

**Commonwealth Council on Aging  
MINUTES**

**Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services  
8004 Franklin Farm Drive  
Henrico, VA 23229**

**April 19, 2023  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Quarterly Meeting**

**Members Present:** David Broder, Dr. Andrea Buck, Jo-Ann Chase (Zoom), Carla Hesseltine, Tresserlyn Kelly, Dr. Cleopatra Kitt, Josh Myers, Ellen Nau, Debbie Preston, J. Tina Savla (Zoom), Beverley Soble, Michael Wampler (Zoom), Paige Wilson, Roland Winston, Erica Wood, Kathryn Hayfield (Ex-Officio), Ron Boyd (Zoom, Ex-Officio), and Leah Mills, Ex-Officio

**Members Absent:** Harvey Chambers, Amy Duncan, Tara Ragland (Ex-Officio), Courtney Richter (Ex-Officio)

**Guests:** Senator T. Montgomery “Monty” Mason, Emily Roller (Virginia Health Care Foundation)

**Staff Present:** Charlotte Arbogast, John Carpenter, Marcia DuBois, Kathy Miller, Cecily Slasor, and George Worthington

**Welcome and Member Introductions**

**Beverley Soble, Chair**

Chair Beverley Soble welcomed members and provided a special welcome to Senator Mason and Deputy Secretary Leah Mills. Beverley Soble acknowledged Jay White for his service to the Council following his resignation. She also shared a special acknowledgement for Terry Smith, who had served as the DMAS representative to the Council for over 15 years. Terry Smith is retiring on May 1. Courtney Richter will be the new DMAS representative on the Council.

Charlotte Arbogast, Council Staff, identified the members participating electronically due to a personal matter, disability/medical condition, 60+ miles distance, or caregiving obligations. No objections were made for their electronic participation. Charlotte Arbogast called for a Roll Call for attendance and for members to introduce themselves.

Staff determined that a quorum was present for the meeting. DARS staff also introduced themselves.

**Review Proposed Agenda (Handout)**

**Chair Beverley Soble**

***Proposed Action: Approve Proposed Agenda (Roll Call Vote)***

With a quorum, Chair Beverley Soble said there were a change to the proposed agenda to add time for Deputy Secretary Leah Mills to offer some remarks. Ellen Nau made a motion to

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approve the agenda as amended. Dr. Cleopatra Kitt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes (Handout)**

#### **Beverley Soble Chair**

##### ***Proposed Action: Approve Meeting Minutes***

Chair Beverley Soble presented the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes for approval since Secretary Harvey Chambers was not able to attend the meeting. The draft minutes had been provided to members and posted on the Council's webpage. There were no edits or changes so the minutes were approved.

### **Public Comment Period**

#### **Charlotte Arbogast, Council Staff**

Charlotte Arbogast reported that there were no public comments received.

### **Presentation: Medicaid Public Health Emergency Unwinding and Eligibility Redeterminations (Handout)**

#### ***Emily Roller, Director of Health Insurance Initiatives, Virginia Health Care Foundation***

Chair Beverley Soble introduced Emily Roller with the Virginia Health Care Foundation. Emily is the Director of Health Insurance Initiatives with the Virginia Health Care Foundation. Beverly Soble thanked the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) for recommending her to present on this very timely and important topic. She noted that some members may be aware that the federal public health emergency is ending on May 11. To coincide with that, states will have to begin conducting Medicaid eligibility determinations again, an annual process that had been on hold during the Public Health Emergency (PHE).

Emily provided background on the process and share some helpful information that Council members could use to educate their networks, colleagues, and loved ones on this important activity.

During the presentation and at the end, Council members had an opportunity ask questions.

### **Best Practices Committee: 2023 Winners (Handout)**

#### ***Debbie Preston, Best Practices Committee Chair***

Best Practices Committee Chair Debbie Preston provided an update on the 2023 Best Practices Awards. This year's Committee included: Debbie as Chair, Diana Paguaga, Dr. Tina Savla, Tresserlyn Kelly, and Dr. Cleopatra Kitt.

This year, the Council received over 15 nominations and the competition was tough. Organizations have been creative, innovative, and effective in addressing the pressing issues of transportation, social isolation and social connectedness, person-centered care, housing and community livability, and caregiving.

Since 2012, Dominion Energy proudly provided financial support for the winning programs that truly go above and beyond in service to their communities. This year, the Council was pleased to also have the Best Practices Awards sponsored by AARP Virginia. The commitment and

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sponsorship of Dominion Energy and AARP Virginia for these awards allows the Council to recognize organizations with financial support for their dedication and work in advancing services for Virginia's elders.

The Committee issued Best Practices Awards to the following organizations this year.

