

Commonwealth Council on Aging

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

**January 17, 2024
10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Quarterly Meeting

MINUTES

Members Present: In-Person: Dr. Andrea Buck, Harvey Chambers, Carla Hesseltine, Tresserlyn Kelly, Dr. Cleopatra Kitt, Ellen Nau, Debbie Preston, Michael Wampler, Roland Winston, Erica Wood, Kathryn Hayfield (Ex-Officio), Courtney Richter (Ex-Officio) and Ron Boyd (Ex-Officio); Via Zoom: David Broder, Jo-Ann Chase, Josh Myers, Dr. Tina Savla, and Beverley Soble

Members Absent: Amy Duncan, Diana Paguaga, Paige Wilson, and Tara Ragland (Ex-Officio)

Guests & Presenters: In-Person: Tracey Gendron, Herb DeGroft, Dave Fuller, Elaine Hernandez, Liz Leitch, Andrea Price, Eric Raff, Ashley Staton, and Steve Zollos

Staff Present: In-Person: Charlotte Arbogast, Devin Bowers, Madeline Burnham, John Carpenter, Kathy Miller, Cecily Slasor, Kiersten Ware, and George Worthington

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 reminded members that Council meetings is 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).

No members were identified as participating electronically due to a personal matter, 60+ miles distance, or caregiving obligations.

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 Hesseltine

Proposed Action: Approve Proposed Agenda

Chair Carla Hesseltine indicated the Council would move forward with the planned agenda.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Carla Hesseltine, Chair

Proposed Action: Approve Meeting Minutes

Harvey Chambers presented the September 27, 2023 meeting minutes for approval. Mr. Chambers stated that the 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.

Public Comment Period

Charlotte Arbogast, Council Staff

Charlotte Arbogast reported that there were three individuals signed up to make public comment (two in person and one virtually).

Herb DeGroft commented on the importance of following the General Assembly and lobbying General Assembly members to ensure they prioritize older adults and aging services. He provided the Council members with two handouts that spoke to the need to better support aging services in Virginia.

Annie Rhodes, Ph.D., with the Virginia Center on Aging (VCoA) spoke about the Virginia Memory Project. She provided background information on the development and current implementation of the Virginia Memory Project. She provided Council members with a handout.

Carol Paquette with the Virginia Villages Collective welcomed the new Deputy Commissioner Kiersten Ware and spoke about the value of Villages programs to support aging-in-place. She noted that the Villages have advocated for grant funding to support the establishment of Villages, and there are member amendments pending in the General Assembly to support this.

DARS Agency Update & Welcome Deputy Commissioner

Kathy Hayfield, Commissioner

Commissioner Hayfield welcomed members and guests and presented an update on DARS. She noted that the General Assembly has begun, and they are now in the new building downtown. She highlighted a few bills that the agency is following, including those around guardianship, an Adult Protective Services (APS) registry, and state psychiatric hospitals. She shared that the \$700,000 in funding for the AAAs that was included in last year's budget was continued and included in the Governor's proposed budget. She also highlighted efforts to increase the Auxiliary Grant rate. Lastly, she introduced the new Deputy Commissioner for Aging Services, Kiersten Ware.

DARS Division for Aging Services Update

Kiersten Ware, Deputy Commissioner

Deputy Commissioner Kiersten Ware introduced herself and talked about her background. She emphasized the importance of the work that DARS, the AAAs, and other partners are involved in

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and commented their commitment to service. Kiersten Ware mentioned the upcoming Virginia Center on Aging Annual Update event that will be held virtually on January 24, and she encouraged members to register and participate. She provided updates Division for Aging Services staffing, No Wrong Door efforts, federal COVID appropriations and ongoing Older Americans Act appropriations for aging services, and on the new Division for Aging Services upcoming efforts around enhanced communications and engagement.

Reports to the General Assembly, Including JLARC Report: State Psychiatric Hospitals Charlotte Arbogast, Council Staff

At Council Chair Carla Hesseltine's request, Council Staff Charlotte Arbogast provided an overview of the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission (JLARC) study on the state's psychiatric hospitals. She provided a summary of JLARC's major findings as well as recommendations that would impact individuals with neurocognitive disorders. Members had an opportunity to discuss the study and potential legislation and ask questions.

Budget & Legislative Updates (Handout) Erica Wood, Legislative Committee Chair

Legislative Committee Chair Erica Wood provided an overview of the Council's 2024 Legislative Recommendations and shared which ones were reflected in potential legislation and/or budget items. She also highlighted other legislation that might of interest to Council members. Members had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the potential legislative and budget items. Chair Carla Hesseltine reminded members about how to engage with legislators.

Presentation: Update on the new Dementia State Plan George Worthington, Dementia Services Coordinator

George Worthington, Dementia Services Coordinator, provided a presentation on the new Dementia State Plan issued by the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission. He summarized the history and intent of the plan, as well as the major changes to the new plan relative to the past plan. He indicated the Commission is working on an action plan to track the implementation of the new Dementia State Plan and monitor its outcomes/successes.

Update on the Implementation of the Council's Geriatric Training & Education (GTE) Grant

Devin Bowers, Grants Specialist

Grants Specialist Devin Bowers provided an update on the implementation of the GTE grant the Council had received through the Virginia Center on Aging. She shared a copy of the scripts with the members as well as the workplan through March 2023, which is when the videos will be formally launched through a webinar on March 26. Members had the opportunity ask questions, and staff shared additional information about nutrition programs available to older adults.

