

**District of Columbia Commission on Aging**  
**Minutes of May 22, 2013 Meeting**

**Commissioners Present:**

Romaine Thomas; Ron Swanda; Jacqueline Arguelles; Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby; Don Colodny; Barbara Hair; Charles Hicks; Samuel McCoy; Shirley Thorne; Nathaniel Wilson; Constance Woody

**DCOA Staff Present:**

Camille Williams; Deborah Royster; Veronica Butler; Antonette Dozier

**Guests Present:**

Mr. Joseph Harris; Ms. Ethel Ingram; Ms. Sue Barnes; Ms. Mary Morgan

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Romaine Thomas called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission on Aging (“the Commission”) at 10:12 a.m. May 22, 2013 at 500 K St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Chairperson Thomas requested a moment of silence and reflection, and also offered a brief opening prayer.

Chairperson Thomas reported that, due to technical problems, review and approval of the minutes of the April 24, 2013 meeting of the Commission on Aging will be deferred until the June 26, 2013 meeting.

Chairperson Thomas welcomed Commissioner Colodny and expressed appreciation for his presence and participation following his recent illness. Chairperson Thomas also welcomed Commissioner Barbara Hair to the Commission on Aging, and the members of the Commission also offered words of welcome and support to Commissioner Hair. Chairperson Thomas also welcomed the following commissioners of the Ward 5 mini-commission to the meeting: Mr. Joe Harris; Ms. Ethel Ingram; Ms. Sue Barnes; and Ms. Mary Morgan.

### **Office on Aging Update**

Camile Williams, Chief of Staff, reported that Dr. Thompson is on paternity leave with his wife, Christina, and their family due to the recent joyous arrival of their infant daughter, Kelly. In Dr. Thompson's absence, Ms. Williams provided the following summary of key activities of the Office on Aging (DCOA):

- May 10, 2013 Mayor's Age Friendly City Senior Symposium

Ms. Williams reported that the Mayor's Age Friendly City Senior Symposium had more than 500 registered guests, and that Mayor Gray attended, provided remarks, and commended the participants for their commitment to seniors in the District of Columbia. The Commissioners provided positive feedback on the symposium and noted that the 2013 symposium effectively leveraged the successes and lessons learned from DCOA's 2012 senior symposium. Ms. Williams reported that summary data from the May 10, 2013 Age Friendly City Senior Symposium should be available in approximately 6 weeks. She also reported that the Age Friendly City Coordinator will be hired in the near future and will begin working within approximately 30 days.

- DCOA Budget Hearings

Ms. Williams reported that DCOA's budget hearings were very well attended and publicized. She reported that Mayor Gray has designated an additional \$5.8 million to the DCOA budget if surplus funds become available. The Commissioners noted their appreciation for the support and participation of seniors, community organizations, and DCOA's senior services network providers in the budget process.

- Senior Village Request for Applications

Ms. Williams reported that DCOA has issued a Request for Applications (RFA) to develop senior villages in Ward 7 and Ward 8, which do not have operational senior villages at this time. She reported that, under the RFA, community stakeholders are eligible to receive grant funds to be used in the development and formation of senior villages to serve seniors in Ward 7 and Ward 8 of the District of Columbia.

- DCOA Transition Team

Ms. Williams reported that, in the first month of deployment of DCOA's transition team, 5 residents were transitioned from nursing homes to community living.

- Silver Alert Program

Deborah Royster reported that Mayor Gray reported at the May 10, 2013 Mayor's Age Friendly City Senior Symposium that the District of Columbia has launched a "Silver Alert" Program to provide a coordinated response to identify and locate missing seniors age 65 and older in the District of Columbia. She reported that, under Dr. Thompson's leadership, DCOA worked with the Metropolitan Police Department, the Department of Transportation, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and regional broadcasters to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines roles and responsibilities of each agency in the Silver Alert Program. She reported that the Silver Alert Program will be expanded later in 2013 to include persons under 65 years of age with disabilities.

### **Committee Reports**

Chairperson Thomas reported that the Commission on Aging received an award at the May 9, 2013 Community Awards luncheon sponsored by the Emmaus Services for the Aging. Chairperson Thomas reported that she attended the luncheon and received the award on behalf of the Commission on Aging. Chairperson Thomas also noted Dr. John Thompson's participation on the NBC Channel 4 community service program, "Viewpoint," and commended Dr. Thompson for his participation.

### **Transportation**

Commissioner Hicks reported that the Transportation Committee will meet prior to the next meeting of the Commission on Aging, and that the Transportation Committee continues to recruit members.

### **Governance**

Commissioner McCoy reported that the Governance Committee reviewed the Commission's operational guidelines for mini-commissions and concluded that the rules do not need to be updated at this time. Chairperson Thomas asked the Governance Committee to make a formal recommendation on this matter at the June 26, 2013 meeting of the Commission on Aging.

**Ward Reports**

- **Ward 6:** Commissioner Colodny reported that efforts continue to recruit members to serve on the Ward 6 mini-commission.
- **Ward 8:** Commissioner Thorne stated that there is a need for a senior village to serve seniors in Ward 8 of the District of Columbia.

The May 22, 2013 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at 11:44 AM.

Minutes recorded by Antonette Dozier and Deborah Royster, D.C. Office on Aging.

These minutes were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on June 26, 2013.