

**Commonwealth Council on Aging**

**Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services  
1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100  
Henrico, VA 23229**

**August 11, 2020  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**Electronic Meeting**

***Due to the active state of emergency, this meeting is being held electronically  
pursuant to Item 4-0.01 of the Appropriation Act.***

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Present**

David Broder  
Harvey Chambers  
Jennifer Disano  
Amy Duncan  
Joni Goldwasser  
Carter Harrison  
Diana Paguaga  
Debbie Preston  
Kathryn Reid  
Tina Savla  
Beverley Soble  
Michael Wampler  
Jay White  
Roland Winston  
Erica Wood  
Kathryn Hayfield, Ex-Officio  
Deborah Silverman, Ex-Officio  
Terry Smith, Ex-Officio

**Absent**

Deborah Davidson  
Tresserlyn Kelly  
Tara Davis-Ragland, Ex-Officio

**Staff**

Charlotte Arbogast  
Marcia DuBois  
Betsy McElfresh  
David MacKenzie  
Elizabeth Patacca  
David Rhodenhiser  
Cecily Slasor

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held electronically.

### **Welcome, Roll Call and Introduction of New Members**

#### **Beverley Soble, Chair**

Charlotte Arbogast welcomed members and provided instructions for the Zoom meeting. She confirmed that DARS was in compliance with the legal requirements for conducting an electronic meeting during a state of emergency. Chair Beverley Soble called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed members. She noted that this electronic meeting has been scheduled as a working meeting for the Council and is considered the make-up meeting for the March meeting that was canceled due to the pandemic. Chair Soble stated that since Council's last meeting, Veronica Williams has resigned. In accordance with the by-laws, as Vice-Chair, Beverley Soble has assumed the role of Chair. She also asked members to join her in thanking Veronica Williams for her time on the Council and her time as Chair. Beverley Soble also noted that there are five (5) new members to the Council. Members introduced themselves as staff conducted the roll call. A quorum was established.

### **Review Proposed Agenda**

#### ***Proposed Action: Approve Proposed Agenda (Roll Call)***

#### **Beverley Soble**

Beverley Soble asked if members had a chance to review the agenda, and if there were any additions or a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Joni Goldwasser made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kathryn Reid.

Roland Winston made a substitute motion to add to the agenda a reconsideration of the 2019 Annual Report and a discussion on a Council Code requirement for an annual report to the General Assembly. The substitute motion was seconded by Carter Harrison.

For the substitute motion to add two items to the agenda:

- Yay/yes votes totaled 15: David Broder, Harvey Chambers, Jennifer Disano, Amy Duncan, Joni Goldwasser, Carter Harrison, Diana Paguaga, Debbie Preston, Kathryn Reid, Tina Savla, Beverley Soble, Michael Wampler, Jay White, Roland Winston, and Erica Wood.
- Nay/no votes and abstentions totaled 0.

The substitute motion passed. The two items were added to the proposed agenda under New Business.

Carter Harrison made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Roland Winston seconded the motion.

For the motion to adopt the amended agenda:

- Yay/yes votes totaled 15: David Broder, Harvey Chambers, Jennifer Disano, Amy Duncan, Joni Goldwasser, Carter Harrison, Diana Paguaga, Debbie Preston, Kathryn Reid, Tina Savla, Beverley Soble, Michael Wampler, Jay White, Roland Winston, and Erica Wood.
- Nay/no votes and abstentions totaled 0.

The motion passed. The amended agenda was adopted.

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### **Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

#### **Kathryn Reid, Ph.D., Secretary**

Secretary Kathryn Reid stated that the June meeting minutes were distributed to members. Kathryn Reid asked if members had reviewed the meeting minutes and if any corrections were needed. Kathryn Reid thanked Cecily Slasor and Charlotte Arbogast for their work on the minutes. Roland Winston made a motion to approve the minutes. Erica Wood seconded the motion.

For the motion to adopt the amended agenda:

- Yay/yes votes totaled 15: David Broder, Harvey Chambers, Jennifer Disano, Amy Duncan, Joni Goldwasser, Carter Harrison, Diana Paguaga, Debbie Preston, Kathryn Reid, Tina Savla, Beverley Soble, Michael Wampler, Jay White, Roland Winston, and Erica Wood.
- Nay/no votes and abstentions totaled 0.

