

**SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION (SAC) MONTHLY MEETING**

**REMOTE WEBEX MEETING**

**DIAL IN: 469-210-7159 UNITED STATES TOLL (DALLAS)**

**MEETING NUMBER (ACCESS CODE): 187 120 5040**

**MEETING LINK:**

[**https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall/j.php?MTID=m18a2c944b193f75869433b2df4f44e42**](https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall/j.php?MTID=m18a2c944b193f75869433b2df4f44e42)

**MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021**

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Monday, April 26, 2021 **Convened:** 12:00 p.m. **Adjourned**: 1:19 pm

**Committee Members Present**: **Committee Members Absent**: **City of Dallas Staff Present:**

 Jan Hart Black, Chair Portia M. Cantrell (Dist. 2) Ana Camacho, Manager

 Carmen Arana (Dist. 1) Marilyn Daniels (Dist. 6) Jessica Galleshaw, Director

 Verna Mitchell (Dist. 3) Myckycle Hart, Caseworker

 Ola Allen (Dist. 4) **Guests** Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker

 Ja’net Huling (Dist. 5) Charles Cascio Aqwana Long, Manager

 VACANT (Dist. 7) Sharla Myers Barbara Martinez, City Attorney

 Debbie Austin (Dist. 8) Susan Williams Victoria Moe, Assistant & Chief of Staff Beverly White (Dist. 9) James Ramirez, Caseworker

 Jeri Baker (Dist. 10) Lupe Rios, Administrator

 Bill Gart (Dist.11)

 Zelene Lovitt (Dist.12)

 J. Peter Kline (Dist. 13)

 Sarah Wick (Dist. 14)

 **Call to Order**

Jan Hart Black, Chair, Senior Affairs Commission (SAC), called the monthly meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and conducted roll call to establish a quorum.

**No Public Comment**

**Approval of March 22, 2021 Minutes**

J. Peter Kline made a motion to approve the March 2021 minutes. Zelene Lovitt seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**AARP**

Charles Cascio, Associate State Director, Advocacy and Outreach, AARP Texas, provided a program and needs update.

AARP focuses on quality-of-life issues concerning older adults, age 50 and above. Key issues include health and financial security. AARP is an information resource and is currently focused on its vaccination campaign and getting to the hard-to-reach communities with information on how to register for vaccines and where to get vaccinations.

Since April of last year, AARP has been tracking five measures in every state: COVID -19 deaths, cases, personal protective equipment, staff changes and staff shortages. The number of deaths due to COVID in nursing homes and nursing home staff cases are the lowest they have been since the pandemic began. The number one issue for AARP in Texas is nursing home staff shortages. Mr. Cascio expressed his concern about breakthrough COVID cases in nursing homes where staff and patients have all been vaccinated. AARP is also focused on President Biden’s American Jobs Plan: Rebuilding America’s infrastructure. AARP is advocating for a $400 billion investment in Medicaid Home and Community-Based Care Services and a Caregivers tax credit.

Commissioner Black inquired about sticking points in the jobs bill as it relates to seniors and chance of compromise. Mr. Cascio stated that the price of the package is the biggest sticking point. A group of people from both parties in the House of Representatives called the “Problem Solvers” was created to help move legislation with compromises.

**Dallas Area Agency on Aging (DAAA)**

Sharla Myers, CEO, Community Council of Greater Dallas (CCGD), provided a program update on Access and Assistance Services for the senior population.

* Additional funding for income support received in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 for COVID-related expenses.
* DAAA distributedabout 350 gift cards for food and personal hygiene items through senior centers.
* Economic Mobility Program provides food, rent, mortgage, and utility assistance.
* Number of meals increased from one to three per day.
* DAAA repaired 340 homes in Dallas County in FY 2020
* DAAA provides home appliances including installation.
* Community Wellness Program: weekly calls to isolated clients and virtual evidence-based health management classes
* Educational tool kits are mailed to clients to manage chronic health conditions.
* Benefits Counseling Team is providing in-home vaccine registration assistance for homebound seniors.
* The Lyft provides free transportation services for seniors to vaccination sites.
* My Ride Dallas provides local transportation resources to callers.
* Congregate Meal Program has been discontinued and replaced with home-delivered meals.