- Mountain Empire Older Citizens (MEOC) won first place and \$5,500 for its METGo! Program.
- The second-place award of \$3,500 honored Joyful Voices Chorus.
- The third-place award of \$2,500 recognized the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) for its Live Active, Live Healthy, Live Modern Senior Retreat ("LIVE") Program. D

The following programs also received honorable mentions:

- Aging in Community (AiC) Leadership Team from the New River Valley
- Fairfax Area Agency on Aging (FAAA) for its Fairfax Caregiver Alert Notifications Program
- Piedmont Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging Inc. (PSR) for its Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

DARS included the winning programs in its submission to the Governor's Office for an Older Virginians Month Proclamation as well.

The Committee and DARS staff are working now to:

- Prepare updates to the Council's website to highlight these programs,
- Prepare a press release that will go out in early May to coincide with Older Virginians Month,
- Issue the award winners their monetary awards,
- Mail out certificates for the honorable mentions,
- Plan & Attend Best Practices Awards Ceremonies for the three winning programs, and
- Coordinate with the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging ("V4A") for recognition of these programs during the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging Webinar Series during a to-be-scheduled upcoming webinar.

The Committee will present Joyful Voices its second-place award at its spring concert on May 18 in Midlothian. The Committee will present DBVI its third-place award on May 23rd at a DBVI Agency-Wide Forum meeting. And the Committee will head out to Big Stone Gap, Virginia to present MEOC its first-place award on June 8.

Members who would be interested in attending and representing the Council at one of these events, were asked to reach out to Charlotte.

Debbie thanked the Committee members for their dedication to the process. She noted there were so many programs that made such an impact on older Virginians and it was hard to narrow the list.

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### **DARS Agency Update**

#### **Kathy Hayfield, *Commissioner***

Commissioner Kathy Hayfield welcomed Deputy Secretary Leah Mills, Senator Mason, and she thanked Chair Beverley Soble for her leadership over the last few years.

She noted that DARS staff are splitting their time today between the Council meeting and the No Wrong Door (NWD) Summit, which is underway today and tomorrow.

In reviewing the legislative session, she noted that Erica Wood will provide a legislative update relative to the Council's priorities. As an agency, DARS had one agency bill which was passed: HB 2344 (Head) and SB 1421 (Pillion) related to APS referrals to law enforcement. DARS closely monitored related to the three aging boards (SB 1218, SB 952, and HB 2029). She noted that DARS, like many other agencies and organizations, is awaiting to see what will be in the final budget.

In sharing some recent activities within DARS, she highlighted:

- The Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging held in partnership with the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) on May 8th and 9th. DARS staff are participating in several breakout session presentations.
- The Virginia Dementia Capable Summit held in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health on May 10th.
- The expansion of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program is underway. DARS is partnering with Virginia State University's Agricultural Department to assist with that effort.
- No Wrong Door was a key sponsor and presenter for several breakout sessions at the Southern Gerontological Society conference held in Norfolk last week.
- Numerous DARS staff have been engaged in discussions with DMAS staff within the CCC Plus, now Cardinal Care Program, area related to opportunities to share information with the Medicaid MCO Care Coordinators about No Wrong Door and the Area Agencies on Aging.
- DARS is doing our part to support the Medicaid Redetermination/Unwinding Process that is now underway.
- Lastly, DARS has placed the DRAFT State Plan for Aging Services out for public comment, which members would hear more about later in the meeting. This has been a major undertaking for the last year. Commissioner Hayfield noted that she was pleased with what the agency came up with in concert with stakeholders and the increased attention we paid on collaborating with other state agencies.

#### **Leah Mills, *Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources***

Deputy Secretary Mills brought greetings from Secretary John Littel who was unable to join the meeting today as he is attending a meeting with the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). Deputy Secretary Mills spoke in follow-up to the Elevating Aging Services workgroup meetings held in 2021 and 2022. She thanked Commissioner Hayfield, Deputy Commissioner Marcia DuBois and DARS staff Charlotte Arbogast for their work with the meetings and noted that there were many good recommendations about elevating aging services in Virginia.

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Deputy Mills announced that DARS is going to have a new Division for Aging Services. This restructuring can take effect soon and with little disruption to the agency and aging services. While she indicated that there will be a Deputy Commissioner for Aging position, she also reported that additional details and an organizational chart will come later. The Community Living programs will come under the Deputy Commissioner of the Division for Community Living (DCL) and Older Americans Act (OAA) programs will come under the new Deputy position.

### **Discussion with Senator Mason: SB 1218 and Strengthening Aging Services (Handout) T. Montgomery "Monty" Mason, *Senator***

Following her remarks, Deputy Secretary Mills turned it over to Senator Mason. Chair Beverley Soble noted that the Council is grateful to Senator Mason, patron of SB 1218, for joining them at the meeting.

