

**District of Columbia Commission on Aging**  
**Minutes of April 24, 2013 Meeting**

**Commissioners Present:**

Romaine Thomas; Ron Swanda; Jacqueline Arguelles; Alethea Campbell; Charles Hicks; Ruth Nadel; Brenda Williams; Nathaniel Wilson; Dwan Tai

**Guests Present:**

Ms. Ethel Ingram; Ms. Grayson; Ms. Stevens; Mr. Joe Harris

**DCOA Staff Present:**

Dr. John Thompson; Camile Williams; Deborah Royster; Veronica Butler; Antonette Dozier; Vadonia Mallory; Courtney Williams

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Romaine Thomas called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission on Aging (“the Commission”) at 10:10 a.m. April 24, 2013 at 500 K St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Commissioner Brenda Williams provided an inspirational message.

Chairperson Thomas presented the meeting agenda, which was unanimously approved by the members of the Commission.

The minutes of the March 23, 2013 meeting were approved with corrections noted.

**Office on Aging Update**

Dr. Thompson provided an update on DCOA programs and services, including the Talk Line for seniors who need social support; the Commodity Supplemental Food Program; the Senior Ambassadors Program; and the First Responder Training Program.

Dr. Thompson also reviewed DCOA’s budget presentation that will be made to the Council of the District of Columbia. The Commissioners discussed the need for additional funding to support key DCOA initiatives and acknowledged the efforts of community advocates to support the request for additional funding for DCOA programs and services.

Dr. Thompson reported that DCOA has hired eight social workers to assist with the transition of seniors from nursing homes back into their communities.

Dr. Thompson also discussed the May 10, 2013 Mayor's Age Friendly City Senior Symposium and urged all commissioners to attend this important community event.

### **Chair's Report**

Mrs. Thomas reported that she recently attended a luncheon sponsored by DCOA to honor centenarians living in the District of Columbia. She reported that she also attended a meeting convened by Councilmember McDuffie, who has established a senior advisory council in Ward 5.

Mrs. Thomas reported that she met with commissioners leading the committees that have been proposed for consideration. The Commission reviewed the proposed committee structure of the Commission on Aging and voted unanimously to approve the attached committee charters and committee chairpersons:

- Health and Wellness Committee; Co-Chairs: Commissioner Swanda
- Housing – Commissioner Brenda Williams
- Governance – Commissioner Samuel McCoy
- Education and Employment – Commissioner Tai

The Commission discussed the proposed charter for the Transportation Committee and deferred final approval of this document until after the commissioners have had a further opportunity to review this document.

### **Ward Reports**

- Ward 3: Commissioner Nadel suggested that all commissioners be provided with a copy of the IONA Resource Guide for seniors.
- Ward 4: Commissioner Wilson reported on community activities in Ward 4.
- Ward 7: Commissioner Woody had no report.
- Ward 1: Commissioner Arguelles had no report.

- Ward 6: Commissioner Colodny had no report
- Ward 6: Commissioner Hicks had no report
- Ward 4: Commissioner McCoy had no report.
- Ward 2: Commissioner Tai reported on community activities in Ward 2.
- Ward 6: Commissioner Swanda reported that he has met with all Ward 6 ANC commissioners to recruit members for a Ward 6 mini-commission.
- Ward 5: Commissioner Thomas reported that she met with the Ward 5 mini commissioners, and she also congratulated Mr. Joseph Harris on his work and accomplishments.
  
- Ward 4 Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby had no report.

**I. New Business**

Commissioner Hicks proposed that the Commission sponsor a public hearing on the needs of older men. After significant discussion, Commissioner Hicks withdrew this proposal.

The April 24, 2013 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. Minutes recorded by Antonette Dozier, D.C. Office on Aging.