Demand for food, medical bills, funeral expenses increased in 2020. DAAA is searching for private funding for major home repairs, especially plumbing. Due to the pandemic, DAAA is supplying toilet paper, masks, hand sanitizer, wipes, and diapers as well as other medical supplies and equipment. DAAA served 452 clients in FY 2020. Goal of DAAA: To keep seniors engaged, safe, and healthy. Seniors can call the Info and Referral Line for Senior Services and vaccine registration at 1-888-223-9509. Main Number: for Community Council is 214-871-5065; Extension 204 for Benefits Counseling and to register for vaccine. DAAA has been working with Thor Erickson, City of Dallas Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Department, to collaborate and provide home repair services.

 **City of Dallas Program Updates**

Aqwana Long, Project Manager, Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Department, presented an update on the Housing Preservation Programs:

* **Home Improvement and Preservation Program (HIPP)**

In FY 19/20, 58 percent of 577 applications received came from seniors, age 65 and older, for major rehab up to $50,000 or home reconstruction up to $160,000. Sixty percent of approved applications were seniors; 42 applications were approved, currently under construction, and in process of closing and completion.

 For FY 20/21, 67 percent of approved funding has been allocated for seniors. Out of 452 applicants, ten seniors have

 been approved. Fifty-five percent of applications received were from seniors. Fifty-nine percent of applications for seniors

 were approved. HIPP is closed now but will open for applications in September 2021.

* **Tenth Street Historic District Target Rehab Program**

Nine applications were received. Fifty-six percent of applicants were nine seniors. Approval is pending. Budget is $750,000. Each homeowner can receive up to $20,000 per address of exterior home repairs. Still receiving applications.

* **West Dallas Targeted Rehab Program**

Forty-seven percent of 99 applicants were seniors. Budget is two million. Each address can receive up to $10,000 per property. Still accepting applications.

* **Dallas Tomorrow Fund**

Code-based program. Anyone with a citation can be referred to this program. Thirty-nine percent of cases referred from code were seniors. 80% were approved. Housing Department has received a total of 29 applications. Five of the approved applicants were seniors. Funding is still available.

Jeri Baker requested a breakdown by district of what applications have been approved or what work has been done.

Chair Black and Commissioner Lovitt wanted to know why the number of approvals decreased from 42 to 10. Ms. Long responded: Only 40 applications were approved this year due to decrease in funding and other factors. Numbers may have dropped based on approval of completed applications. Applicants were required to turn in a completed application to be approved. Housing Department needs additional funding because cost of materials increased by 180 percent.

**Office of Community Care/Senior Services**

 Ana Y. Camacho, Senior Services Program Manager, provided an update on the Senior Services Program and Contract Partners. The DART RAP Program is providing four free trips for all active participants to get vaccinated. Outreach is ongoing.

 Senior Services received 107 calls for referral and information in March. Year to date, 651 unduplicated clients assisted

 and 17 outreach events. Total combined seniors served was 949. The DART RAP numbers have begun to go up,

 particularly seniors who want to get vaccinated. The Ombudsman provided 44 nursing home and assisted living center

 visits in March; 1045 residents visited.

 **Senior Affairs Subcommittee Reports**

 Verna Mitchell, Chair of the Safety, Health and Community Support Subcommittee reported that her subcommittee viewed a

 slide presentation from the Texas Department of Public Health regarding an update on COVID and pie charts showing

 demographic information of persons receiving the vaccination. Myckycle Hart has copy of the report. Next meeting in June.

 No subcommittee meeting in May.

 Chair Black announced that Ja’net Huling has agreed to Chair the Transportation and Open Space Subcommittee.

 **Senior Affairs Commissioners District Updates**

 Bill Gart: reported that his Homeowners Association (HOA) is going to have a fundraiser, May 1st through May 15, 2021,

 to raise money for the Vickery Meadows food pantry. Last year, his HOA raised about $1,600.

Debbie Austin announced that Ms. Texas was approved to be a guest at the Older Americans Month event in May. Commissioner Austin and Daryl Quarles, Dallas Park and Recreation, were invited by Almas Muscatwalla to speak to her Faith Forward Dallas group on March 12, 2021. Faith Forward initiated a letter writing project to help contact isolated seniors.

Chair Black asked Jessica Galleshaw to provide a status report and update of the Age-Friendly Dallas Plan at the SAC meeting in May. The subcommittees were reorganized to fit within the categories of the Age-Friendly Dallas Plan.

**Upcoming Events**

* May 24, 2021: Senior Affairs Committee Meeting: Location to be determined.

 **Adjournment**

 Beverly White made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 p.m. Commissioner Lovitt seconded the motion.

 APPROVED BY:

 

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 Jan Hart Black, Chair

 Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)