

**District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, June 27, 2018**

Attendance

Commissioners: Carolyn Nicholas, Chairwoman; Guleford Bobo, Vice Chairman; Charles Hicks; Barbara Lee; Grace Lewis; Marguerite Pridgen; Alice Love; Constance Woody

Ex-Officio Members: David Quick (DCPL); Veronica Longstreth (DOH);

Members of the Public: Julia Irving (OIG); Gail Kohn (AFC); K. Brisbane (Seniors Speaking Out and Up)

D.C. Office on Aging (DCOA) Staff Present: Garret King, Chief of Staff; Tanya Reid, Administrative Support Manager

I. Call to Order

Carolyn Nicholas (Chairwoman) called the meeting to order at 10:16 am.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from the Commission's May 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections.

III. Presentations

D.C. Office on Aging Update

Chief of Staff Garret King (COS) gave a brief update on DCOA events. He updated the Commission on the Senior Symposium; over 700 seniors were in attendance and asked the Commission for feedback. Overall the Commissioners felt the event was great; however, they recommended better parking. They recommended DCOA asking to use Armstrong's parking lot, if the event is held at Dunbar next year. He told the Commission that Phyllis Jones was the new Ms. Senior DC. He informed the seniors of upcoming events: DPR's senior picnic on June 28th at Oxon Run Park and DCOA's first senior pride event, a party for LGBTQ seniors, on June 29th at the Thurgood Marshall Center.

Chairwoman Nicholas asked about the final budget figures. The COS said it was about \$48,000,000, but it isn't completely ironed out with the Council. Chairwoman Nicholas also asked about subsidized housing. The COS responded that DCOA was given 10 vouchers, but the money is in the Housing Authority's budget. Housing Authority will work with DCOA to transition seniors from the subsidizing house list. Vice Chair Bobo asked how should he handle

questions regarding housing. The COS recommended connecting them to our Information, Referral, & Assistance team or the lead agency.

Gail Kohn, Age-Friendly City DC (AFC)

Ms. Kohn let the Commission know that she appreciates the Commissioners attendance at the Age-Friendly City Committee meetings. There are 14 committee meetings per month. Ms. Kohn would like the Commissioners to attend the July meetings because they are the last meetings before the material goes to the August 2nd Taskforce meeting at AARP. At the August 2nd meeting all of the updates for 2018 - 2023 strategic plan will be assembled and sent to the Mayor's office.

Ms. Kohn shared that there are three issues that generally come up with DC residents: Housing, Transportation, and Care Coordination.

Housing: Home Sharing – People across the city are living in homes they own, and want to stay in them, but are house poor. The idea is to possibly live with someone else regardless of age, etc. San Francisco is also looking at home sharing. They've had six "matches" in a year. There is a group called SilverNest that has had 40,000 matches across the country and has only had one problem case. The system works similar to online match making sites, because of the in-depth questions they ask when matching people.

Chairwoman Nicholas asked if the people who move in will be considered tenants, because if so that could pose a problem due to the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA). Gail says we should do a pilot to see if TOPA will cause a problem. Chairwoman Nicholas recommended having people who move in sign an agreement.

Vice Chairman Bobo informed Gail there is gentleman with an apartment complex in Ward 8 that is hoping to turn the complex into senior co-sharing units.

Gail recommended that the Commission speak with Janet Woodka from SilverNest. The Commission was interested in meeting Janet Woodka, and invited Ms. Kohn to bring Silver Nest to their July retreat.

Transportation: The government is working towards a one-call, one-click service with 311. The service would work to find the fastest, most cost effective transportation option. It would be nice to integrate the private sector.

Care Coordination: Figuring out how to follow up on all the things that doctors say, looking at medical bills, insurance, etc. The Villages are also looking at care coordination.

Julia Irving, Communications Specialist (OIG)

Ms. Irving joined the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) one year ago. Councilmember Brandon Todd created her position, because he believed the OIG did not do enough outreach; other agencies were getting calls about issues that fell under the OIG. The Office of the Inspector General is different than the Office of the Attorney General. The Attorney General is Karl

Racine; the Inspector General is Daniel Lucas. A way to remember the difference: the Office of the Attorney General are Attorneys who Advocate; the Office of the Inspector General Inspect, Investigate & evaluate. The OIG is the guardian of the District's money. They look for instances of fraud, waste, and/or abuse of funds.

Most people think of the OIG has people who come to arrest you; however, that is only 25% of what they do, 75% is proactive. OIG houses a Medicaid Fraud Control unit. The Medicaid Fraud Control unit recovered \$88,000,000 in Medicaid fraud.

