

**SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION (SAC)**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**REMOTE WEBEX MEETING**

**DIAL IN: 1-469-210-7159 United States Toll (Dallas)**

**DIAL IN: 1-408-418-9388 United States Toll**

**MEETING NUMBER (ACCESS CODE): 146 447 5207**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 **Convened:** 12:15 p.m. **Adjourned**: 1:57 p.m.

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

Jan Hart Black, Chair Marilyn Daniels (Dist. 6) Thor Erickson, Manager Carmen Arana (Dist. 1) Jessica Galleshaw, Director VACANT (Dist. 2) **Guests** Myckycle Hart, Caseworker Verna Mitchell (Dist. 3) Charles Casio Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker VACANT (Dist. 4) Sharla Meyers Barbara Martinez, City Attorney Ja’net Huling (Dist. 5) Susan Williams James Ramirez, Caseworker Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7) Lupe Rios, Administrator Debbie Austin (Dist. 8) David Zepeda, Supervisor Beverly White (Dist. 9) Jeri Baker (Dist. 10) Bill Gart (District 11)

Zelene Lovitt (Dist. 12)

J. Peter Kline (Dist. 13) Sarah Wick (Dist. 14)

1. **Call to Order**

Jan Hart Black, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) monthly meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and conducted

roll call to establish a quorum.

1. **No Public Comments**
2. **Approval of October 26, 2020 Minutes**

Peter Klein made a motion to approve the October 2020 minutes. Zelene Lovitt seconded the motion. The Commissioners

voted in favor of the motion.

1. **Texas State Legislative Issues Affecting Seniors**

Charles Cascio, Associate State Director of Advocacy and Outreach, AARP Texas, presented a brief overview of federal advocacy for seniors, his primary focus at AARP.

* Key Issues: Health and Financial Security
* Defending Medicare
* Lowering prescription drug prices
* Tracking COVID-19 pandemic trends in nursing homes and assisted living facilities
* Supporting caregivers by advocating for the Federal Tax Credit Bill: $3,000 federal tax credit for caregiving
* Monitoring Affordable Care Act, Supreme Court Case
* Financial Security
* Defending Social Security
* Advocating for extension of Medical Expense Deduction
* Protecting older workers against age discrimination
* 2020 Voter Engagement / Elections
* Protecting older voters and their ability to vote
* Providing online election voting guide information
* Potential COVID Stimulus Request
* Supporting staff and residents in nursing homes by ensuring that federal government continues to provide support for staffing and visitation
* Providing nutritional funding for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
* Fixing Social Security Wage Index for people born in 1960 to prevent reduction of benefits
* Monitoring federal funding for state and local governments for COVID-19 testing and essential services during pandemic, particularly as it impacts older individuals

Commissioner Black expressed concern for isolated individuals who have no internet access and no direct contact with other people because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Cascio is willing to raise her concern to legislators during virtual lobby week when he speaks to the entire Texas Delegation. Current programs to address senior isolation:

* The Access Act provides funding to nursing homes to purchase equipment and to facilitate virtual visitations for nursing home residents.
* The Friendly Caller Program addresses isolation by connecting seniors to a friendly person to talk to while sheltering in place during the pandemic.

Commissioner Kline highlighted the need for low-income, broadband access, an increasingly important issue.

1. **Dallas Area Agency on Aging Services and Observed Needs**

Sharla Meyers, Chief Executive Officer, Community Council of Greater Dallas (CCGD), identified current issues, trends,

and needs of seniors in Dallas County:

* Technology, training, and connectivity to access internet services to stay in touch with friends and family during the COVID-19 pandemic to address loneliness and isolation during pandemic
* CCGD has a medication review program for seniors.
* CCGD is working on a telephone assurance program to reach out to seniors.
* CCGD provides tool kits and virtual classes to help seniors stay safe, active, and healthy.
* Transportation
* My Ride Dallas, transportation navigation program connects seniors to transportation.
* CCGD contracts with Lyft to provide transportation services for seniors and recently launched a new program called SendaRide.
* Health issues and increasing healthcare costs
* Financial instability due to loss of jobs and added expenses
* Home repairs and in-home support including caregiver respite assistance
* CCGD provides home modifications and minor home repairs. Waiting lists for home repairs is long.
* Elder abuse issues
* CCGD partnered with Adult Protective Services to help identify and prevent elder abuse
* Awareness of resources – CCGD outreaches to seniors and collaborates with partners to address senior needs.

1. **Voting Item: Annual 2021 Meeting Calendar Dates**

Commissioner Lovitt made a motion to adopt the 2021 meeting schedule. Carmen Arana seconded the motion. The Commission voted in favor of accepting the Annual 2021 Meeting Calendar.

