

District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Minutes of May 27, 2015 Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Romaine Thomas, Chairperson; Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby; Jacqueline C. Arguelles; George Arnstein; Don Colodny; Janet Heisse; Charles Hicks; Grace Lewis; Samuel McCoy; Carolyn Nicholas; Ron Swanda; Nathaniel Wilson; Constance Woody

Office on Aging Staff Present:

John Thompson; Darrell Jackson, Jr.; Antonette Dozier; Garret King; Chigosimuzor Nworu; Tanya Reid; Deborah Royster; Camile Williams

Guests Present: Sadaf Ahmad; Mrs. Sue Barnes; Ms. Barbara Cline; Lisa Jacobson; Katrina Polk; Jan May; Mr. Joseph Harris

Review and Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Thomas called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission on Aging (“the Commission”) at 10:10 a.m., on May 27, 2015, at the D.C. Office on Aging, 500 K Street, N.E.

Chairperson Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Commission on Aging. The members of the Commission on Aging reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes of the April 22, 2015 meeting of the Commission on Aging, with one minor change.

Presentation by Jan May, Executive Director, Legal Counsel for the Elderly

Mr. May reported on key activities of Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE), which provides free and discounted legal services to D.C. residents age 60 and older. He noted that LCE is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and that, since 1976, DCOA provided funds to LCE to support these legal services.

Mr. May reported on legislation that LCE is monitoring, including the Uniform ___ Act; medically ordered life sustaining treatment (MOLST); and transfer on death statute that will facilitate intergenerational transfer of property without the need for probate. He also reported on the judicial foreclosure process that is supervised by D.C. Superior Court and is now a more orderly, effective process. A brief period of questions and answers followed.

Office on Aging Update

Dr. Thompson provided an update on key DCOA activities. He reported that 940 participants attended the May 13, 2015 Fourth Annual Senior Symposium, and that Mayor Muriel Bowser and Mr. Edwin Walker [title], were keynote speakers at this event.

Dr. Thompson also stated that town hall meetings are being scheduled at DCOA senior wellness centers to identify needs and interests of participants. He reported that DCOA will co-sponsor the annual seniors picnic with the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation on June 11, 2015.

Finally, Dr. Thompson noted that DCOA recently received two awards from (1) the National Association for Area Agencies on Aging for the Seabury Connector Card; and (2) the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, for the work of the Elder Abuse Prevention Committee in implementing “Money Smart for Adults,” a consumer awareness initiative to identify and prevent financial exploitation, to seniors, family members caregivers, and social services professionals in the District of Columbia.

Discussion of June 24, 2015 Retreat of the Commission on Aging

The members of the Commission on Aging discussed plans for the June 24, 2015 retreat, which will be held at Providence Hospital in the Ross Auditorium.

Future Meetings

The members of the Commission on Aging unanimously agreed to not convene meetings during the months of July and August 2015.

Public Comments

Ms. Sadaf Ahmad reported that the D.C. chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association has a very productive collaboration with DCOA, and she stated that she would be pleased to make a formal presentation to the Commission on Aging at a later date.

Mr. Joseph Harris commented on the issue of low participation in senior programs across the city and the need for more community outreach to inform older adults of these community resources. He noted that this issue was discussed at a recent meeting of the Ward 5 mini-commission, and he presented notations from the minutes of that meeting for inclusion in the minutes of the May 27, 2015 meeting of the Commission on Aging.

Adjournment

Upon motion and unanimous approval by the members of the Commission on Aging, the May 27, 2015 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

These minutes were recorded by Deborah M. Royster, General Counsel, D.C. Office on Aging, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on [date].

Respectfully Submitted,

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

DRAFT