

**TO:** Mayor and Fairfax City Council  
**FROM:** Judith C. Turcott,  
City of Fairfax Representative to Fairfax Area Disability Services Board  
**SUBJECT:** Fairfax Area Disability Services Board Report  
**DATE:** July 2020

**The Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (FA-DSB) vision:** To include people with disabilities into mainstream community life by identifying, communicating, and advocating their diverse capabilities and needs to state and local governments and the private sector; and to help and provide resources to meet the needs of persons with physical and sensory disabilities.

July 2020-

The board met on March 9 and then virtually in July 13, 2020

1. **Functional Needs Registry (FNR) Updated. Courtney Arroyo, Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Management Specialist:** Courtney reviewed the current status of the functional needs registry. She stated that “hard copy” information about Covid 19 was mailed to all residents in Fairfax County. As part of the update the registry was to ensure that everyone on the registry was receiving information related to Covid-19 and see if there were unmet needs. The registry was also “cleaned up” and streamlined. Here is a link to the report:  
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/sites/familyservices/files/assets/disabilities/meetings/2020/fairfax-county-office-of-emergency-management-functional-needs-registry-july-2020-report.pdf>
2. **30th Anniversary of ADA-** a brief proclamation will be presented at the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting on 7/14. There have been additional national celebrations of this landmark decision.
3. Leadership changes: The board’s new president is Deborah Hammer, vice-president is Chester Freedenthal and secretary is Judith Turcott.
4. The board will next scheduled to meet in September.

## **Fairfax Area Commission on Aging report to Mayor and City Council Submitted by Carolyn Sutterfield, Chair and City of Fairfax Representative, July 27, 2020**

The Fairfax Area Commission on Aging (COA) met via Zoom on June 17, 2020, for the first time since February. We described our own experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic and heard a report from acting Fairfax Area Agency on Aging director Tara Turner on the work of the AAA.

- Support for local residents during Covid-19:

The AAA received a total of \$2.14 million from the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)—part from the state’s share of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES Act) grants, and part from Families First Coronavirus Response (FFCR) grants. This money is covering the existing Meals on Wheels program, plus meal delivery to Congregate Meals clients from the FC Senior Centers, and gift cards, toolkits, and other supports for AAA’s Caregivers program, Ombudsman program, and other community-based programming. The combined meals programs deliver more than 12,000 meals a week.

- Support for shopping and free rides

Shopping and medication pick-up services and transportation of older adults to medical appointments are being provided through existing AAA vendors, following safety protocols, and a volunteer-based service staffed by CERT workers and coordinated by the AAA, the Health Department, and the Fire Department. For information, see the Hot Topics box at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults). NV Rides ([www.nvrides.org](http://www.nvrides.org)), which coordinates free ride services from nine local nonprofit providers, is also now offering rides again. ●

- Activities to combat isolation

The AAA has partnered with the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), which operates the county’s 14 senior centers, and Service Source to create the free [Virtual Center for Active Adults](#) for older adults and people with disabilities. Both livestreamed (on Zoom) and offered on demand, activities range from exercise classes like Tai Chi, dance, yoga, and low-impact fitness to interactive programs like crossword puzzling, music trivia, “game shows,” and meditation. Instruction on using Zoom is offered two mornings a week. A playlist of Virtual Center activities is available online and at on Fairfax County’s YouTube channel.

- New zoning for Accessory Living Units (ALUs)

At our July 15 virtual meeting, the COA heard a report from the FC Department of Planning and Development on changes being proposed as part of zMod to allow easier creation of in-home or detached (on plots of 2 acres or more) Accessory Living Units for single-family properties. Maximum size would be 800 sf or 40% of existing home. ALUs would no longer be limited to 55+ or persons with disabilities, and in-home projects meeting basic requirements would not need a public hearing. More info at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/zmod>.

- SHAPE planning process on hold

The COA chair and vice chair and AAA staff met virtually with Supervisors Herrity and Walkinshaw on July 22. The outline and process approved by the BOS in October 2019 for a new community action plan for older adults will be suspended while county agencies and related groups respond to the Covid-19 crisis. The BOS Older Adults Committee will meet to discuss priorities, which could include additional caregiver support, wider access to the internet for older residents and people with disabilities, and new means to combat social isolation.