

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

When: Thursday, September 10, 2026 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Location:

Mark Center - Del Pepper Community Center
4850 Mark Center Drive – Alexandria VA 22311

Members Attending In-Person:

Co-Chairs Michael Schuster and DT Oliver; Vice Chair, Ana Rivas Beck; Alan Dinsmore; Councilman Canek Aguirre; Ginny Kalish; Jessica Lefevre; Jim Lindsay; Marshall Hespe; Michele McLaughlin; Victoria Rutson; and William Thomas Reeder

Members Attending Remotely With Approval From the Co-Chairs:

Coral Knehans; Jane M. King; Secretary, Kimberly Koch; and Tricia Rodgers

Members Excused:

Gerri Wallace, Richard Merritt

Members Unexcused:

None

Liaisons Present:

Ian Torrance, Police Department; Gaynelle Diaz, ARHA; Bob Eiffert, AHA; Juanita Balenger, St. Martins Senior Center; Pamela Guerra, Senior Center @ Charles Houston; Cheryl Elliott, Adult Day Services Center; Jan Macidull, Housing Affordability Advisory Committee

Guests Present:

Thomas Jordan Miles, Mrs. Miles, Katherine Austin; Lois Steele, Housing Committee; JeanAnn Mayhan, Public Health Advisory; Cedar Dvorin, VICAP Volunteer; Ray Biegun, Outreach Committee, Terry Lynch, NVAN

Staff Members Present:

Chris Moore, Ashley Johnson, Pam Austin, Division of Aging and Adult Services; Michael Briscoe, Lawrence Haye, Workforce Development Center

Call to Order Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm

Approval of agenda as is.

Approval of Thursday June 11, 2026 Minutes as is.

Swearing in of Officers

Councilman Aguirre swore in the COA Officers:

Michael Schuster, Co-Chair
DT Oliver, Co-Chair
Ana Rivas Beck, Vice Chair
Kim Koch, Secretary

Alexandria Police Department Liaison Report – Sgt. Ian Torrance

Sgt. Torrance discussed spam calls, especially related to Medicare Advantage products. He said the calls themselves may not be illegal. The Commissioners asked several questions about the activities of ICE, especially in the West end. Sgt. Torrance said that the Alexandria City Police Departments has no involvement in detaining non-citizens for immigration enforcement. He said the Alexandria Sheriff's Office has its own procedures for processing non-citizens for non-immigration-related offenses.

Special Presentation: Terri Lynch – The Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN): Still Making a Difference After 50 Years.

Terri gave a brief history of NVAN, which began 50 years ago. It is comprised of the five area agencies on aging in Northern Virginia (Alexandria City, and Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Loudoun Counties) and their commissions on aging. Each year, NVAN votes on a six-issue legislative and budget platform to advocate for in Richmond before the General Assembly. The process begins in April when NVAN participants suggest a range of issues to consider. NVAN's legislative committee then edits the list. NVAN participants then vote on their top five priorities for both legislation and the budget.

In July a final vote is taken, and the top three legislative, and top three budget items become the six NVAN Platform priorities for the next General Assembly session. Committees are formed to develop the background pieces for each item, and the presentations for the NVAN Legislative Breakfast with Northern Virginia delegates and senators, and their staff. This year, the NVAN Legislative Breakfast will be on October 9th at the Country Club of Fairfax.

DAAS Updates–Staff

Chris shared they recently onboarded the new transportation supervisor, Tammy Jones. They have not completed the hiring process for the adult day center, and hope to have that announcement soon.

They are also doing contracting work for both the senior centers as well as the senior taxi program. An announcement on the award will be forthcoming.

They are also looking to do a screening of the Mama Joe Project in Spring 2027, as a part of larger community-based awareness event. The project is a really good tool for awareness on dementia and Alzheimer's.

Michael shared additional context on the advocacy process for the NVAN platform and additional items for consideration as a part of the City's legislative package. As a part of the discussions he provided good background on the case for making Virginia a SSI (Supplemental Security Income) state. It's very difficult to get on the Medicaid in Virginia, because you have to, if you're on SSI, have to file a separate Medicaid application – however, you should be automatically qualified for Medicaid, but because we have a bifurcated system, you've got to apply separately for Medicaid. The proposal is to have just one seamless unified system where if you're on SSI, you don't have to then file a separate Medicaid application.

Discussion/Action Items

2025-2026 Annual Report

The Commission unanimously approved the draft annual report. DT will work with Chris and Ashley to complete the draft and to submit it by October 2nd.

NVAN Legislative Platform for Alexandria Legislative Package

Michael and Michele went through the six NVAN Platform priorities: Increasing the personal needs allowances for Auxiliary Grant and nursing facility residents; increasing nursing home transparency and promoting community advisory councils; ensuring family caregivers do not lose their SNAP and Medicaid benefits; increasing funding for area agencies on aging (AAAs); increasing funding for local long term care ombudsman programs; and the creation of a free certified nurse's training program through the Virginia Community College System.