The motion passed. The minutes were adopted.

### **Public Comment Period**

#### **Charlotte Arbogast, Council Staff**

Charlotte Arbogast reported that no public comments received.

### **Vice Chair Election**

#### ***Proposed Action: Elect a Vice-Chair (Roll Call)***

#### **Council Members**

Beverley Soble again reminded members that Veronica Williams, who had been serving as the Chair of the Council, has resigned. In accordance with the by-laws, the Vice-Chair assumes the role of Chair. She thanked Veronica Williams for her years on the Council and time as Chair.

Beverley Soble noted the Council now needs to conduct an election for a new Vice-Chair to finish the remainder of the term, ending in spring 2021. She opened the floor for nominations. Any member may bring forth a nomination, but the nominee must consent to the nomination.

Erica Wood nominated Kathryn Reid for the position of Vice-Chair. Kathryn Reid consented to the nomination. Jennifer Disano nominated Erica Wood for the position of Vice-Chair. Erica Wood declined the nomination. With no other nominations, the floor was closed.

For the election of Kathryn Reid as Vice-Chair:

- Yay/yes votes totaled 14: Harvey Chambers, Jennifer Disano, Amy Duncan, Joni Goldwasser, Carter Harrison, Diana Paguaga, Debbie Preston, Kathryn Reid, Tina Savla, Beverley Soble, Michael Wampler, Jay White, Roland Winston, and Erica Wood.
- Nay/no votes and abstentions totaled 0.

Kathryn Reid was elected Vice-Chair.

Since Kathryn Reid had previously served as Secretary, Beverley Soble noted there was an opening for Secretary. In accordance with the bylaws, Beverley Soble put forward Joni Goldwasser for confirmation by the Council. Joni Goldwasser accepted the nomination.

For the confirmation of Joni Goldwasser as Secretary for the remainder of the term:

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- Yay/yes votes totaled 14: Harvey Chambers, Jennifer Disano, Amy Duncan, Joni Goldwasser, Carter Harrison, Diana Paguaga, Debbie Preston, Kathryn Reid, Tina Savla, Beverley Soble, Michael Wampler, Jay White, Roland Winston, and Erica Wood.
- Nay/no votes and abstentions totaled 0.

Joni Goldwasser was confirmed as Secretary.

### **2020 Best Practices Awards Report**

**Diana Paguaga, Committee Member**

**Kathryn Reid, Committee Member**

Diana Paguaga pointed out several handouts regarding the 2020 Best Practices Awards. Members received a copy of the Press Release announcing the Best Practices Awards, a summary of the winning organizations, and several news articles. Diana Paguaga provided a report on the Committee's 2020 activities.

The 2020 Best Practices Committee included Dr. Richard Lindsay as Chair, Kathryn Reid, Diana Paguaga, David Farnum and Vernon Wildy. This was the last year to serve before terms ended for Dr. Lindsay, Mr. Farnum and Mr. Wildy. Diana Paguaga thank them for their combined years of service.

The Best Practices Committee met on June 26 after having to delay the previously scheduled March meeting. The Committee received 20 total applications, making the awards very competitive.

The committee selected the following winning programs:

- 1st place was awarded to Staples for Seniors and Fido's Pantry, a program of New River Valley Agency on Aging (AAA) which offers food assistance to homebound seniors and their cats or dogs
- 2nd place was awarded to Jimmy's Pet Pals, a companion pet program developed at Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital to help patients with dementia have a better experience while hospitalized
- 3rd place was awarded to two organizations. The first is the Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA) Addiction and Recovery Initiative to deliver drug deactivation kits for older adults in the community to safely dispose of medications
- The other 3rd place winner was the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Volunteer Solutions which created the Helping Hands Program to de-clutter, organize, and perform intensive yard work for older adults and adults with disabilities to allow for them to age in place safely and with dignity
- Honorable Mentions went to:
  - Longevity Project for a Greater Richmond for its Housing Stability Learning Labs
  - Senior Connections-Capital Area Agency on Aging for its Ride Connection Program
  - Central VA Alliance for Community Living for its TAKE CHARGE: Care Transitions Intervention

In lieu of onsite recognition ceremonies, as is usually done, the Committee is working with DARS staff to arrange a webinar to highlight the winning programs. The webinar will be held on Thursday September 24 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. The Committee would appreciate a high turnout from Council members so hope you are able to join the webinar. A webinar invitation will be sent to all Council members soon and we would also encourage you to share the invitation with your networks. The

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webinar will also be recorded and posted on the DARS YouTube page and will be linked to the DARS website.