Trends that the OIG are seeing is dental fraud, medical bill issues, home health aids,

Dental Fraud: People generally only see the dentist 1 – 2 times a year, but some dentists are having patients come back every few months, for things that could have been fixed in the first visit.

Medical bills: If your dental or medical bills look a lot different than the services you received, call the OIG, they will go over your bill line by line and ensure that it is accurate.

Home Health Aids: The OIG recovered \$20,000,000 for home health aid from one tip that came from a neighbor. After the tip the OIG found that a home health aid had moved to Africa for over a year, but was still billing the District. The OIG investigated the home health aid company and uncovered other fraudulent activities.

Ms. Irving encouraged the Commission to call, visit, or file a complaint to the OIG if they have concerns. Some people like to remain anonymous; however, it prevents the OIG from asking follow up questions. She pointed out, if a person calls and leaves their name and contact information, their information will not be released in their report unless it is involved in a criminal case.

OIG does not have purview over MPD or the White House. There are caveats to DC Water and WMATA.

Commissioner Hicks asked the about OIG's caseload.

Ms. Irving explained the OIG's proactive approach - annually the OIG looks at their hotline, media, and the trends of concerns that people are voicing. From that information, they plan out 60% of their work for the upcoming fiscal year. The other 40% is any hot topics that come up in the media, Council requests, or Mayoral requests. They also meet monthly with the DC Auditor and BEGA, the OIG will sometimes have to do investigations for these entities.

Commissioner Hicks asked for confirmation if the OIG only investigates things involving District money. Ms. Irving said yes.

Chairwoman Nicholas asked if the OIG looked at systemic guardianship and conservatorship abuse. Ms. Irving said yes, they will look into it and may refer to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Commissioner Pridgen asked if the OIG gets any Ombudsman involved or works with independent entities to put out messaging or warnings about common abuses in terms of doctors overdoing things, etc. Ms. Irving thought it was good idea.

IV. 2018 Retreat

The Commission worked to iron out the details of their retreat.

V. 2018 Commission on Aging Goals Discussion

Chairwoman Nicholas asked what each of the Commissioners have done to try and accomplish one or more of the 12 goals.

Vice Chair Bobo responded that he's worked on Goal #2, Information & Education. He's been visible in the community and encouraged DCOA to be more visible in the community. He's seen DCOA out in the community a lot more.

Commissioner Hicks said the Commission needs to recommend to DCOA how to reach the "hidden" seniors. Chairwoman Nicholas says that goal #1 City-wide needs assessment would help with that.

A lengthy conversation ensued about outreach efforts.

VI. Committee Reports

Governance: Chairwoman Nicholas asked for a volunteer to chair for the governance committee. There were no volunteers.

Transportation: Commissioner Hicks stated the committee is trying to bring together seniors from across the wards to see what kind of transportation they'd like. Commissioner Hicks moved to have the Commission send a letter the Senior pageant organization to let them know that the Ms. Senior DC was a nice event, the contestants were excellent. The Commission voted unanimously.

Housing: Commissioner Pridgen stated there is a lot going on in the city. There is groundbreaking going on across the city for affordable housing. Commissioner Pridgen will share the list with Commission. She briefly talked about legislation going on, including TOPA, which gives tenants first right of refusal.

Information and Education: Chairwoman Nicholas asked for a Chair. Alice Love volunteered. Chairwoman Nicholas moved to change the name Education and Employment committee to the Employment committee. The Commission agreed unanimously.

Health and Wellness: Vice Chair Bobo stated that he and Commission Taylor visited the Washington Seniors Wellness Center for the participants meeting. The major issue was the temperature in their multipurpose room.

Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation: Chairwoman is working with a taskforce in the Office of the Attorney General to enforce the financial exploitation of vulnerable adults and elderly amendment act of 2016.

Chairwoman Nicholas reiterated that there should be a mini-commission in each ward. She informed the Commission that Ward 7 had a good meeting.

Commissioner Pridgen asked why there was a need for a mini commission if there is a citizen's advisory group. Chairwoman Nicholas encouraged Commissioner Pridgen to bring the issues from the citizen's advisory group.

Vice Chair Bobo shared that a member of the Ward 8 mini commission was 101 years old.

VII. Announcements

DOH Ex-Officio member Veronica Longstreth announced that DOH is now called DCHealth. Commissioner Hicks thanked DOH for always being at the meetings to listen.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

These minutes were recorded by Tanya Reid, Administrative Support Manager, Office on Aging, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on September 26, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tanya Reid
Administrative Support Manager
District of Columbia Office on Aging