

**D.C. Commission on Aging
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 27, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

Commissioners Present

Guleford Bobo, Chairperson; Carolyn Matthews Vice Chairperson; Gloria Whitfield; JoAnne Hersh; Grace Lewis; Maria Wilson; Barbara Hair; Barbara Lee

DACL Staff Present

Garret King, Chief of Staff, Tanya Reid, Administrative Support Manager, Lance Holt, Staff Assistant

Ex-Officio Members Present

Nana Bailey, DDOT; Danilo Pelletiere, DHCD, Dr. Sheila Jones, DHS, Veronica Longstreth, DC Health, Amelia Siemson: Councilmember Bonds; Cecily Mendie, DPR, David Quick, DCPL

Guest Present

Cesar Barreto, DDOT; Samuel Brooks, DDOT; Veronica Ingram, Chair of Ward 4 Mini-Commission, Heather Foote, Age-Friendly City; Ronald King, DC Health

I. **Call to Order**

Chairperson Bobo called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. He began the meeting with a moment of silence.

II. **Review and Approval of Minutes**

December meeting minutes were approved.

III. **Presentations**

a. **Garret King, DACL**

DC Council announced the Performance Oversight Hearing dates. The public presents on February 26th and Government witness presents on March 15th. Tanya Reid will email information to the Commissioners for submitting testimony. Covid 19 Vaccinations for seniors are available; he encouraged the Commission to sign up for alerts.

b. **Samuel Brooks, DDOT**

Mr. Brooks provided an update on MoveDC, which is DDOT's plan that sets the 25-year vision for the District's transportation system. It is a federal requirement that must be updated regularly. DDOT conducted a survey to help them update the plan. Most of the survey's respondents were white and came from the central

part of the city. Another survey will launch in February 1st and close March 5th. DDOT is working with DCPS and wellness centers to help increase participation from Wards 5, 7, and 8.

c. **Ronald King, DC Health**

Mr. King stated there are two brands of vaccines: Pfizer and Moderna. There was initial hesitance from the public, but as more people get the vaccine the demand for vaccines has increased. The eastern part of the city and wards with larger populations of the African Americans and immigrants are affected by the virus at higher rates.

There are not enough vaccines due to poor planning from the previous administrations. On Wednesdays, the new vaccines are released to Wards 1, 5, 7, and 8. On Thursdays, new vaccines are released to other remaining wards whose death is not as high. People must make appointments to receive a vaccine. It is recommended that seniors have a younger person to register on the phone or on the computer.

Transportation services are available to help people get vaccinated.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Registering online is the best method to get an appointment and reaching out to primary care positions.

IV. **New Business**

- a. Vice Chairperson Matthews shared that in an Age Friendly DC meeting it was mentioned that more home health aides are needed. The Commission should assist with spreading the word.

It was also pointed out that the hourly wages increase is not sufficient for the type of work required. The turnover rate is high. The pay is normally \$15/hour but during COVID it is \$17/hr.

Commissioner Hersh suggested to have an incentive to get college credit /community credit.

V. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Housing:** Chairman Bobo wants to follow up on home sharing for seniors
- b. **Health & Wellness:** Bobo stated at the Public Safety meeting the Director of Behavioral Health pushed the importance of taking the vaccination. It is important because socialization is important for people's mental health.

He also mentioned the importance of continuing to distance even if vaccinated.

VI. **Ward Reports**

Ward 1: Vice Chair Matthews is concerned about the equity of the vaccines.

Ward 2: Commissioner Hersh received an email regarding college groups assisting seniors with registering for the vaccinations.

Ward 4: Commissioner Wilson that the Petworth Rec Ctr ribbon cutting happened. She's interested in joining the Housing and Exploitation committees.

Ward 8: Commissioner Hair thanked DACL for providing seniors who receives meals with the Beacon.

Chairman Bobo there will be opening a senior facility in March 2021.

VII. **Ex-Officio Updates**

Sheila Jones, DHS

DHS had to open another isolation and quarantine site. They no longer have the Quality Inn site.

Cecily Mendie, DPR

DPR is planning for a Platinum Year. DPR's Senior Services Division is so excited to share some of the things that we are working on for our 55+ population.

Programs that will be offered:

- Line Dance
- Fitness
- Quilting Instruction
- Jewelry Making Instruction
- Book Club- limited copies available
- Young at Art
- Platinum Strings Series Concert in the Park Pop Ups
- Platinum Planting Pop Ups
- Urban Gardening at Home
- Indoor Gardening at Home
- Repurposing Your Kitchen Containers
- Platinum Theater

VIII. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 pm

These minutes were recorded by Lance Holt, Staff Assistant, DC Department of Aging and Community Living, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on February 24, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lance Holt

Lance Holt
Staff Assistant
DC Department of Aging and Community Living