

**Commonwealth Council on Aging  
MINUTES**

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

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

**Quarterly Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** In-Person: David Broder, Dr. Andrea Buck, Harvey Chambers, Jo-Ann Chase, Carla Hesseltine, Tresserlyn Kelly, Josh Myers, Diana Paguaga, Debbie Preston, Beverley Soble, Paige Wilson, Roland Winston, Kathryn Hayfield (Ex-Officio), and Tara Ragland (Ex-Officio); Via Zoom: Amy Duncan, Dr. Cleopatra Kitt, Ellen Nau, Dr. Tina Savla, Erica Wood, and Ron Boyd (Ex-Officio)

**Members Absent:** Michael Wampler and Courtney Richter (Ex-Officio)

**Guests & Presenters:** In-Person: Clay Chase; Via Zoom: Jane Areson, Mary-Jane Atwater, Katie Boyle, Cele Garrett, Carol Paquette, Gordon Walker, and Wendy Zenker

**Staff Present:** In-Person: Charlotte Arbogast, Devin Bowers, John Carpenter, Marcia DuBois, Catherine Harrison, Cecily Slasor, and George Worthington.

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**Welcome and Member Introductions**

**Carla Hesseltine, Chair**

Chair Carla Hesseltine called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and welcomed members, guests, staff, and presenters.

Chair Hesseltine shared that Council meetings are now being live streamed for the public. Members of the public can register to listen to the meeting. Council members participating electronically have joined the meeting as “Panelists” as have our presenters for the meeting. Several council members are joining the meeting via Zoom as permitted by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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. Charlotte Arbogast confirmed that a quorum was present.

DARS staff, guests, and the presenters for the meeting also introduced themselves.

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### **Review Proposed Agenda**

**Chair Carla Hesselstine**

#### ***Proposed Action: Approve Proposed Agenda***

Chair Hesselstine stated that the agenda needed to be approved. Diana Paguaga made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. David Broder seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Harvey Chambers, Secretary**

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

Harvey Chambers presented the April 19, 2023 draft meeting minutes for approval. He stated that the draft minutes had been provided to members and for the public and are posted on the Council's webpage. There were no edits or changes so the minutes were approved by consensus as presented to the Council.

### **Public Comment Period**

**Charlotte Arbogast, Council Staff**

Charlotte Arbogast asked the public if there were any public comments. She reported that there were no public comments.

### **DARS Agency Update**

**Kathy Hayfield, Commissioner**

Commissioner Hayfield presented an update on DARS.

Commissioner welcomed new Chair Carla Hesselstine and new Vice Chair Tresserlyn Kelly. She also welcomed the guest speakers from The Villages.

She provided updates on the following activities:

- She highlighted Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging was held in partnership with the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) on May 8th and 9th and followed by the Virginia Dementia Capable Summit was held in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health on May 10<sup>th</sup>. These events were widely attended and well received.
- She reminded Council members about the expansion of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, which has gotten well underway. DARS is partnering with Virginia State University's Agricultural Department to assist with that effort.
- She shared that DARS is doing its part to support the Medicaid Redetermination Process and asked members to continue to get the word out. Members asked if there were any figures about how that process was going. Commissioner Hayfield, DSS's Tara Ragland, and Council staff Charlotte Arbogast were able to provide some additional details.
- She reported that the final State Plan for Aging Services was submitted to the federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) for its review and hopeful approval after having received approval from Secretary Littel and Governor Youngkin. The plan is set to take effect on October 1.
- She noted that there is still no Year 2 updated budget, but the state is operating from the Year 2 budget that was passed/signed into law in 2022.

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- She thanked Harvey Chambers for serving as Secretary to the Council and asked him to continue serving in this role informally until the agency has a better sense of the budget and potential Council Executive Director position.
- She reminded members that DARS had recently established a new Division for Aging Services. She provided an overview of the new organizational structure for that and shared that DARS is in the process of hiring a new Deputy Commissioner for Aging Services. She thanked Marcia DuBois, Deputy Commission for the Division for Community Living, for all her leadership over the last six year and support during the transition.
- She shared that the federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Older Americans Act (OAA) Proposed Regulations and DARS staff is currently reviewing those to determine the impacts on Virginia's aging network.
- She also highlighted the new RetirePath Program from Virginia 529 which started on July 1, 2023. RetirePath Virginia is a state-facilitated retirement savings program, provides a new retirement savings option to the more than 1.2 million private-sector Virginia workers who currently don't have access to an employer-based retirement plan. DARS will be doing some social media posting about this and she encouraged the Council members to help spread the word about this as well as other announcements on the DARS Facebook page.

### **Best Practices Committee: 2023 Award Ceremonies**

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

Debbie Preston presented an update on the 2023 Best Practices Awards. She reminded the Council members about this year's winners, which included:

- 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.

As well as 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

Debbie Preston provided an update on the on-site ceremonies for the winners and the webinar. While she provided these updates, DARS staff shared slides with photos and videos from the events, which included:

- On June 8, Charlotte Arbogast, Tina Savla and Amy Duncan attended an MEOC Advisory Council meeting in Big Stone Gap, VA to present the first-place award. They were joined by colleagues with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation as well as volunteers with the local AARP Virginia chapter.

