

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

**REMOTE WEBEX MEETING**

**DIAL IN: 1-469-210-7159 UNITED STATES TOLL (DALLAS)**

**MEETING NUMBER (ACCESS CODE): 187 076 5796**

**MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021**

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Monday, March 22, 2021 **Convened:** 12:00 p.m. **Adjourned**: 1: 21 p.m.

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

 Jan Hart Black, Chair Ja’net Huling (Dist. 5) Ana Camacho, Manager

 Carmen Arana (Dist. 1) Thor Erickson, Manager

 Portia M. Cantrell (Dist. 2) Gloria Flores, Secretary

 Verna Mitchell (Dist. 3) **Guests** Jessica Galleshaw, Director VACANT (Dist. 4) Nicole Raphiel Myckycle Hart, Caseworker

 Marilyn Daniels (Dist. 6) Travis Houston, Specialist

 VACANT (Dist. 7) Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker

 Debbie Austin (Dist. 8) Barbara Martinez, City Attorney

 Beverly White (Dist. 9) James Ramirez, Caseworker

 Jeri Baker (Dist. 10) Lupe Rios, Administrator

 Bill Gart (Dist.11) Kimberly Tolbert, Chief of Staff Zelene Lovitt (Dist.12)

 J. Peter Kline (Dist. 13)

 Sarah Wick (Dist. 14)

 **Call to Order**

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

**No Public Comments**

**Approval of February 22, 2021 Minutes**

Beverly White made a motion to approve the February 2021 minutes. Zelene Lovitt seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**Office of Emergency Management**

Travis Houston, Senior Emergency Preparedness Specialist, City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management (OEM),

provided a verbal update on progress and plans for the vaccine distribution for older adults. The demand for the COVID vaccine outweighs supply by an incredible magnitude. The City of Dallas is only receiving 5,000 vaccines per week. The biggest challenge is a supply issue. In the next few weeks, supply is expected to increase. The City of Dallas administered over 31,000 first shots and 12,000 second shots at Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, the first City of Dallas operated vaccine site operated by OEM. The City of Dallas partnered with Dallas County at Fair Park which became a FEMA Community Vaccination Center where vaccines were administered to individuals who lived in the hardest hit zip codes with priority given to older adults. Most recently, the City of Dallas opened a new drive-through vaccine site at the Potter’s House. OEM utilizes the Dallas County vaccine registration list and scheduling system. Dallas Fire Rescue has a mobile outreach plan to vaccinate individuals who are homebound. OEM is already working with Meals on Wheels and community paramedics to vaccinate isolated seniors. Any long-term care facility unable to get vaccines for their residents and staff through the federal program can reach out to the Medical Director at the facility, Dallas County, and enroll on the Texas Health and Human Services website as a vaccine provider which would allow the City of Dallas to transfer vaccines.

The Commissioners engaged Mr. Houston in a long discussion regarding vaccine distribution:

Bill Gart wanted to know if the drive-through process at Fair Park had improved and how long the process takes.

Mr. Houston responded: The military is helping and the process has greatly improved. The longest wait is a 15 to 30 minute observation period. There are a lot more volunteers on site with well-defined roles.

Commissioner Lovitt requested the website for long-term care facilities to register. Mr. Houston responded: Go to the Dallas County website and click on link to register for a direct allocation of vaccines.

Debbie Austin shared quicker ways to access vaccines by registering on the Walmart, UT Southwestern, Parkland, or Baylor Hospital websites. She read a news story about the National Guard administering vaccines in people’s homes. Mr. Houston explained that this was a Pilot Program. The Division of Emergency Management worked with the Texas National Guard to administer a limited number of vaccines in-home.

Carmen Arana expressed her concern about homebound seniors in her community with physical disabilities and other complications who cannot get on the DART bus and suggested sending a mobile vaccine unit directly to senior apartment complexes.

Verna Mitchell expressed her concern for immobile seniors with care workers who are coming and going to their homes.

Ms. White commented about a city program funded by the Cares Act where someone comes to your home to test for COVID.