The Commission approved unanimously the NVAN 2027 Legislative and Budget Platform.

Future Speakers

The following speakers and topics have been identified through the end of the calendar year:

Month	Speaker(s)/Organization	Topic
October	Alexandria Carroll, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, Complete Streets; Mike Doyle Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets	Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety
November	Delegate Kirk McPike	Preview of the 2027 General Assembly Session
December	Marc Barbieri, Office of Emergency Management	How Should Older Adults Prepare for Natural Disasters

Future topics for consideration include: a representative from the Economic Opportunities Commission to talk about their new community needs assessment this

year; a speaker from the new hospital and housing development on the West End and the plans for the senior population; and a representative from Dominion Energy to speak to how to prepare for power outages.

Committee Updates

Safe Discharge Ad Hoc Committee – Chair, Michelle McLaughlin

Michelle reported the committee met over the summer. The final document that we agreed on that we then turned over to the City office that deals with external communications who are going to work on it to ensure that it's keeping with all the current City policies. Once it is ready, the idea is to have it available for distribution and for commissioners to read it and ask questions.

Housing Committee - Co-Chairs, Michael Schuster and Lois Steele

The Housing Committee will meet on September 12th.

Outreach Committee – Co-Chairs, Marshall Hesper

The Committee meet on September 16th.

Economic Security and Civic Engagement – Chair, Jessica Lefevre

The Committee met last Thursday, Jessica introduced Lawrence, the new 50-plus Employment Training Specialist, and gave him some time to share a bit about himself.

Jim shared that he is continuing to foster and lead the Shark Tank project. The current Fall cohort has 20 participants. He shared a few success stories from past cohorts.

Jesica shared an update on food security initiatives in Alexandria targeting seniors.

Health/Dementia Friendly Committee – Co-Chairs, Tricia Rodgers and Ginny Kalish
Ginny and Tricia shared updates since their Committee's retreat and subsequent meeting. One area of interest for the Committee is the \$2,000 Medicaid dental cap that's been proposed.

They provided an update on the work the committee is doing with the George Mason University public health student related to the dental health research project and the upcoming interviews with older adults at targeted locations. The interviews are a data collection effort focused on resources and access to and barriers to care.

Their next meeting is September 24th. They are bringing in a speaker from RAFT to talk about what the organization does in regards to dementia support. The RAFT program provides direct intensive mental health services to older adults, trainings and consultations in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes, as well as to interested individuals and groups in the community.

Liaison Reports –

No verbal reports at this meeting. Liaisons submitted written reports.

Other Business

None

New Business

None

Public comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Alexandria Commission on Aging

Next Executive Committee (ExCo) Meeting

Date: Monday, September 28, 2026

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Next Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Speaker and Topic: Panel on Pedestrian and Bike Safety

Northern Virginia Network Meetings

NVAN Legislative Breakfast

Date: October 9, 2026

Time: 8:00-10:00 AM

Location: Country Club of Fairfax, Fairfax VA

NVAN Meeting Schedule

Meeting Schedule / Rotation of Chairmanship	
2026- 2027	
September 15, 2026	Arlington
November 17, 2026	Loudoun
January 19, 2027	Prince William
March 16, 2027	Alexandria
April 20, 2027	Legislative Brainstorming
May 18, 2027	Legislative Platform
July 20, 2027	Fairfax

COMMISSION OFFICERS: Michael Schuster, Co-Chair

DT Oliver, Co-Chair
Ana Rivas Beck, Vice Chair
Kim Koch, Secretary

The business of the Commission on Aging is largely conducted by its committees. ALL COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Please call the Division of Aging and Adult Services at 703.746.5999 for more information. In addition, the Commission has official liaisons with several other commissions, organizations or activities.

The City of Alexandria complies with the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). An individual with a disability who wishes to request a reasonable accommodation may contact the Division of Aging and Adult Services at 703.746.5999, email DAAS@alexandriava.gov

Visit the Division of Aging and Adult Services website for Commission on Aging agendas and minutes and other aging information: www.Alexandriava.gov/aging

The Alexandria Commission on Aging Racial Social Equity Committee
(as of June 01, 2021)

No one should be denied the opportunity to engage fully in our community.

We encourage people of different cultures, races, nationalities, immigration status, ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities, and religious affiliation

in Alexandria to be informed about and have access to the range of services

available in the City, and to be engaged in civic life.

We are committed to representing a diverse community that represents the rich heritage of our city. We are committed to ensuring older persons have access: to affordable housing, transportation, health care, broadband, nutrition services

and to opportunities for meaningful employment and related training.

Older adults and persons with serious medical conditions often experience various degrees of inequity, particularly in obtaining access to health care.

It is essential to support older persons, family caregivers, and direct care workers

since these residents face additional biases and hurdles.