, Fairfax County does 200,000 permits compared to Arlington who is doing 16,000. LDS currently has 317 staff. The agency handles permits for ramps, sidewalks, etc. LDS staff noted they are administrative and enforce regulations. The reiterated LDS follows state regulations for accessibility requirements- minimum requirements in the building code that have gotten better but still need improvement. Committee members asked about addressing the corrections needed at certain bus stops and they noted that bus stops are under the Department of Transportation purview. There was a discussion regarding departmental collaboration and how there is a need for more of it.

When asked about how LDS engages and interacts with the community, their response was that they are working on closing the digital divide and noted that they have increased community outreach events. From 2023 to 2025,, community outreach events went from 7 to 70 with staff really homing in on outreach events from visiting district offices, HOA meetings to home depots. They also have outreach websites for HOA's including trainings

for Building Permits 101 and Deck Building and an upcoming one on finishing basements. The building permits 101 training is also in Spanish. LDS staff were asked if they have any training for those with accessibility issues? Reimagined parking, parking lots and elevator requirements. LDS stated there is an entire team focused on elevators,, as the county has over seven thousand elevators. Discussion included the change in handicap parking and not having enough as the county focuses on less parking and more mass transportation. LDS staff noted that on December 3, 2024 the ratio of handicap parking changed from 1 to every 25 to 1 to every 15 spots although it is not retroactive. When asked about how they are assessing the outcomes of the community outreach, their response was it is difficult to assess tabled fair type events but for trainings they are doing survey's and open discussions at the end of each training.

Internally, recruitment of LDS staff is in line with One Fairfax with HR as the lead on diversification. First step is recognizing the issue, one is most inspectors are men. There are women in leadership and a broad group of ethnicities represented. Orlene noted the nuance of different cultures and the importance and comfortability of consumers seeing themselves in staff. Danielle spoke about the monthly newsletters that highlight diversity in heritage and equity corner and branch/staff highlights.

### **Recommendations/Discussion from LDS Presentation**

The committee completed the grid with the debrief notes.

### **January 2025 CCAAD Presentation Preparation**

Orlene Grant went through the EADC PPP. The committee worked through the presentation and assignments.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**Next Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025