

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

**Attendance**

**Commissioners:** Guleford Bobo, Interim Chairman; Carolyn Matthews, Interim Vice Chairwoman; Barbara Hair; Charles Hicks; Mary Taylor; Nancy Miranda; Hattie Pierce

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

**Members of the Public:** Hector Rodriguez (DC Council); Ms. Newkirk (President, Senior Citizen Police Academy); Richard Price (Treasurer, Senior Citizen Police Academy)

**D.C. Office on Aging (DCOA) Staff Present:** Laura Newland, Executive Director; Darlene Nowlin, Community Relations Specialist

**I. Call to Order**

Guleford Bob (Chairman) called the meeting to order.

**II. Review and Approval of Minutes**

The meeting minutes from the Commission's October 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved without corrections.

**III. Presentations**

**D.C. Office on Aging Update**

Director Laura Newland (Director) gave a couple of brief announcements. She informed the Commission that the Mayor's Annual Senior Holiday Celebration would be on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the DC Armory. She also informed the Commission that Committee on Housing and Community Development was marking up two bills on November 28, 2018. The first bill would make DCOA a department and a second bill on the strategic plan.

Interim Chairman Bobo informed the Director of two issues he heard while at a meeting where Councilmember Gray was the keynote speaker. The meeting dealt with health issues. He reported that someone made the suggestions that DCOA work with hospitals to get in the wellness centers because of the reductions in hospitals, and another person stated they were concerned that the home health aide organizations that were accused of embezzling funds are coming back to the community under different names. Regarding the first comment, the Director responded that the agency has to find a balance because DCOA is not a health care provider; there are agencies that are better with providing healthcare and regulating healthcare like Department of Healthcare Finance (DHCF) and DC Health. She pointed out that the grantee,

Mary's Center, in Wards 1 and 4 have a health background. DCOA will continue focusing on things like blood pressure, flu shots, and health fairs and increasing education and awareness programs around the demographics of the District. Regarding the second comment about providers being in the community under a different name, she commented that DHCF and DC Health is aware of it and are working to address those issues.

Interim Vice Chairwoman Matthews (Vice Chairwoman) pointed out that one of the issues with healthcare in Ward 1 – Mary's Center seniors think that the services are just for Hispanics; however, all seniors are welcomed. Commissioner Miranda stated that her mother was interpreter at Mary's Center; and informed the Commission that Mary's center also has an Amharic interpreter and doctor and that there are several Ethiopians who use the center. Vice Chairwoman Matthews believes Mary's Center can do a better job marketing to make sure they get a better mixed demographics.

Commissioner Hair asked the Director what changes will happen as a result of the name change. The Director responded that the legislation is focused on the name change and codifies DCOA's mission to include Elder Abuse Prevention as a part of outreach, but it will not affect the agency's substantive work. A lengthy conversation ensued amongst the commissioners about the importance of a name and how the agency is viewed among the community and other District agencies.

#### **IV. Elections**

The Interim Chairman asked for nominations. Commissioner Hicks nominated Interim Chairman Bobo, there were no other nominations. Commissioner Hicks moved acclamation to make interim Chairman Bobo the Chairman, Interim Vice Chairwoman Matthews second. Commissioner Hair nominated interim Vice Chairwoman Matthews as the Vice Chair. Commissioner Hicks moved to moved acclamation to make interim Vice Chairwoman Matthews the Vice Chairwoman. Both were voted unanimously.

#### **V. New Business**

The Commission voted to cancel December's meeting due to the holidays.

#### **VI. Committee Reports**

On behalf of the Health and Wellness Committee, the Chairman reported that Wards 2 and 3 are in the process of creating a virtual wellness program. They have been assisted by the Councilmembers and lead agencies in those wards. They have received over 600 comments from seniors in those wards regarding what seniors would like to see.

#### **VII. Ward Reports**

There were none.

#### **VIII. Public Comments**

The Chairman asked Ms. Newkirk, the incoming president of the Senior Citizen Police Academy, to give a brief overview of the Senior Citizen Police Academy. Ms. Newkirk informed the commission that she was not prepared to give an in-depth overview but did inform the Commission that the program started in 2005 with the goal to educate seniors and others in the community on ways to stay safe. The program is in the process of rebuilding. The Commissioners gave Ms. Newkirk some suggestions on how to rebuild the program.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM.

These minutes were recorded by Darlene Nowlin, Community Relations Specialist, Office on Aging, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on January 32, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darlene Nowlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Darlene Nowlin  
Community Relations Specialist  
District of Columbia Office on Aging