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- On May 18, Tresserlyn Kelly, Debbie Preston, Charlotte Arbogast, Marcia DuBois and Betsy Civillette from DARS attended the Joyful Voices Chorus spring concert in Midlothian, VA. They were joined by Jessika Eglin with AARP Virginia. Charlotte Arbogast played a short video of the performance.
- On May 23, Commissioner Hayfield, Marcia DuBois, Charlotte Arbogast and Debbie Preston attended a DBVI Monthly Forum meeting to present the third place award. We were also joined by Jessika Eglin from AARP Virginia.
- On June 27, the Council, DARS and the VA Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) held a webinar to highlight the winning programs as part of the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging monthly webinar series. A recording is available online. DARS staff will send the link out to members who were not able to catch the live event.

Lastly, she noted that the Best Practices Awards Committee will meet next after the Council meeting on September 27 to begin planning for the 2024 Best Practices Awards.

### **Other Aging-Related Boards Legislative Updates**

#### **Alzheimer's Commission & Virginia Public Guardian & Conservator Advisory Board George Worthington, Dementia Services Coordinator**

George Worthington provided an overview of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission Recommendations, which included:

1. Expand Dementia Care Management to Underserved Areas of Virginia
2. Dementia Services Budget Increase
3. Support Dementia Capable Training for First Responders
4. A Dementia Capable No Wrong Door

He noted that #3 was also in the CCOA's draft recommendations. Jo-Ann Chase asked if there was any work being done linking Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease.

George Worthington then provided an overview of the Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Advisory Board Recommendations, which included:

1. Training for the Public Guardian Program Multi-Disciplinary Panels
2. Enhance Judicial Training on Public Guardian Program
3. Develop and Disseminate Training for All Guardians in Virginia

He noted that #3 is also in the CCOA's draft recommendations.

### **Legislative Committee: Update on Final Budget & 2024 Legislative Recommendations**

#### ***Proposed Action: Adopt 2024 Recommendations***

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

Erica Wood presented the recommendations that came out of the CCOA Legislative Committee, which met on June 29, 2023. These included:

1. Establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board
2. Require Guardian Training and Development of Training
3. Enhance Assisted Living Affordability
4. Incentivize State Contractors to Employ Older Virginians
5. Increase Funding for Home and Community-Based Services Through Area Agencies on Aging

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6. Increase the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waiver Personal Maintenance Allowance
7. Expand Virtual Access to Public Meetings; Allow All-Virtual Public Meetings for Advisory Boards and Commissions
8. Mandate Sick Leave for Direct Care Workers in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, and Home and Community-Based Services
9. Develop and Promote Financial and Regulatory Incentives for Nursing Home Redevelopment into Small Household Model
10. Support Dementia Capable Training for First Responders
11. Enhance Outreach and Supplement Benefits for SNAP Enrollment

Members discussed the proposals as Erica Wood provided an overview of each.

After reviewing the proposed recommendations, there was discussion about the potential benefits of including cost figures or estimates for those items that have a budget impact. Members and staff discussed ways that cost estimates could be sourced from prior proposals in the General Assembly in recent years.

Roland Winston made a motion for DARS to work with DSS on figures for item #3, work with the Alzheimer's Association on a figure for item #10 and the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging for a potential figure on item #5, and to add previous budget figures for items #1, 2, 5, 6, 8 and 11. This motion was seconded by Jo-Ann Chase. There was further discussion about the modifications to the proposed recommendations, including how to structure them and provide clear context for the sources of the figures. Following that additional discussion, Roland Winston withdrew his motion.

David Broder thanked Erica Wood for all her work on pulling this together. He then made a new motion to approve the legislative recommendations and have DARS staff work with Legislative Committee Chair Erica Wood to add additional budget figures and context to the recommendations. This motion was seconded by Jo-Ann Chase. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. DARS staff and Erica Wood will get together to create an updated version to provide to the Council in the coming weeks.

### **Working Lunch & Presentation: The Village Model**

#### **Virginia Village Collective**

#### **Mary-Jane Atwater, Carol Paquette**

Chair Hesseltine welcomed Mary-Jane Atwater and Carol Paquette from Villages and as representatives of the Virginia Villages Collective.

Mary-Jane Atwater and Carol Paquette provided an overview of the Virginia Villages Collective. They also explained the Village model and how Villages currently assist older Virginians to age in place, providing examples of possible services, benefits, structures. They also sought to solicit the Council's views on strategies to expand Villages in the Commonwealth, which could include a pilot program with state dollars to provide seed funding to start new Villages.