* With the exception of November and December, SAC meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of the month.
* Standing subcommittees will meet three times per year, the Tuesday one week prior to the full Commission meeting, with additional meetings as needed.

1. **City of Dallas Programs Updates**

Jessica Galleshaw, Manager, Office of Community Care, provided an update on the Senior Services Program.

* Staff completed the Fall Edition of the Senior Affairs Dallas Newsletter with an article featuring CCGD.
* Staff outreached to seniors by distributing flyers, participating in online outreach and Facebook live events.
* Staff helped launch the Home Improvement and Preservation Program (HIPP) by calling clients who previously contacted senior services for home repairs to make them aware of the opening of the home repair program and to provide support in accessing the home repair application and program information.
* Home repair was the most significant issue seniors called about in October followed by financial assistance.
* Data from our contractors will be provided at the next Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) meeting.

Thor Erickson, Manager III, Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Department, provided an overview of the City of Dallas, housing preservation programs:

* Housing Improvement and Preservation Program
* Two main components: major rehabilitation and total reconstruction
* Forgivable (zero interest) loan up to $50,000 in home rehabilitation; up to $160,000 in home reconstruction
* 543 people applied for HIPP this year
* 50 to 60 homes will be rehabilitated or reconstructed.
* The Dallas Tomorrow Fund
* Funded by money received for code violations
* Program designed to rehabilitate and/or repair properties in City of Dallas
* Low-income homeowners financially unable to cover cost of repairs or to comply with notice of violation
* Contact Housing Department to apply for funding
* Tenth Street Historic District Targeted Rehab Program
* Funding received from repurposed bond money
* Focused on exterior, structural home improvement assistance up to $20,000
* West Dallas Targeted Rehab Program
* Provides up to $10,000 assistance
* Focused primarily on exterior elements of the home
* Goal of program: to serve 200 homeowners in West Dallas
* Priorities: major systems repairs, accessibility, and walkways
* Timeline: to launch application third week of December and begin construction in 2021
* Title & Property Assistance Program
* Community legal rights information session to address common title issues, resolutions, prevention
* Refer clients to [www.texastapa.com](about:blank)
* Health Homes Lead Reduction Program
* Lead hazard reduction for City of Dallas residents with children or pregnant women in the home
* Provides up to $20,000 per house for lead-based paint hazards and $5,000 for Healthy Homes
* Program includes blood testing for youth for presence of lead in bloodstream

**Subcommittee Reports by Subcommittee Chairs**

* **Social, Civic Engagement, Isolation Subcommittee**

Debbie Austin reported on the speakers invited to the subcommittee meetings in October and November 2020.

* Daryl Quarles, Senior Program Division Manager, Dallas Park and Recreation provided an update on senior program activities in October. Free flu shots and gift bags were given to senior citizens at a drive-through health fair. Grab and go meals and home delivered meals are provided in their meals outreach program. Due to budget constraints, no activities have been planned for November or December.
* Heather Lowe, Adult Services Administrator, Dallas Public Library, reported on library activities: BookTalk for seniors, coffee club in the morning, memory care time, educational seminars, and Phone Pal Program.
* Mark Edwards, Program Administrator, Dallas County Health and Human Services, Older Adult Services Program, spoke about senior hunger issues and impact of the pandemic at the subcommittee meeting in November, the senior congregate meals program, Bingo, memory games, exercise classes, and flu shots.
* Elva Roy, Founder and Lead Ambassador, Ambassadors for Aging Well, spoke at the October meeting. The Ambassadors meet monthly via internet to advocate for seniors, senior programs and activities.
* **Safety, Health, Community Support Subcommittee**

Verna Mitchell, Chair, reported that the subcommittee met on October 28th at 11:00 a.m. Their guest speaker, Lynda Ender,

Senior Source, indicated that isolation has been the most prominent concern of seniors living alone or in nursing homes

and assisted living centers during the pandemic. They partnered with community organizations to call isolated seniors.

**District Updates- Events, Activities and Engagements by Commissioners in their Council Districts**

Cannon Flowers provided a brief update on the East Dallas Owenwood Campus activities. In the past six weeks, Commissioner Flowers has been meeting with seniors in East Dallas to refocus during the COVID-19 pandemic on community gardening, health, food security, and food delivery to serve seniors in Districts 7 and 9.

**Upcoming Events**

* December 14, 2020: Upcoming Senior Affairs Committee Meeting
* SAC Meetings in January & February 2021: Invite city departments to provide updates on how they are providing services during the COVID-19 pandemic and if their services affect seniors.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Klein made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 p.m. Commissioner Arana seconded the motion.

APPROVED BY:



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

Jan Hart Black, Chair

Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)