Commissioner Black stated that Dallas County is the lead agency on the vaccine distribution and that city operations are limited in terms of the amount of vaccines received from the state and stressed the importance of communication and cooperation between the federal government, the state, Dallas County, and the City of Dallas. She asked Mr. Houston to work with Dallas Area Agency on Aging and Dallas County to provide medical transportation to vaccine sites.

Sarah Wick suggested notifying the city council people of facilities in their district who need mobile units.

**Office of Community Care/Senior Services**

Nicole Raphiel, Community/Education Outreach, Government and Community Relations, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) provided an update on the Older Americans Month Event Partnerships and Planning. DART partnered with City of Dallas, Dallas Park & Recreation, Dallas Police Department, Community Council of Greater Dallas, Senior Source, and Baylor Scott and White to coordinate the event. The event planning committee decided on a drive-through celebration in three locations: Samuell Grand Recreation Center in 75223, Campbell Green Recreation Center in 75248 and Singing Hills Recreation Center in 75241. The event will be held on Friday, May 21, 2021 from 9:00 to 11:00 am. They will be giving away goody bags, food boxes, and donated vendor items. Some of the activities will include music and a mobile photo booth.

 Ana Y. Camacho, Senior Services Program Manager, provided an update on the Senior Services Program and Contract Partners.

* The Spring Edition of the Senior Affairs Dallas Newsletter is pending review of edits due to staffing changes.
* Senior Services partnered with DART, Dallas Police Department, Dallas Park and Recreation, and others to plan and organize DART’s Older American’s Month Event in May.
* Staff participated in several virtual outreach events in February as well as their first dial-in event.
* Senior Services partnered with Molina Healthcare and the Wilkinson Center for an upcoming senior lunch and learn on March 26, 2021.
* The second dial-in event will be held on April 29, 2021.
* The majority of calls received in February were for home repairs and financial assistance.
* Senior Services documented an increase in referral and information and a decrease in outreach events due to COVID.
* DART Rider’s Assistance Program (RAP): 20 riders served in February including eight new clients, 101 registered users for a total of 123, one way trips.
* New dental contract with Texas A&M Clinical Dental Program is in the final stages of approval and execution. The contract is pending signatures; therefore, no information on the dental program was provided.
* Prior dental contract was extended to ensure no gags in service delivery.
* The Senior Source Ombudsman Program served 28 nursing home and assisted living visits; 656 unduplicated nursing home and assisted living resident visits

 **Senior Affairs Subcommittee Report**

 Irwin “Bill” Gart, SAC Vice Chair, Housing and Information Subcommittee Chair and Thor Erickson, Manager III, City of Dallas

 Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Department briefed the Commission on the Housing and Information Subcommittee.

* The Housing Department created an Emergency Home Repair Program in response to the severe winter storm.
* City of Dallas homeowners can apply directly to the Housing Department for reimbursement of contractor services.
* The City of Dallas granted a million dollars to Volunteers of America (VOA) Texas to assist homeowners unable to

 procure a contractor themselves.

* The Minor Home Repair Program was paused last year, pre-COVID, due to need to test lead in home.
* The Housing Department has about 40 homes under reconstruction compared to 11 homes last year.
* Target date for Home Improvement and Preservation Program (HIPP) applications: September 1, 2021
* HIPP applications were reduced from 17 to 4 pages.
* City of Dallas Housing Department is currently accepting applications for two targeted home repair programs.
* The subcommittee will move forward with planning their yearly housing and home repair event in August of 2021.

**Sidewalk Advisory Group**

Commissioner White provided an update on the Sidewalk Advisory Group who are still seeking public input to determine the priorities. She encouraged everyone to go to the website to take the survey. The issues are sidewalks, pedestrian only streets, marked crosswalks, mid block crossing, curb grants, and intersection operation modifications.

 **Upcoming Events**

* April 26, 2021: Senior Affairs Committee Meeting

 **Adjournment**

 Ms. White made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:21 p.m. J. Peter Kline seconded the motion.

 APPROVED BY:



 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Jan Hart Black, Chair

 Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)