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

# **D.C. Commission on Aging**

**Education and Employment Committee, first draft 3-27-13**

**Purpose: To assist the DC Commission on Aging in carrying out its duties described in D.C. Code Title 7, Chapter 5, Section 410, as related to Education and Employment.**

## **Goals:**

- **Interview individuals and/or participate in activities to determine the views of seniors residing in D.C. on matters related to education, employment and entrepreneurship for seniors.**
- **Consult with subject-matter specialists about senior services, concerns, coming needs, suggestions and outlook.**
- **Help the Commission become more aware of issues, needs, areas of concern, praise, opportunities or possible strategies.**
- **Whenever possible, develop recommendations on how education, employment or entrepreneurial opportunities could be maintained or improved, and forward them to the Commission.**
- **Connect with other organizations or groups interested in facilitating education, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for seniors.**

## **Recommendations:**

**Recommendations and communications may be forwarded to the Commission or staff for review and suggestion. The decision to adopt, approve or disapprove a recommendation or communication from a Committee will be made by the full Commission in a public meeting.**

## **Membership:**

**The Committee will be chaired by a member of the Commission appointed by the Chair of the Commission. Other Commissioners may become a member by contacting the Committee Chair. The Committee Chair may appoint as Committee members other individuals who are not Commissioners.**

**April 24, 2013 report by:**

**Dr. Dwan "Diane" Tai, Commissioner**

**Education Employment Committee  
with "mini-commission" or advisory members**

**CONTEXT:**

**Let us be reminded by Albert Einstein: the following selected quotations will provide a context for higher order thinking to allow solutions to current challenges to emerge:**

**"The significant problems we face can not be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." - Albert Einstein**

**"The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them." - Albert Einstein**

**"Problems cannot be solved at the same level of awareness that created them." - Albert Einstein**

**"Intellectuals solve problems; geniuses prevent them." - Albert Einstein**

**"Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." - Albert Einstein**

**"Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character." - Albert Einstein**

**"The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable receiving." - Albert Einstein**

**"Try not to be a person of success, but rather a person of virtue." - Albert Einstein**

**"Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value." - Albert Einstein**

**"Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts." - Albert Einstein**

## **D.C. Commission on Aging**

### **Charter: Governance Committee**

**Purpose:** Assist the Commission in carrying out the requirements of D.C. Code Section 7-504 et seq. and other applicable federal and local requirements pertaining to the governance and operation of the Commission on Aging.

- Goals:**
- To facilitate knowledge of and compliance with governing principles and requirements of the enabling legislation establishing the Commission on Aging, D.C. Code Section 7-504 et seq.
  - To facilitate knowledge of and compliance with ethics requirements that are applicable to the Commission on Aging.
  - To facilitate knowledge of and awareness of other applicable federal and District of Columbia legal and regulatory requirements that are of concern to seniors.
  - To ensure that the Commission on Aging adopts and maintains rules of procedure governing its activities.
  - To ensure that the Commission on Aging adopts and maintains rules of procedure governing the activities of mini-commissions.
  - To recommend committee structures and best practices that promote the efficient and effective operation of the Commission on Aging and the mini-commissions.
  - To consult with subject-matter experts about the above-referenced issues.
  - To make recommendations of qualified candidates for the position of Executive Director of the Office on Aging, whenever that position is vacant.
  - To review, comment, and make recommendations on proposed legislation, regulations, and policies on issues affecting the health, safety, and welfare of older persons.
  - To provide a continuing review of the activities of the Office on Aging and facilitate preparation of the Commission's annual report on this issue.

**Scope:** The Governance Charter is intended to serve the interests of seniors and other stakeholders by maintaining systems that may insure the highest levels of ethical standards, i.e., responsibility, integrity, and legal compliance. The upholding of this commitment is critical for the continued success of the Commission and also the Office on Aging. Governance may include oversight of ethics and conduct which sets forth substantive program expectations for senior needs and services.

## **D.C. Commission on Aging**

### **Charter; Committee on Health and Wellness**

**Purpose:** Assist the Commission in carrying out the duties described in D.C. Code Title 7, Chapter 5, Section 410, as related to health and wellness.

