

**District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, March 28, 2018**

Attendance

Commissioners: Carolyn Nicholas, Chairwoman; Guleford Bobo; Barbara Hair; Charles Hicks; Barbara Lee; Grace Lewis; Carolyn Matthews; Mary Taylor; Constance Woody

Ex-Officio Members: Mary Terrell (DOES); Cesar Barreto (DDOT)

Members of the Public: Katherine Rogers (DHCF); Ruth Pollard (Providence Hospital); Judith Collister (OAG); Kimberly Moore (Fitness Snob Studio); Booker Roary (MOTA)

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

I. Call to Order

Carolyn Nicholas (Chairwoman) called the meeting to order at approximately 10:15 a.m.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from the Commission's February 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved as they were.

III. Presentations

D.C. Office on Aging Update

Executive Director Laura Newland (Director) started her update by welcoming Barbara Lee to the Commission on Aging.

Director Newland informed the Commissioners that the Mayor released her budget; DCOA received a sizeable increase due to senior advocacy.

Mayor's Budget for Seniors:

- The Safe at Home program received \$4.5M increase; for DCOA this means 700 people will get home adaptations and 500 people will get security cameras. She reported that Safe at Home completed 1000 projects.
- Wards 5 and 8 received capital allocations; which includes funding for the expansion of the wellness centers in wards 5 and 8. In out years, in 2022, Ward 8 will receive capital allocations for a new site. The director reminded the Commissioners that currently, wellness centers have \$4M for refreshers and accessibility, and DCOA is hoping work will be completed by the end of FY18, if not, the funding will rollover into the next fiscal year

- \$2M for Transport DC - \$5 taxi cab rides and DCOA will be working together with the Department for Hired Vehicles to make sure it goes smoothly.
- Funding for 50 new housing units for low-income senior women through DHS
- DPR received \$35M in capital funds for the therapeutic recreation center in Ward 7. DCOA is working with DPR to create a caregiver center for unpaid caregivers at the recreation center. DCOA understands that caregivers are critical to keeping people in their homes and keeping communities together.
- Funding for landlords to subsidize elderly and disabled tenants

The director informed the Commissioners that she would be conducting four budget town hall meetings at the beginning of April.

Chairwoman asked about funding for the Office of the Attorney General (OAG); Director Newland was not familiar with OAG's budget.

Commissioner Bobo informed the director that Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center used to take seniors over the Ward 7 therapeutic center to use the pool. He would like the wellness centers to be able to use the pool. The director stated planning was beginning, so she would speak with DPR's director about it.

Commissioner Hicks commented that this is one of the times that the Commission and the director worked well together and it resulted in the boost of funds. He is honored to be a part of a team that made it happen. The director said the Commissioners are showing up, seniors are well represented, and the Mayor knows their priorities. What is reflected in the budget is a direct result of the Commission and seniors' advocacy.

Commissioner Lee asked for clarity about Model Cities. The director responded that they are receiving funds for expansion.

Commissioner Hicks announced that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission is doing a couple of things to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination. The kickoff is a breakfast event entitled, "I Was There," where seniors tell their stories from when Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. He thanked the director for partnering with him. He also invited the Commissioners to attend. Also, he is working on project entitled, "I Am Black History."

Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments

Roary Booker (MOTA) swore in Barbara Lee as a Commissioner of Ward 5.

Ruth Pollard from Providence Hospital

Ruth Pollard from Providence Hospital informed the Commission that in August 2017 Providence announced that it will be transforming its campus in the Brookland area of Northeast DC, which is approximately 30 to 33 acres, into a concept called a “Health Village.”

Despite the transformation, the hospital is not closing; it will remain operational except inpatient behavioral health and Obstetrics; however, general women’s health will remain open. Providence is part of the largest Catholic Health system in the United States, Ascension. Ascension has committed to a vibrant, sustainable presence in the District, hence the rightsizing of the hospital. Most people do not want to be in the hospital; it is a failure of the healthcare system if you have to be in the hospital for something that could have been handled outside of the hospital.

Providence is moving away from “sick care” and focusing on overall wellness. A smaller acute care hospital will anchor the health village. Providence released 15 of their 408 beds to Capital Care, a hospital and palliative care service. Currently, the hospital has 283 licensed beds; however, the utilization is about 100. They are developing a plan to stabilize a 100-bed hospital including emergency and specialty services. The campus would like to attract things complimentary to health, like a fitness or wellness center.

Providence has been engaging the community. They conducted a focus group at Model Cities, where the participants were asked, “what does a health village mean to you?” They found that health should be at the center, with a focus on things that keep people out of the hospital, have healthy food options, meeting space, affordable rental housing, adult and children daycare, etc.

Ruth committed to staying engaged with the Commission and will share updates as plans develop.

Ruth has toured several health villages across the country to get ideas for Providence’s health village.

Commissioner Hicks asked who does Providence project that they will be servicing 10 years from now and do they project the neighborhood will change that much? Ruth responded that seniors have double-digit growth, which means they are living longer. Also, millennial families with young children are moving into the neighborhood; they will need to serve them with things like virtual access to care. Providence will be prepared to serve multiple generations.

Commissioner Hicks believes that seniors are not doing well. Ruth believes everyone should have good health care regardless of your age, chronic condition, or sociodemographics. We need to be proactive, eat healthy, and partner with our providers.

Commissioner Lee asked if the village was taking place on the same campus as the hospital and will it affect the nursing home? Will it be across the street at the St. Vincent Building. Yes, it will be on the same campus of the hospital, but will not affect the nursing home. There were plans to sell the land to Buzzuto, but they pulled it back and will not sell it. They are holding on to that property for now.

