

**COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL ON AGING
BEST PRACTICES AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**Electronic Meeting
March 17, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

*Due to the active state of emergency,
this is an electronic meeting pursuant to Item 4-0.01 of the 2020 Appropriation Act.*

Members Present: Jennifer Disano, Diana Paguaga, Kathryn Reid, J. Tina Savla, Beverley Soble (Ex-Officio), and Jay White

Staff Present: Charlotte Arbogast, Marcia DuBois, David Mackenzie, Betsy Civilette, Elizabeth Patacca, and Cecily Slasor

Welcome and Quorum Roll Call

Charlotte Arbogast, Staff

Charlotte Arbogast welcomed members and shared the meeting instructions. She noted that this is electronic meeting is being held in accordance with the state of emergency necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Charlotte Arbogast held a roll call of members for attendance and confirmed a quorum was present for the electronic meeting. Members introduced themselves.

Select/Confirm Best Practices Committee Chair

Proposed Action: Elect Chair (Roll Call Vote)

All Members

DARS staff Charlotte Arbogast reviewed the recent and current makeup of the Committee. Dr. Richard Lindsay, David Farnum and Vernon Wildy rotated off the Council last year. Dr. Lindsay previously served as Chair. Still on the Committee this year is Dr. Kathryn Reid and Diana Paguaga. Joining the committee this year are: Jennifer Disano, Dr. Tina Savla, and Dr. Jay White. Kathryn Reid volunteered to serve as Chair of the Committee. This was seconded by Diana Paguaga.

Motion to approve Kathryn Reid as Chair:

- Yay: Jennifer Disano, Diana Paguaga, Kathryn Reid, and J. Tina Savla,
- No vote recorded: Jay White.

The motion passed. Chair will serve as Chair.

Review/Approve Agenda

Proposed Action: Approve Agenda (Roll Call Vote)

Committee Chair

Jennifer Disano made a motion that the proposed agenda be approved. Diana Paguaga seconded the motion.

Motion to approve the agenda:

- Yay: Jennifer Disano, Diana Paguaga, Kathryn Reid, and J. Tina Savla,
- No vote recorded: Jay White.

The motion passed. The agenda was approved.

Review/Approve the June 26, 202 Meeting Minutes

Proposed Action: Approve Minutes (Roll Call Vote)

Committee Chair

Chair Kathryn Reid asked members to review the June 2020 minutes and asked if there were any corrections. Jennifer Disano moved that the June meeting minutes be approved as presented. Diana Paguaga seconded the motion.

Motion to approve the June 26, 2020 meeting minutes:

- Yay: Jennifer Disano, Diana Paguaga, Kathryn Reid, and J. Tina Savla,
- No vote recorded: Jay White.

The motion passed. The minutes were approved.

Review of Any Written Public Comment Received

Charlotte Arbogast

Chair Kathryn Reid asked if there were any public comments. Staff Charlotte Arbogast reported that there were no public comments.

Overview of the Process and Scoring Report

Committee Chair

Chair Kathryn Reid explained the Best Practices Awards process. Dominion Energy once again committed to sponsor the Best Practices Awards. The Awards will have \$5,000 for first place, \$3,000 for second place, and \$2,000 for third place. These financial awards are helpful for organizations and programs during normal years, but they will be instrumental this year as social services and programs continue dealing with the COVID-19 fall out. The Request for Nominations for this 2021 Best Practices Awards opened on Friday, January 29, 2021. DARS staff shared information about the Request for Nominations with the Council and within its network. Council members were also asked to share the Request for Nominations around and with their networks in order to get the word out as much as possible.

Nominations were due on March 8, 2021. The Best Practices Committee is meeting today to make award decisions.

Charlotte shared the scoring report with the members. She noted the nominations received and the scoring sincerely reflected the needs of older adults during the pandemic. She highlighted the top 10 programs and gave a brief explanation of each. This included:

1. **Stable Foundations for Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness** - Bay Aging
2. **Friends in Schools Helping (FISH)** - Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA)
3. **Medical House Calls** - Inova Health System
4. **The Art of Healthy Aging** - Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia (SSSEVA)
5. **Virtual Center for Active Adults*** - Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services and ServiceSource Inc.
6. **Home Repair Program** - Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens (AASC)
7. **Calling Angels: Friendly Telephone Reassurance** - Arlington Agency on Aging
8. **The Fairfax County Virtual Center for Active Adults*** - Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services and ServiceSource Inc.
9. **Benefits Enrollment Center** - Senior Connections, The Capitol Area Agency on Aging

10. Volunteer Solutions' Virtual Social Visitor (VSV) Program - Fairfax Agency on Aging

* Nominated twice.