Update on the Council's 2024 Best Practices Awards Debbie Preston, Best Practices Committee Chair

Debbie Preston provided an overview of the upcoming 2024 Best Practices Awards, which opened for nominations on January 10. She shared that Dominion Energy and AARP Virginia

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had provided funding again for the awards. She reviewed the timeline for the awards process. Members had the opportunity ask questions.

Presentation: Department for the Blind & Vision Impaired, Services for Older Adults

David Fuller, DBVI Director of Rehabilitation Teaching and Independent Living Services

Dave Fuller, Director of Rehabilitation Teaching and Independent Living Services with the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI), provided a presentation on the services available to older adults with vision loss through DBVI. Dave Fuller also brought brochures to handout. Members had the opportunity to ask questions. Dave Fuller shared that DBVI's services were free except for equipment, which may have a cost depending on the individual's resources. Several members provided complimentary remarks to Dave Fuller as well as for DBVI for their work.

Presentation: Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services for Older Adults

Eric Raff, Director of VDDHH

Eric Raff, Director of the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) provided a presentation on services through the agency. He specifically noted the growing population of older adults who have hearing loss, and the need for aging services and deaf services to work together to support all Virginians in this regard. Members had the opportunity to ask questions. Several members provided complimentary remarks to Director Raff as well as for VDDHH for their work.

Announcements

Carla Hesseltime

- **Regulatory Update**
- **Financial Disclosure Statements Reminder**
- **VCOA Virtual Annual Update on January 24**
- **Council on Aging Member Announcements**
- **Next Meeting Date: April 17**

Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) representative Ron Boyd highlighted V4A's budget request for an additional \$5 million in state general funds for AAAs. He also noted that V4A is advocating for funding for the Council on Aging Executive Director position.

Council Staff Charlotte Arbogast reminded members to complete their annual Financial Disclosure Statement by the end of January.

Charlotte Arbogast also highlighted several regulatory actions underway that relate to aging services. These were:

- A DARS Final Exempt regulation to amend the Auxiliary Grant and ALF Assessment regulations to comport with changes pursuant to 2023 legislative changes that revised the definition of "Assisted Living Facility" (ALF). These changes took effect January 3, 2024.
- The Virginia Department of Health has begun the regulatory process to update the regulatory chapter governing licensing standards for nursing facilities, and to implement last year's state legislation for staff standards for Virginia's nursing facilities. T

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- The Department of Medical Assistance Services (or DMAS the State's Medicaid Agency) has received an extension for emergency regulations that updated the Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (or PASRR) regulations through February 14.
- The Department of Social Services (or DSS) has converted a planned Fast-Track regulation to implement legislation for the discharge and appeals process ALFs into a standard rulemaking process.

Charlotte Arbogast noted that the agency is still awaiting a number of federal regulations, which are set to be published in their final stages this spring and summer.

Chair Carla Hesseltine reminded members about the forthcoming change to the Council's membership. She noted that at the April 17th meeting the Council will have time to affirm committee memberships for the upcoming year and to discuss the transition process for members rotating off on June 30 and those rotating on July 1.

Public Comment Period

Carla Hesseltine

Charlotte Arbogast reported that there were no public comments.

Meeting Adjournment

Carla Hesseltine, Chair

Chair Hesseltine adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Members Participating Electronically:

- David Broder: Caregiving Provision, Vienna, VA
- Jo-Ann Chase: Caregiving Provision, Brambleton, VA
- Tina Savla: 60+ Provision, Blacksburg, VA
- Josh Myers: Personal Matter (General Assembly Session), Richmond, VA
- Beverley Soble: Personal Matter (Weather), Henrico, VA

Meeting Handouts:

- January 17, 2024 Agenda
- September 27, 2023 Draft Minutes
- Reports to the General Assembly Handout & JLARC State Psychiatric Hospitals Report Summary
- Legislative Handouts: Budget Summary, CCOA Legislative Priorities and GA Updates, Membership List with Elected Officials, and Guide for Talking to Legislators
- New Dementia State Plan, Dementia State Plan Presentation Slides, and Lifecourse Model of Dementia in Virginia
- GTE Grant Microlearning Scripts and Workplan, and SNAP Flyer
- 2024 Best Practices Awards Instructions, Nomination Form, and Timeline
- DBVI Presentation Slides & Brochure
- VDDHH Presentation Slides & Brochure
- CCOA Regulation Update Handout

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- Handout on Financial Disclosure Statements
- V4A 2024 General Assembly Session Advocacy Handout
- USAging Fact Sheets on Virginia AAAs and AAA Housing & Social Isolation Initiatives
- Aging-Related Items of Interest Handout
- VCoA Annual Update on Aging Event Flyer
- Family Caregiver Proclamation (November 2023)
- Healthwise Flyer and Information Sheet

Public Comment Materials:

- Herb DeGroft:
 - “Let’s end homelessness among the elderly” Op-Ed by Steve Zollos
 - “Opinion: Seniors deserve an equitable share of respect, support” by Steve Zollos
- Dr. Annie Rhodes:
 - Issue Brief: Dementia in Virginia / Virginia Memory Project
- Carol Paquette:
 - Written copy of her verbal remarks provided to staff