The Council is grateful to again have Dominion Energy's support for the Best Practices Awards.

Kathryn Reid thanked the Committee members for their work and recognized the great work of the Committee and the winning programs.

### **Committee Memberships Status and Sign-Ups**

*Proposed Action: Adopt 2020 Committee Memberships*

*(Roll Call Vote)*

#### **Charlotte Arbogast**

Beverley Soble directed members' attention to the handouts regarding the Committees. As outlined in the bylaws, the Chair appoints the members to the committees. However, Beverley Soble commented that she is encouraging discussion or insight from members regarding their preferences and hoped to have consensus on Committee memberships.

Beverley Soble provided an overview of the purposes of each Committee as outlined in the Council by-laws.

For the Legislative Committee:

- All current members indicated they would like to continue to serve on the Committee. Chair Soble asked is there anyone interested in joining the Legislative Committee.
- David Broder was recommended by Erica Wood to serve on the committee. David Broder had to leave the meeting early so staff will contact him to see if he is interested in serving on the committee.
- Jennifer Disano spoke to the new members and encouraged them to join this very well-run and impactful committee

For the Planning and Development Committee:

- Joni Goldwasser indicated that she would like to step down from the Committee.
- Harvey Chambers, Amy Duncan, and Harvey Chambers indicated they would like to join the Committee.

For the Best Practices Committee:

- Jennifer Disano and Tina Savla indicated they would like to join the Committee.

For the Executive Committee:

- Roland Winston indicated he would like to step down from the Committee.
- Jay White indicated he would like to join the Committee.

Hearing no objections to the Committee memberships, Beverley Soble confirmed the Committee appointments for the State Fiscal Year 2021. For any additional Committee vacancies, Beverley Soble may be reaching out to members individually for interest.

### **Update on the Bylaws Committee**

**Beverley Soble**

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Beverley Soble reminded members that a Bylaws Committee has been formed. The Bylaws Committee includes Amy Duncan, Tresserlyn Kelly, and Beverley Soble. The Committee will meet on August 28 to review and discuss the bylaws. The Committee hopes to identify recommendations for the Council to review at the upcoming September Council meeting, and as stipulated in the bylaws, then vote on at the December Council meeting.

### **Update on the Legislative Committee**

#### **Erica Wood, Committee Chair**

Erica Wood provided an update to the Council on the planned Legislative Committee activities for 2020. Legislative Committee will meet on August 20 and kindly requests any recommendation ideas from the full Council be submitted to Erica Wood and Charlotte Arbogast by August 13.

Erica Wood presented a draft letter for consideration by the Council. The letter includes recommendations for the upcoming August Special Session of the General Assembly. The letter would be sent to Governor Northam, Delegate Torian, Senator Howell, and Secretary Carey. The letter includes recommendations for restoring funding for Medicaid dental benefits and the Virginia Center on Aging. The letter also recommended that funding for aging services be increased, or at a minimum, maintained.

There was a brief discussion about a recommendation for a Council Code requirement for an annual report to the General Assembly. Erica Wood reported that this item is going to be considered by the Legislative Committee on August 20.

Carter Harrison wanted the Council to consider a recommendation for restoring the funding for the dementia case management.

Jennifer Disano made a motion to adopt the letter with the inclusion of dementia case management. Kathryn Reid seconded the motion.

For the motion to send the amended letter:

- Yay/yes votes totaled 14: Harvey Chambers, Jennifer Disano, Amy Duncan, Joni Goldwasser, Carter Harrison, Diana Paguaga, Debbie Preston, Kathryn Reid, Tina Savla, Beverley Soble, Michael Wampler, Jay White, Roland Winston, and Erica Wood.
- Nay/no votes and abstentions totaled 0.