Discussion and Determination of Winners

Proposed Action: Vote on Winners (Roll Call Vote)

Committee Members

Jennifer Disano commented that submissions were all excellent especially during this very difficult year. Chair Kathryn Reid mentioned that honorable mention will be given to certain programs and an acknowledgement will be sent to each. Diana Paguaga said that she was very impressed to see efforts to deal with depression, particularly due to COVID. There are so many people doing such great work.

Tina Savla commented that she is new to the committee and unsure of what the nature of the discussion should be. Kathryn Reid thanked Tina Savla and said the committee will review the scoring and discuss the nominees, the winners and honorable mention programs. Chair Kathryn Reid was pleased to see the program that dealt with older adult homelessness in the Bay Aging area. She also noted that the Home Repair program and Calling Angels program were closely scored.

Chair Kathryn Reid made a motion that the top three scored programs be accepted as first, second, and third place winners. Diana Paguaga agreed that the top 3 programs are deserving of the awards.

Jennifer Disano asked if it would be possible to provide honorable mention to the remaining programs in the top ten given the unique circumstances this year. Chair Kathryn Reid thanked Jennifer Disano for her comments and agreed that it was a commendable idea to provide honorable mention to the seven programs. Jennifer Disano suggested a friendly amendment to recognize the remaining programs for honorable mention with the two nominations for the Fairfax Virtual Center being combined as one honorable mention. Tina Savla praised the idea of providing honorable mentions as these programs do extraordinary work. Chair Kathryn Reid said she would accept that friendly amendment.

Jennifer Disano made a motion to accept the rankings of the winners and to provide honorable mention to the remaining programs. This was seconded by Jay White.

Second – Jay White

Motion to approve winners and honorable mentions:

- Yay: Jennifer Disano, Diana Paguaga, Kathryn Reid, J. Tina Savla, and Jay White.

The motion passed.

Award Ceremonies Discussion

Committee Members

Chair Kathryn Reid reported that DARS will again work to get the winners included in the Older Virginians Month Proclamation from the Governor's Office in May 2021. This needs to be submitted ASAP to the Governor's Office in order to meet the deadline. She noted that last year, due to COVID, DARS worked with the Committee members, the winning programs and Dominion Energy to host a virtual webinar event to recognize the winners.

Over the next several months, DARS staff and the Committee will also be monitoring for the potential to:

1. Host on-site, in-person recognition ceremonies (as has historically been done); and
2. Share information about the winners at the Governor's Conference on Aging. The Governor's Conference on Aging is going virtual over the week of May 24th.

Charlotte Arbogast also reported that:

1. The top three programs will receive a plaque.
2. The honorable mention programs will receive a certificate.
3. DARS staff will work on crafting a press release about the awards to feature the winners and honorable mentions.
4. Other avenues for distributing information about the awards includes: Virginia Center on Aging's Age in Action quarterly publications, DARS distribution list and social media, the upcoming Governor's Conference on Aging potential, and suggestions were made to reach out to the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties.

Members discussed other ways to help generate local press. Charlotte Arbogast stated that when DARS communications staff issue the press release, it will be sent to local press in area of programs. At the April Council on Aging meeting, the Committee will present the outcomes to the Council and can discuss how we the Council members can further support the effort to disseminate information further, particularly in their communities and congressional districts and with their networks.

Members then discussed ways to focus in on replication of programs. It was agreed that the Committee should reconvene this summer to look at:

1. The nomination form,
2. The timeline for the 2022 awards, which members commented was very tight, and
3. Enhancing dissemination of program information to encourage replication.

There were no further comments.

Meeting Adjournment

Committee Chair

Chair Kathryn Reid asked if there were any other comments about the scoring or the awards, any other discussion. There were no further comments, and she adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

The recording of this electronic meeting can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NpMJuFxrN0>.

Meeting handouts included: (1) proposed meeting agenda, (2) draft minutes from the June 26, 2020 meeting, (3) past winners 2007-2020 listing, (4) 2021 awards timeline, and (5) top 10 scored programs list.