

Commonwealth Council on Aging

Best Practices Awards Committee

IN-PERSON MEETING

March 1, 2024
10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Conference Room 103-105
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Henrico, VA 23229

Members Present: Tresserlyn Kelly, Cleopatra Kitt (Zoom), Diana Paguaga, Debbie Preston, Tina Savla (Zoom), and Carla Hesselteine, Ex-Officio (Zoom)

Members Absent: NONE

Staff Present: Charlotte Arbogast

Welcome and Roll Call of Members

Charlotte Arbogast, Staff

DARS staff Charlotte Arbogast welcomed members and confirmed a quorum was present.

Review/Approve Agenda

Debbie Preston, Chair

Proposed Action: Approve Agenda

Chair Debbie Preston confirmed with members that there were no changes needed to the agenda. Cleo Kitt made a motion to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Tina Savla. The agenda was approved as presented.

Review/Approve the September 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Debbie Preston

Proposed Action: Approve Minutes

Chair Debbie Preston asked members to review the September 27, 2023 minutes and asked if there were any corrections. Hearing no corrections, Diana Paguaga made a motion to approve the draft minutes. This was seconded by Cleo Kitt. The draft minutes were approved as presented.

Public Comment Period

Charlotte Arbogast

There were no public comments received.

Overview of the Process

Charlotte Arbogast

Charlotte Arbogast explained the Best Practices Awards process. Dominion Energy once again committed to sponsor the Best Practices Awards. This year, AARP Virginia also committed to sponsoring the Best Practices Awards. The Awards will provide \$5,500 for first place, \$3,500 for second place, and \$2,500 for third place.

The Request for Nominations for the 2023 Best Practices Awards opened on January 10, 2024. DARS staff shared information about the Request for Nominations with the Council and within its network. Council members were also asked to share the Request for Nominations around and with their networks in order to get the word out as much as possible. Nominations were due on February 14, 2024. The Best Practices Committee is meeting today to make award decisions.

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Scoring Report

Charlotte Arbogast

Charlotte Arbogast shared the scoring report with the members. She noted the nominations received.

Working Lunch: Discussion and Determination of Winners

Committee

Members

Proposed Action: Vote on Winners

The Committee held a discussion among the winners on the top ranked programs. Members noted the high quality of the nominations this year and how difficult it was to select the winners. Members talked about the importance of a strong program impact, sustainability and replicability, and innovation.

Members discussed the top three programs and what they liked about them in particular. Next members discussed the potential programs for honorable mention recognition.

Tresserlyn Kelly made a motion to approve the winning and honorable mentions as follows:

- First Place: Opening Minds through Art Center from the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen
- Second Place: Art, Leisure, and Recreation Program from Richmond Aging and Engaging
- Third Place: Audio Accessibility and Inclusion Program from Virginia Voice, Inc.
- Honorable Mentions:
 - Volunteer Driver Program from Southern Area Agency on Aging
 - Arlington Neighborhood Village
 - Rhythm Makers from Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging

This motion was seconded by Diana Paguaga.

Next Steps & Award Ceremonies Discussion

Charlotte Arbogast

Charlotte provided an overview of the next steps and planning for the in-person and webinar award recognition events, the website updates, distribution of the funds, press release, and upcoming report to the full Council on Aging at the April 17 meeting.

Meeting Adjournment

Debbie Preston

Chair Debbie Preston asked if there were any other comments, questions about the awards. Hearing none, Debbie Preston adjourned the meeting at 11:34 pm.

Meeting Handouts:

1. Proposed Meeting Agenda
2. Draft Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2023
3. Top 10 Programs Ranking and Spreadsheet
4. 2024 Best Practices Dissemination Information Handout