Commissioner Bobo asked what impact will the April 19th new emergency ambulance policy have on the services the hospital provides. Ruth is not familiar with it, but the Emergency Center

is still on the list with DC to bring patients to the hospital except involuntary psych patients unless they have a medical condition first. Providence is not and has never been a trauma center.

Commissioner Nicholas asked if Providence gives out food baskets. In the past they have, but Ruth doesn't believe they do it now.

PACE presentation by Katherine Rogers from the Department of Healthcare Finance (DHCF)

Katherine informed the Commission that PACE stands for Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. It is implemented nationwide, in over 30 states, as a Medicaid option and a Medicare program.

- It primarily serves people that are dually eligible and enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid and blends the payment rate, which is unusual.
- Serves people who are 55 and older who meet nursing home level of care.
- It is community-based care; it is designed to be delivered where people live; services are rendered at a PACE site and at home.
- There is an interdisciplinary team that consists of all of the people who care for the individual including primary care physicians, nurses, family, etc. The coordination of care is stringent.

PACE started in the early 1970s in California, but it was formalized in the late 1990s. States can have more than one PACE program, but Maryland has one in Baltimore, and Virginia has seven sites; the closest to DC is in Alexandria. They tend to be limited in geography and size. Because of this DC has a great opportunity because it is not a big place. Most PACE sites serve between 150 to 200 people.

Based on Medicaid enrollment, DC is seeking one provider to start in wards 7 and 8. Legislation will happen in early April to give DHCF legal authority to operate the program.

DHCF has to set actuarially sound payment. They have engaged an actuary to set rates that will cover the full cost of treatment. DHCF pays the PACE organization capitation to coordinate and pay for services.

Fiscal Year 19's budget included funding to start enrollment in late FY19 or early FY20. They expect to enroll approximately fifteen people per month.

Commissioner Hair asked who will monitor the program in the long run. The first few years has enhanced monitoring. DHCF and the federal government will establish a long-term monitoring plan.

Commissioner Hicks asked why he should leave his program and go to PACE. It's community-based and in your home, and the integration of Medicaid and Medicare makes it easier not to have to deal with both programs.

IV. Election of New Vice Chair of the Commission

Chairwoman Nicholas reminded the Commission that Commissioner Buddy Moore had to resign due to health reasons. She asked for nominations. Commissioner Taylor nominated Commissioner Bobo. Commissioner Hicks moved to make Commissioner Bobo Vice Chair. The Commission approved unanimously. Commissioner Bobo is now Vice Chair.

V. Committee Reports

Chairwoman pointed out that the Commission does not have an Information and Education Committee. The committee will help inform and educate the community about what the Commission and DCOA are doing, along with other services that are available. Commissioner Hicks will be the temporary chair. Commissioner Hair will assist. Chairwoman corrected that Commissioner Taylor is the Chair of the transportation committee. Vice Chairman Bobo said he will chair the health and wellness committee since he has co-chaired the committee with former Commissioner Bobo.

VI. Ward Reports

Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 did not have reports.

Ward 6 - Commissioner Hicks shared that he had a conversation with CM Allen expressing that he wants to figure out a way for DCOA to better communicate with the councilmember's office.

Vice Chair Bobo shared that he attended a meeting for wards 2 and 3 that discussed the lack of senior wellness centers in Ward 3. The group expressed that they would like to have more Commissioners present.

Commissioner Matthews suggested that each ward have a senior office connected with the ANC and council to assist seniors with things like real property tax.

Chairwoman asked the Commissioners to set up a mini-commission for the different wards. Commissioner Matthews will start a mini-commission in Ward 1. Commissioner Hicks will check on the mini-commission in Ward 6. Commissioner Taylor will start one in Ward 7.

VII. Committee Reports

Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation: Mayor has included in the budget a prosecutor for elder abuse and financial exploitation. The Elder Abuse Prevention Committee will have its annual conference in August. The Montgomery County Crimes Against Seniors and Vulnerable Adults Unit will be presenting.

Transportation Committee: Commissioner Matthews talked to Christopher Grayton with Transport DC to see how they can expand transportation to seniors in DC. As long as seniors have the Connector Card with the VISA logo, you can schedule a pick-up with a DC Cab.

Chairwoman announced the CM Brandon Todd introduced legislation to do another needs assessment and a 10-year strategic plan.

VIII. Public Comment

Judge Mary Terrell, Department of Employment Services ex-officio member, updated the Commission that all Age-Friendly City domain meetings will be held in libraries. Gail Kohn should be able to share the list of the meetings. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Hair informed the Commission about a telephone scam involving DC Treasurer.

Kimberly Moore of Fitness Snobs Studio introduced herself and informed the Commission that the studio was there if there is ever a need for satellite space.

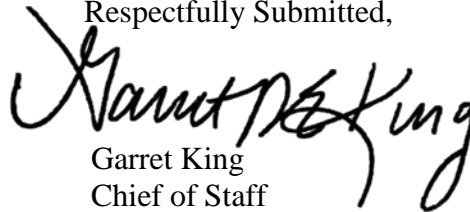
Judith Collister introduced herself as the Elder Abuse Specialist with the Office of the Attorney General and informed the Commission about what was happening in the OAG's office.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM.

These minutes were recorded by Garret King, Chief of Staff, Office on Aging, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on April 18, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,



Garret King
Chief of Staff
District of Columbia Office on Aging