

District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Minutes of February 25, 2015 Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Romaine Thomas, Chairperson; Ronald Swanda, Vice Chairperson; Jacqueline Arguelles; George Arnstein; Don Colodny; Barbara Hair; Janet Heisse; Charles Hicks; Grace Lewis; Samuel McCoy; Brenda Williams; Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby; Constance Woody; Nathaniel Wilson

DCOA Staff Present:

Dr. John M. Thompson; Garret King; Gail Kohn; Jackie Geralnick; Tanya Reid; Brian Footer; Camile Williams

Guests Present: Joe Harris, Ward 5 Mini-Commission; Sadaf Ahmad, D.C. Alzheimer's Association; Leah Drew, D.C. Alzheimer's Association National; Sue Barnes, Ward 5 Mini-Commission; Barbara Cline, resident of Ward 3

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Thomas called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission on Aging ("the Commission") at 10:08 a.m., on February 25, 2015, at 500 K Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Inspiration

Commissioner Brenda Williams presented an inspirational quote from Oprah Winfrey.

Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2015 Meeting of the Commission on Aging

The minutes of the January 28, 2015 meeting of the Commission on Aging were approved by the members of the Commission on Aging with one minor correction; Commissioner Wilson was left off the roster.

DCOA Update

Dr. Thompson thanked those who were able to come to the Performance Oversight Hearing. He gave condolences to Commissioner Wilson on the loss of his Mother-in Law. Dr. Thompson provided a recap of his Performance Oversight Hearing testimony, including transportation, home-delivered meals, intergenerational program with Jumpstart (informed Commissioners that they could do a site visit), Fraud Prevention, Club Memory, etc. He also discussed changing the message for DCOA's nutrition programs. He stated that in order to make better use of the

budget, DCOA should “focus on the vulnerable seniors.” Dr. Thompson also spoke briefly about possible topics for the Senior Symposium and told the Commissioners to submit their ideas to Darrell Jackson, Jr. Finally, Dr. Thompson informed the Commissioners about the Budget Oversight Hearing on April 23, 2015. He encouraged the members of the Commission on Aging to attend the scheduled hearing, the message of the hearing should be maintain what they budget we currently have. A brief period of questions and answers ensued.

Nutrition Program Update

Jackie Geralnick gave an update on the Home-Delivered Meals program; they are accepting no new enrollments. She also reported that, in order to ensure that those recipients who really need the meals receive them, DCOA’s standards need to be realigned and customers will need to be reassessed. She reported that a Nutrition Taskforce has been established, and that other programs such as Meals on Wheels, will need to be recommended, and people need to report others who they believe are receiving meals when they should not be.

D.C. Age Friendly City Update

Ms. Kohn reported on the status of the D.C. Age Friendly City initiative. She reviewed the progress of this initiative, to date. She also encouraged Commissioners to attend training to become an Age-Friendly Speaker; the next training will be held on March 14, 2015.

Committee Reports

Health and Wellness

Commissioner Swanda provided literature for the “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) special enrollment period (SEP) for individuals and families who did not have health coverage in 2014 and are subject to the fee or “shared responsibility payment” when they file their 2014 taxes in states which use Federally-facilitated Marketplaces (FEM).”

Education and Employment

Commissioner Willoughby did not have a report but is looking at the strategic plan and would like to listen to stakeholders in the community. She also asked for the help of other Commissioners.

Governance

Commissioner McCoy recommended that all Commissioners go to the Mayor’s last budget forum at Anacostia on Saturday, February 28, 2015 and contribute recommendations in regards to seniors.

Ward Reports

- Ward 8

Commissioner Hair reported that she is working with others to establish a senior village in Ward 8. She stressed the importance of networking and thanked Commissioner Janet Heisse for her assistance.

Other Matters

Chairperson Thomas stated that she will be arranging meetings with Councilmembers and that she will invite the appropriate Commissioners to join her when she meets with Councilmembers in their respective wards..

Adjournment

Upon motion and unanimous approval by the members of the Commission on Aging, the February 25, 2015 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

These minutes were recorded by Tanya Reid, Executive Assistant, D.C. Office on Aging, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on March 25, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,



Deborah M. Royster
General Counsel
District of Columbia Office on Aging