

District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Minutes of February 26, 2014 Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Romaine Thomas, Chairperson; Jacqueline Arguelles; Don Colodny; Barbara Hair; Ronald Swanda; Brenda Willoughby; Nathaniel Wilson; Constance Woody

DCOA Staff Present:

John Thompson, Executive Director; Gail Cohn; Deborah Royster; Camile Williams

Guests Present:

Sally White, Executive Director IONA Senior Services and Chair, Senior Advisory Coalition

Call to Order

Chairperson Thomas called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission on Aging (“the Commission”) at 10:15 a.m., February 26, 2014 at 500 K St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Inspiration

Chairperson Thomas provided the inspirational message and also thanked those in attendance for participating, notwithstanding the inclement weather conditions.

Presentations by Guest Speakers

Ms. Sally White, Executive Director of IONA Senior Services and Chair, Senior Advisory Coalition (SAC), reported on behalf of the Senior Advisory Coalition. She stated that the Senior Advisory Coalition has been effective in advocating on behalf of seniors, making valuable contributions to advocacy efforts that resulted in a \$7 million budget increase for DCOA to increase the number of social workers, eliminate wait lists for home delivered meals, and expand the availability of transportation services. She reported that SAC will continue to advocate for further increases to expand services to seniors in the District of Columbia. She also stated that SAC is advocating on other key issues such as the EPD Waiver program.

Ms. Gail Kohn, Age Friendly City Coordinator reported on the progress of the D.C. Age Friendly City Initiative. She reported that this important city-wide initiative is in the observation phase and will soon move into the planning phase. She stated that the first meeting of the Age Friendly City Task Force will be held on March 27, 2014, and that the first five domains of the Age Friendly City Initiative will be discussed. Ms. Kohn also stated that community

consultations are continuing, and that the need for housing options is a recurring theme in these discussions. She encouraged the commissioners to participate in the neighborhood walk-throughs and to also encourage the mini-commissions to participate in this process.

DCOA Update

Dr. Thompson reported on the DCOA white paper that discusses the need to revitalize and enhance DCOA senior wellness centers to meet the current and future needs of seniors in the District of Columbia. He reported that approximately \$16 to \$18 million is required to operate the facilities annually, excluding capital budget needs, and that this investment in senior health and wellness is necessary to keep seniors healthy and to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions. Dr. Thompson also reported that, as a result of recent budget increases, DCOA has purchased 39 additional busses to enhance transportation services available to seniors in the District of Columbia.

Committee Reports

- **Education and Employment:** Commissioner Willoughby asked for clarification of the role of the Education and Employment Committee, and the Commissioners discussed the Charter of the Education and Employment Committee that was approved in 2013.
- **Health and Wellness:** Commissioner Swanda reported that the Health and Wellness Committee is reviewing DCOA white paper on senior wellness centers, and he encouraged Commissioners interested in participating in this process to review and comment on this document.

Ward Reports

- **Ward 5:** Chairperson Thomas reported that she attended the DCOA Town Hall Meeting in Ward 5, and that the Ward 5 mini-commission continues to make progress with its efforts.
- **Ward 6:** Commissioner Colodny reported on a suspected incident of elder abuse in Ward 6, where a senior is receiving threatening telephone calls. It was agreed that this matter should be immediately reported to the police, if this has not already occurred.
- **Ward 8:** Commissioner Hair reported that the Ward 8 mini-commission will meet on March 10, 2014, and that Ms. Kohn will give a presentation on the D.C. Age Friendly City Initiative.

Adjournment

Upon motion and unanimous approval by the members of the Commission on Aging, the February 26, 2014 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at approximately 12:15 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 April 23, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah M. Royster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE ON AGING



Wednesday, February 26, 2014
10:00 a.m.
500 K Street, N.E.
1st Floor Conference Room

Commission on Aging
February 26, 2014 Meeting
Meeting Agenda

Meeting called by: Commission on Aging Type of meeting: Monthly Meeting

Attendees: Commission on Aging Commissioners, Mini Commission members; Members of the Public

Agenda Items/Topics Presenter

Call to Order	Chairperson Thomas
Inspiration	Chairperson Thomas
Review & Approve Minutes of January 30, 2014 Meeting	Commissioners
Office on Aging Update	John M. Thompson, Ph.D. FAAMA, Executive Director
Senior Advisory Coalition	Joe Williams, Sally White
Update on D.C. Age Friendly City Initiative	Gail Cohn, D.C. Age Friendly City Coordinator

Committee Reports:

- Housing – Commissioner Brenda T. Williams
- Health and Wellness – Vice Chair Ron Swanda
- Transportation – Commissioner Charles Hicks
- Education and Employment – Commissioner Brenda Willoughby
- Governance – Commissioner Samuel McCoy

Ward Reports Commissioners

New Business

Public Comment

Announcements

Adjournment