

**D.C. Commission on Aging
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 28, 2020
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; Nancy Miranda; Hattie Pierce

DACL Staff Present

Garret King, Chief of Staff, Tanya Reid, Executive Assistant, Lance Holt, Staff Assistant

Ex-Officio Members Present

Vivian Guerra, DDOT; Amelia Siemson, from Councilmember Bonds Office; Danilo Pelletiere, DHCD, David Quick, DCPL; Mary Terrell, DOES; Dr. Sheila Jones, DHS

Guest Present

LaWanda Jones, DOEE

- I. **Call to Order**
Chairperson Bobo called the meeting to order at 10:08 am. He began the meeting with a moment of silence.
- II. **Review and Approval of Minutes**
Both July's and September's meeting minutes were approved with one correction each.
- III. **Presentations**
 - a. **Garret King, DACL**
No major update. DACL is working on finalizing the budget. Chairman Bobo wanted a flier for the QMB program. Chief of Staff Garret King recommended seniors reach out to DACL and speak with a State Health Insurance Program counselor.
 - b. **LaWanda Jones, Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE)**
LaWanda Jones, gave an overview of several programs offered through the DOEE. Seniors who receive SSI can automatically receive weatherization assistance and the emergency mechanical system program regardless of the household income.

Through *the Emergency Mechanical System* program DOEE will repair or replace hot water tanks, furnace, central AC units, heating systems and gas only stoves.

Lead Reduction: program mainly targets household where children 5 and under reside, and the houses were generally built 1970s or earlier. The income guideline is a little higher than the weatherization income guideline, it is based on household income.

Weatherization Assistance Program: energy efficiency measures (air sealing, insulation, windows, doors, attic, crawl space, etc.) measures are identified through an energy audit.

CRIAC: provides a monthly discount on DC Water Bill and residents can get a one-time payment for a DC water bill until January 1st. Funds are limited, so District residents should call as soon as possible. Residents can apply online at <https://doee.dc.gov/service/criacrelief>

IV. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Chairperson Bobo and Vice Chairperson Matthews were reelected with a unanimous vote.

V. **New Business**

Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays the Commission voted to move the normal Commission on Aging meeting one week earlier; November 18th and December 16th.

VI. **Ex-Officio Update**

- a. Amelia Siemson – mentioned that there would be two upcoming hearings before Council. October 30th – 23-338 Evictions Records Ceiling Authority Amendment Act and November 9th – 23-873 and 23-972 Rent Stabilization/Control and Hardship petitions for landlords
- b. Vivian Guerra – the long-range transportation plan is updated every four to five years, especially would like to hear from seniors. There is more information on DDOT's website, www.wemovedc.org. They've received a lot of feedback from the younger population so feedback from seniors are needed. Feedback can be sent to movedc@dc.gov or phone 202-599-7371.

The circulator expansion for Ward 7, different routes are being proposed.

- c. David Quick – Central Library is officially reopened. Fifteen libraries are open for limited services.
- d. Danilo Pelletiere – DHCD is currently focused on housing stability and eviction. DHCD and DHHS has rental assistance available for extremely low-income or just below median income households. Emergency Rental Assistance program and COVID Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) which is federally funded. Single Family Rehab Program is accepting application, the program is only doing roof repair (up to \$20,000) and significant accessibility improvements (up to \$30,000). There are several requirements needed to qualify for the program. DCHFA has the Mortgage Assistance Program to assist people who need help with their mortgage.
- e. Judge Mary Terrell – reminded the Commissioners about the Age Friendly Long-Term Healthcare meetings for ages 50+ looking for a job pathway into the health profession.
- f. Dr. Jones – DHS has Pandemic Emergency Program Medically Vulnerable (PEPV) for persons 55+. This is a program with the intent to bring people who are immunocompromised or have medical vulnerabilities to 3 sites that operate using an outpatient model. The three sites are the Holiday Inn located at 1501 Rhode Island Ave NW; the Arboretum hotel located at 1917 Bladensburg Rd NE; and the Fairfield Inn located at 2305 New York Ave. NE.

VII. **Ward Reports**

- a. Ward 1 – Vice Chair Matthews needed clarity on DPR pool usage so Vice Chair Matthews can share with Michelle Singleton at Bernice Fonteneau.
- b. Ward 2 – Commissioner Miranda stated Vida Senior Center received a grant for iPads.
- c. Ward 4 – Commissioner Wilson asked if there was a confidentiality agreement regarding abuse. Garret mentioned if someone calls into the agency your report will be confidential.
- d. Ward 5 – Commissioner Lee mentioned that residents in Ward 5 put out a flier offering to pick up the ballots of seniors that have a disability, cannot get out of their homes, and those who are leery due to COVID and take the ballots to the Board of Elections drop box.
- e. Ward 8 – Chairperson Bobo stated that Board of Elections will bring ballot boxes to senior buildings for three hours, along with drop off ballots on Election Day. He also mentioned that DOH are turning senior buildings into Corona virus testing sites so seniors will not have to leave the building.

VIII. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:24am

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 November 18, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lance Holt

/s/ Lance Holt

Staff Assistant

DC Department of Aging and Community Living