Senator Mason provided background the legislation concerning the composition of the Council on Aging and his vision for how the Council can contribute to elevating aging services as it moves forward with the transition in membership. He expressed his thanks to Secretary Littel and Deputy Secretary Leah Mills for their partnership in the process.

Members had an opportunity to ask the Senator questions and many members thanked Senator Mason for attending the meeting and working on behalf of aging-related issues.

### **Staff Briefing: SB 1218 Transition Process (Handout) Charlotte Arbogast, *Council Staff***

Council on Aging Staff Charlotte Arbogast walked the Council through the process to transition the Council to the new membership structure and duties that stem from SB 1218, which takes effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, and has as phased in implementation.

### **Working Lunch: Nominating Committee: Present Officer Slate (Handouts) Proposed Actions:**

- **Elect Chair and Vice-Chair**
- **Confirm Secretary (under current bylaws)**
- **Confirm 2 At-Large Executive Committee Members**
- **Confirm Remaining Committee Assignments**

### **Roland Winston, *Nominating Committee Chair***

Nominating Committee Chair Roland Winston led the process for the elections. At the January meeting, the Council formed a Nominating Committee. The Committee consisted of: Roland Winston, as Chair, Harvey Chambers, Carla Hesseltine, Jo-Ann Chase, and Debbie Preston.

The Nominating Committee met on February 24, 2023. The Nominating Committee was tasked with identify a slate for Chair and Vice Chair.

Roland Winston noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair are two-year terms or until successors are elected by the Council. Elected officers may succeed themselves once, provided that such succession is consistent with the term of appointment to the Council. Once a new Chair is

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elected, the Chair appoints a Secretary, who also serves a two-year term, which is subject to confirmation by the Council at the same meeting.

At the February 24th meeting, the Nominating Committee voted on a slate of Carla Hesseltine as Chair, and Tresserlyn Kelly as Vice-Chair. Notice on the slate was provided to members via an email from Council staff on February 28 and in accordance with the requirements in the bylaws.

Roland Winston asked if there were any floor nominations for Chair or Vice-Chair. Hearing none, he asked for consent to close the nomination process, which the Council granted. In calling for the vote on the slate, which was presented by the Nominating Committee, the Council voted unanimously to approve Carla Hesseltine as Chair and Tresserlyn Kelly as Vice-Chair.

Roland Winston next asked if the Carla Hesseltine, as newly elected Chair, had a member in mind to serve as Secretary. Carla Hesseltine nominated Harvey Chambers. For the motion for Harvey Chambers as Secretary, Jo-Ann Chase made the first motion. This was seconded by David Broder. Following a call for the vote, Harvey Chambers was unanimously confirmed as Secretary.

Roland Winston next asked if Carla Hesseltine, newly elected Chair, had two members to put forward as at-large members of the Executive Committee. Carla Hesseltine put forward Roland Winston and Jo-Ann Chase. For the motion for Roland Winston and Jo-Ann Chase to serve as the at-large members of the Executive Committee, Carla Hesseltine made the first motion. This was seconded by Ellen Nau. Following a call for the vote, Roland Winston and Jo-Ann Chase were unanimously confirmed as the at-large members of the Executive Committee.

Roland Winston next asked DARS staff to display a listing of members on the Executive and Standing Committees. This will be an opportunity to update and affirm Standing Committee memberships for the year ahead. Following discussion, DARS staff displayed the new Committee membership lists. As current Chair, Beverley Soble indicated her intention to make the appointments as displayed on the projector screen. Paige Wilson made the first motion to confirm those appointments. This motion was seconded by Cleopatra Kitt. Following a vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

In wrapping up his remarks, Roland Winston noted that newly elected officers will assume their roles upon the adjournment of the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Along with DARS staff, he also reminded members that bylaws changes will be needed to adjust to the new membership structure of the Council. Bylaws changes will be proposed to the membership in advance of the July meeting for consideration and potential adoption at the July meeting.

### **Legislative & Budget Update: 2023 General Assembly Outcomes & Looking Ahead to 2024 (Handout)**

#### ***Erica Wood, Legislative Committee Chair***

Legislative Committee Chair Erica Wood shared an update on the 2023 General Assembly Session Outcomes and thoughts for looking ahead to 2024 and the Council's upcoming Legislative Recommendations. She reviewed the outcomes using her meeting handout. She also

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asked members to begin thinking about any ideas they have for the 2024 platform and that members should communicate ideas to her or DARS staff.