**Goals:**

- Interview individuals or participate in other forums to determine the views of older persons residing in D.C. on matters affecting their health and wellness;
- Consult with subject-matter experts about senior services and concerns;
- Make the Commission aware of issues or areas of concern or praise;
- Whenever possible, develop recommendations on how the health and wellness of D.C.'s seniors can be maintained or improved, and forward them to the Commission.
- Connect with other organizations interested in improving the health and wellness of seniors.

**Scope:** Areas within the scope of work for the Committee include, but are not limited to:

- The health and wellness programs, services and policies of the Department of Health, the D.C Department of Health Care Finance, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB);
- Medicare, Medicaid (except long-term-care housing), the D.C. Healthcare Alliance, COBRA, private and employer-provided insurance, the Ryan White Care Act and the D.C. Health Benefits Exchange;
- Specifically within the Office on Aging, the programs, facilities and operation of D.C.'s Senior Wellness Centers and the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC).

**Recommendations:** Recommendations and communications forwarded to the Commission should represent a consensus of Committee members. The decision to adopt, approve or disapprove a recommendation or communication from a Committee will be made by the full Commission in a public meeting.

**Membership:** The Committee will be chaired by a member of the Commission appointed by the Chair of the Commission. Other Commissioners may become a member by contacting the Committee Chair. The Committee Chair may appoint as Committee members other individuals who are not Commissioners.

**Meetings:** The Committee will meet at a time, day and venue determined by the Committee Chair. Meetings could be conducted electronically (e.g. email, internet, conference call). Public participation in Committee meetings is encouraged and should be routine.

March, 2013

**D.C. COMMISSION ON AGING  
CHARTER COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

**PURPOSE:** Assist the Commission on Aging in carrying out the duties in DC Code Title 7, Chapter 5, Section 410 as related to HOUSING

**GOALS:** Interview individuals or participate in other forums to determine The views of older persons residing in DC on matters affecting their housing requirements.

Consult with subject matter experts senior services and concerns.

Make the Commission aware of areas of concern or praise.

Whenever possible, develop recommendations on how HOUSING for DC seniors can be maintained or improved and then forward them to the Commission.

Develop partnerships and connect with organizations interested in Improving the housing needs of seniors.

**SCOPE:** Areas within the scope of work for the Committee include, but are not limited to:

Contact COA, DC Office of Planning, Deputy Director for Health and Human Services to determine existing plans for senior Housing and #metables expanding 3 to 5 years.

Contact private/public organizations, ie Enterprise, Neighborhood Investment Corp, Marshall Heights Economic Development Corp., AARP, and any other senior service network dedicated to providing housing information, or services that lead to adequate housing needs for seniors.

Develop FOCUS GROUPS to further expand advocacy efforts that will support senior housing issues. Use information from these groups to discover true impact of housing problems on senior population. Review policies regarding affordable housing, the selection process for seniors who need public housing. Determine if Walter Reed site may be used for seniors.

# D.C. Commission on Aging

Transportation Committee 4/23/2013

Purpose: To assist the DC Commission on Aging in carrying out its duties described in D.C. Code Title 7, Chapter 5, Section 410, as related to Education and Employment.

## Goals:

- Interview individuals and/ or participate in activities to determine the views of seniors residing in D.C. on matters related to education, employment and entrepreneurship for seniors.
- Consult with subject-matter specialists about senior services, concerns, coming needs, suggestions and outlook.
- Help the Commission become more aware of issues, needs, areas of concern, praise, opportunities or possible strategies.
- Whenever possible, develop recommendations on how education, employment or entrepreneurial opportunities could be maintained or improved, and forward them to the Commission.
- Connect with other organizations or groups interested in facilitating education, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for seniors.

## Recommendations:

Recommendations and communications may be forwarded to the Commission or staff for review and suggestion. The decision to adopt, approve or disapprove a recommendation or communication from a Committee will be made by the full Commission in a public meeting.

## Membership:

The Committee will be chaired by a member of the Commission appointed by the Chair of the Commission. Other Commissioners may become a member by contacting the Committee Chair. The Committee Chair may appoint as Committee members other individuals who are not Commissioners.