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Members had an opportunity to ask questions. Debbie Preston asked if Villages work with or would consider working with Homeowners Associations (HOAs). The presenter said that working with HOAs is definitely a positive and several current Villages in Virginia are structured that way. Commissioner Kathy Hayfield asked what would be different about a pilot program from existing Villages. The presenters noted that new funding could identify new sponsoring organizations for additional Villages and assist with the start-up costs as well as a more structured evaluation process to measure the success of Villages. Harvey Chambers mentioned that there is not a Villages in the Richmond area and asked if a template or some information could be sent to council members. The presenters noted that they have spoken with LeadingAge Virginia in regard to the Dreaming Home Project and some additional materials could be provided the Council after the meeting. They also shared that Villages provide scholarship opportunities to minimize membership fees for lower income members. The national Village to Village Network offers a Village mentoring program. Carla Hesseltine asked how many people/families they look at for starting a village. The presenters noted that figure can vary, some start small with less than 20 and then grow with time. The presenters also responded that a needs assessment and a business analysis should be done before starting a Village.

Chair Carla Hesseltine thank the presenters and shared how informative and helpful this presentation was to the Council.

### **Staff Presentation: Bylaws Changes**

#### ***Proposed Action: Approve Bylaws Changes***

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

Charlotte Arbogast presented potential bylaws changes, noting that the changes were made to incorporate Senate Bill SB1218 sponsored by Senator Mason (which took effect July 1, 2023 ) and in to update the provisions around the Council's Annual Report following Senator Favola's legislation in 2022 (SB 48). The bylaws changes seek to conform the Council's bylaws with the new Code requirements, as well as the planned transition to the new membership structure for the Council.

Staff reviewed the changes. Members had an opportunity to ask clarifying questions. No further changes were made to the draft bylaws as they were presented to the Council.

Jo-Ann Chase made a motion to approve the revised bylaws. This motion was seconded by Paige Wilson. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Executive Committee: Update on GTE Grant Proposal**

#### ***Proposed Action: Approve Resubmission***

#### **Carla Hesseltine, Chair**

Chair Hesseltine stated that in April the Council submitted a proposal to the Virginia Center on Aging's (VCoA) Geriatric Training and Education (GTE) Program. Unfortunately this was not accepted for funding at that time. She reminded members about the proposal's intention, and shared that VCoA suggested that the Council re-apply for an upcoming cycle that was opening in July pending approval to apply for the grant from the administration.

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Beverley Soble made a motion to approve the re-submission of the proposal for GTE funding pending administration approval. This motion was seconded by Andrea Buck. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. DARS staff will follow-up on the approvals and submission when the cycle opens later this month.

### **State Plan for Aging Services: Update Charlotte Arbogast, Council Staff**

In reviewing the two-page handout provided to the Council members, Charlotte Arbogast highlighted the draft State Plan for Aging Services public comment period. She noted that the following changes to the plan in response to public comments:

- Added clarifying language and additional details on No Wrong Door, 2-1-1 Virginia, and VirginiaNavigator
- Added a strategy regarding coordination with VDH's HIV/AIDS Plan
- Added strategies to assist with information sharing about: Villages, the Dreaming Home Project, and the Advanced CNA training program

She shared that final State Plan is now pending formal federal approval from the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Later in August, the new State Plan will be added to the DARS website. It will also be reviewed and processed through the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) and the state's Town Hall website. DARS will notify the Council and aging network stakeholders once all final approvals have been received.

### **Announcements & Regulatory Update Carla Hesselstine, Chair**

Charlotte Arbogast noted that an announcements handout was posted on the Council's SharePoint folder. This includes various national and Virginia-based aging-related updates.

Charlotte Arbogast highlighted a few of regulatory items. She shared that the federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) has released proposed regulations for the Older Americans Act (OAA) and DARS is in the process of reviewing them.

Within Virginia, she highlighted regulatory actions underway at the Virginia Department of Health, the Department of Health Professions, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, and the Department of Social Services. These included activities underway for assisted living facility (ALF) appeals for discharges and a comprehensive review of the ALF licensing standards.

Roland Winston shared with members that the SALT Council Annual Meeting will be held on September 6-8, 2023 at Great Wolf Lodge in Williamsburg, VA.

### **Public Comment Period Carla Hesselstine, Chair**

Charlotte Arbogast reported that there were no public comments received.

### **Meeting Adjournment Carla Hesselstine, Chair**

Having completed the agenda, Chair Hesselstine adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

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**CCOA Member Electronic Participation:**

1. Amy Duncan: Caregiving provision, Bristol, VA
2. Dr. Cleopatra Kitt: Personal matter provision, traveling out of state for work, St. Petersburg, FL
3. Ellen Nau: Personal matter provision, traveling out of state, Las Vegas, NV
4. Dr. Tina Savla: 60+ miles away provision, Blacksburg, VA
5. Erica Wood: Personal matter provision, traveling with family, Rehobeth, DE
6. Ron Boyd (Ex-Officio): 60+ miles away provision, Roanoke, VA

**CCOA Meeting Handouts:**

1. Proposed Meeting Agenda
2. Draft Meeting Minutes April 19, 2023
3. ADRD Commission & VPGCAB Legislative Recommendations
4. Draft CCOA Legislative Recommendations
5. Villages Presentation Slides & Listing of Villages
6. Draft CCOA Bylaws
7. GTE Grant Proposal Summary
8. State Plan for Aging Services Summary
9. CCOA Regulation Update
10. Aging-Related Announcements