### **Executive Committee: Update on GTE Grant Proposal (Handout)**

#### **Beverley Soble**

Chair Beverley Soble reminded the Council that they submitted a proposal to the Virginia Center on Aging's Geriatric Training and Education Program. This propose would be to develop training videos focused on awareness of older adult malnutrition and food insecurity, and information about the programs available to help address these issues. These training videos would be broadly disseminated across the Virginia geriatric and gerontological workforce, as well as to older adults and caregivers, to help educate professionals about malnutrition/food insecurity and existing resources (intended beneficiaries), ultimately contributing to a long-term reduction in the number of older adults who are currently or at risk of being malnourished or food insecure in the Commonwealth. If funded the Council will partner with DARS, the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Virginia Association for Home Care and Hospice (VAHC), and BES Studios to develop and disseminate the videos. The proposal deadline was April 3. DARS and the Council hope to hear something in the next few weeks. If funded, DARS & the Council would have a year to complete the project and the new Council Executive Committee should stand ready to assist DARS staff with implementing this project. DARS and the Council hopes that the videos could be ready for unveiling in October to coincide with Malnutrition Awareness Week.

### **State Plan for Aging Services: Staff Briefing and Time for Council on Aging Member Input (Handout)**

#### **Charlotte Arbogast**

Charlotte Arbogast provided an update on draft State Plan for Aging Services. Charlotte reviewed the draft State Plan for Aging Services which is open for public comment through May 5. She provided background to re-orient us to the plan development process. Many Council members have been following along as Charlotte Arbogast has provided status updates on the new State Plan at the Council's quarterly meetings. In addition, DARS hosted a virtual public hearing on the draft State Plan on April 18 and she was able to highlight some of the feedback that DARS received during that event. There was also time for the Council members to provide their input to DARS on the draft State Plan.

### **Announcements (Electronic Handout)**

#### **Beverley Soble**

Chair Beverley Soble reminded members about the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging on May 8 and 9, 2023. The Conference is being held in Richmond at the Marriott Downtown. She also noted that the Conference will be followed by the Virginia Dementia Capable Summit on May 10th also at the Richmond Marriott Downtown.

She noted that the Council member announcements handout includes aging-related updates from DARS, Virginia and some national items. She encouraged members to review the handout.

Charlotte Arbogast highlighted a few regulatory actions that were underway and included:

- Adult Services Approved Providers – Final Regulations – Will be published on May 8 and take effect June 8.

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- VDH has regulatory activities underway for nursing homes, home care, and hospice providers, most of which are related to legislation that was passed in the General Assembly.
- DHP Boards have a number of regulatory activities underway related to nursing including: medication administration training, the practice of nursing, nurse aide regulations, and nursing education programs, as well as a regulatory reduction activity for nursing home administrators.
- DMAS has regulatory activities underway for PACE, LTSS screenings, client appeals, the CCC Plus Waiver, and PASRR.
- DSS has regulatory activities underway for ALF appeals for discharges and ALF standards, among others.

Beverley Soble then asked if Council members had any updates or announcements they would like to share.

Debbie Preston highlighted a recent event she held plan: Held on April 13, 2023, Hanover's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Finding Value in Your Prime event was a huge success with over 280 people in attendance. The highlight of the event was the Centenarian Recognition Program designed to honor Hanover County centenarians. Nine centenarians attended the event. Each centenarian received either a wrist corsage or boutonniere, a commemorative tote bag, a certificate of recognition and personalized birthday cake. The local media attended the event (channel 6 and channel 8) to interview several of the centenarians in attendance. Click on the link below to watch the channel 6 interview with Hanover County Centenarians: [Want to live to 100? These Hanover seniors know the secret.](#)

David Broder mentioned the NVAN Legislative Breakfast will be held September 20. Recognizing a scheduling conflict with the September CCOA meeting, DARS staff noted that they would be back in touch with members with a new date for the CCOA meeting.

### **Public Comment Period**

#### **Beverley Soble**

Charlotte Arbogast reported that there were no public comments received.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

#### **Beverley Soble, Chair**

Chair Beverley Soble talked about her time as Chair of the Council and thanked the DARS staff for all of their help and support, particularly in the early days of the COVID pandemic. She said she was proud of what the Council had accomplished and wish the new Chair well in her role. Chair Soble adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

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### **Electronic Participation:**

- Jo-Ann Chase due to personal matter, personal travel out of state, from Georgia.
- Dr. Tina Savla, due to 60+ miles away, from Blacksburg, VA.
- Michael Wampler, due to 60+ miles away, from Big Stone Gap, VA.



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- Ron Boyd, due to personal matter, scheduling conflict, from Roanoke, VA.

### **Meeting Handouts:**

1. Proposed Agenda
2. January 18, 2023 draft minutes
3. Medicaid Renewals Handout and Presentation Slides
4. 2023 Best Practices Winner and Honorable Mention Summaries
5. SB 1218 Legislation & Transition Handout
6. Nominating Committee & Elections Handout
7. CCOA Committee List (edited during the meeting)
8. Legislative Committee Update
9. GTE Grant Proposal Summary
10. Draft State Plan for Aging Services Presentation Slides
11. Announcements Handout
12. Aging-Related News Stories
13. CCOA Regulation Update