The motion passed. DARS staff will work with Carter Harrison and Erica Wood to finalize and send the letter.

### **Discussion of Future Agendas and Presentation Topics**

#### **Council Members**

Beverly Soble brought up the idea of possibly moving the December meeting until January. She requested feedback on that idea.

Beverley Soble also reported that, for the September Council meeting, the following items are already planned:

- Discuss and adopt the Council 2020 Annual Report to include legislative recommendations;

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- Discussion of the proposed revisions to the bylaws;
- Scheduling of the 2021 Council meetings;
- An update on the platforms and work of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission and the Public Guardian and Conservator Advisory Board;
- Agency and division updates from DARS;
- An update on the outcomes of the August Special Session of the GA;
- A regulatory update; and
- An update on the work of the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and how they are responding to COVID-19 and changing landscape for aging services.

For the December meeting, the following agenda items are planned:

- Vote on the bylaws revisions;
- The plan for the 2021 Best Practices Committee; and
- Updates on the Governor's budget or other legislation, as available.

There was discussion on moving the meeting to January. Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages. Roland Winston indicated he disagreed with the idea of moving the Council meeting in January. It was decided that DARS staff Charlotte Arbogast will send a Doodle Poll to council members regarding a possible meeting date in January.

With regard to future meeting topics, also under consideration for the upcoming meetings is a presentation on the Virginia Center on Aging. Jay White requested the Council consider receiving a presentation on long-term care, resident rights, and isolation in light of COVID-19. Erica Wood indicated an interest in a presentation from the Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology.

### **NEW: Commissioner Hayfield Remarks**

Commissioner Hayfield introduced herself and apologized that she was late due to a conflict with an earlier meeting. She agreed that holding a meeting in January is a good idea, and applauded members for stepping up into new leadership roles. She also thanked Council members for all of the work that they do and commended them for a smooth and positive meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **Beverley Soble**

#### **NEW: Discussion on the 2019 Annual Report**

Roland Winston shared his interest in closing out the 2019 year with a formal adoption and filing of the 2019 draft Annual Report as presented to the Council in December. Members discussed the option to adopt the 2019 Annual Report without the legislative recommendations. Members noted that the new members have not had a chance to review the 2019 draft Annual Report.

Carter made a motion to adopt the 2019 Annual Report and file it with the Council reports. The motion was seconded by Roland Winston.

For the motion to adopt the 2019 Annual Report and file it with the Council reports:

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- Yay/yes votes totaled 14: Harvey Chambers, Jennifer Disano, Amy Duncan, Joni Goldwasser, Carter Harrison, Diana Paguaga, Debbie Preston, Kathryn Reid, Tina Savla, Beverley Soble, Michael Wampler, Jay White, Roland Winston, and Erica Wood.
- Nay/no votes and abstentions totaled 0.
- Erica Wood registered some reservations, but voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed. DARS staff will work with Beverley Soble to finalize the 2019 Annual Report and post it with the other Council Annual Reports.

### **NEW: Discussion on a Council Code Report Requirement**

After discussion during the meeting, Roland Winston requested to table this item pending its consideration by the Legislative Committee on August 20.

### **Open Council Discussion on Additional Activities**

#### **Council Members**

Beverley Soble commented that members have mentioned the possibility of pursuing grants, such as the Geriatric Training and Education grants under the Virginia Center on Aging. She also mentioned options for partnerships and letters of supports with other projects. There may be other grant opportunities and suggestions are welcome. Kathryn Reid indicated that she agrees with the Council seeking grants and other initiatives. Erica Wood commented that she would like to see the Council work on nutritional support and programs, a focus added a few years ago.

### **Announcements**

#### **Beverley Soble**

There were no announcements.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

#### **Beverley Soble**

The next full Council meeting date is September 16, 2020. It is currently planned as an electronic meeting, contingent on the continuing state of emergency as declared by the Governor. Without further items on the agenda, Beverley Soble adjourned the meeting at 11:55.

The website link to the recording of the electronic meeting is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtPJZj5J4ZM&t=6371s>.