

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, October 26, 2006

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg
Commissioner Sharon Bulova
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Vice Chairman
Commissioner W. S. Covington, III
Commissioner Joan Cross
Commissioner Steve DeBenedittis
Commissioner Joan DuBois
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Chairman
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins
Commissioner Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Commissioner Harold Lippman
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell
Commissioner Martin E. Nohe
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II, NVRC Treasurer
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper
Commissioner M. Jane Seeman
Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg
Commissioner Linda Smyth
Commissioner Stephen Snow
Commissioner J. Walter Tejada
Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstatt
Commissioner Fred E. Yohey, Jr.
vacancy

County of Prince William
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Prince William
City of Fairfax
Town of Purcellville
County of Fairfax
County of Arlington
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
Town of Purcellville
City of Falls Church
County of Fairfax
County of Prince William
City of Manassas
City of Alexandria
Town of Vienna
City of Alexandria
County of Fairfax
County of Loudoun
County of Arlington
County of Loudoun
Town of Leesburg
Town of Dumfries
City of Manassas Park

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb
Linda M. Tenney
Linda Summerall
Barbara Gordon
Normand Goulet
Michelle Simmons
Debbie Spiliotopoulos

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Executive Secretary
Communications Director
Sr. Environmental Planner/ Information Technology Mgr.
Director, Human Services
Sr. Environmental Planner

GUESTS PRESENT

George Barker
Bruce Bennett
Carol Ann Coryell
Brenda Greene
Cathleen McNeal
Sue Rowland
Jane Woods

Assistant Director, Health Systems Agency (HSA) of Northern Virginia
Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Committee
Chairman, HSA Board
Member, HSA Board; former NVRC Commissioner
Member, HSA Board
SR Consulting, Inc.
Driftwood Consulting

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Favola called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

ROLL CALL The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Commissioner Connolly moved approval of the minutes of the September 28, 2006, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION The Changing Health Care System in Northern Virginia

Chairman Favola welcomed the representatives from the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia (HSA): George Barker, Assistant Director; Carol Ann Coryell, Chairman of the Board of Directors; Brenda Greene, Board member and former NVRC Commissioner; and Cathleen McNeel, Board member.

Ms. Coryell is a registered nurse and former surgical nurse at local hospitals. She represents Fairfax County on the Board of Directors of the HSA.

Carol Ann Coryell

Ms. Coryell provided background information on the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia, a nonprofit organization established under Virginia law to plan for the balanced and orderly development of health care facilities and services in Northern Virginia. The board of directors is comprised of 30 members, seven of which are appointed by NVRC. The majority of board members are citizen medical providers or consumers.

The HSA is responsible for health planning in Northern Virginia, issuing Certificates of Public Need (COPN) for local medical facilities. The agency also performs data collection and analysis of health-related issues, such as analysis of hospital services and discharges statewide, and assists with state medical facilities plan development and revision.

Ms. Coryell explained that hospitals cannot open without a COPN. Hospitals are expensive to build and maintain, and the HSA makes sure it does not permit overbuilding of hospitals.

George Barker

Mr. Barker reported that overall, the Northern Virginia population is very healthy and does not use a lot of medical (hospital and nursing home) services. The medical community in the region is pro-active and has always been in the forefront, and the medical systems are very efficient.

Recently, four small hospitals have closed and others have been modernized. There is a tremendous emphasis on out-patient surgery.

The number of uninsured in Northern Virginia is about the same as the rest of the state: 12-13 percent uninsured of Northern Virginia residents, 14 percent for the remainder of Virginia. Mr. Barker added that a not-insignificant number of the uninsured are employed at jobs not offering health care insurance. He added that 40 percent of patients in the emergency rooms of the two hospitals in Prince William are uninsured or on Medicaid.

Mental health care presents challenges, especially since Dominion Hospital will close, and private health insurance plans are cutting the amount they pay for mental health treatment. Chairman Favola noted that the Commission's legislative platform includes a position supporting increased funding for Community Service Board (CSB) needs. Commissioner Connolly suggested that a future Commission meeting have a presentation on mental health care. Other points discussed included the incarcerated mentally ill as well as the fact that many hospitals are losing psychiatrists due to low health insurance payments.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Connolly moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously

- A. Financial Reports for September 2006
- B. Resolution No. P07-06: Authorization to Receive Additional Ryan White CARE Act, Title I Funds and to Amend Title I Subagreements Accordingly
- C. Resolution No. P07-07: Fiscal Year 2006 Audited Statements

- D. Resolution No. P07-08: Authorization to Negotiate a Contract for Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Activities for the Suburban Virginia Ryan White CARE Act, Title I Program
- E. Resolution No. P07-09: Authorization to Sign a Memorandum of Agreement with Arlington County and the City of Alexandria to Manage the Four Mile Run Demonstration Project

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

- A. Mr. Gibb pointed out the bottled City of Fairfax water, compliments of the city. He added that the Chief Administrative Officers approved an MOU and a preliminary budget for the regional water supply plan: \$50,000 each for the five large jurisdictions, \$15,000 each for mid-sized jurisdictions, and \$5,000 each for small towns over a three-year period for the study. Mr. Gibb and staff are meeting next week with the towns in Loudoun County.
- B. A summary report of the Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Study was distributed. The findings were presented October 16 to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.
- C. The Operations Committee discussed the state grant funding opportunity for BRAC-affected areas and requested that this be brought to the Commission's attention. The state has \$20 million in grant funds, with \$15 million earmarked for the Oceana Naval Air Station, leaving \$5 million in grant funds available over two years statewide.

Applications are due November 17. Some of the Northern Virginia jurisdictions are contemplating submitting applications. NVRC does not want to compete with its member governments, but it could submit applications for charrettes for the South Potomac Communities (Route 1 corridor around Dumfries and Quantico) and for Fort Belvoir, and for a study of the impact of the defense jobs relocation to Fort Belvoir on the transportation/traffic system, which is not included in the regional 2030 transportation plan.

Commissioner Gross moved Resolution No. P07-10, discussed at the Operations Committee and distributed to the Commissioners. Commissioner Barg said it is the understanding of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors that a regional grant application may stand a better chance of being funded than one submitted by a local jurisdiction. She added the application also requires a match. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

- D. Mr. Gibb reported that 2-1-1 funding will be discussed under the Legislative Platform.
- E. The European Association of Metropolitan Regional Councils, known as METREX, is being chaired this year by Dr. Bernd Steinacher of the Verband Region Stuttgart, the Commission's sister region in Germany. Dr. Steinacher would like to hold a two-day METREX conference in Northern Virginia in 2007. The U.S. German Marshall Fund is interested in funding the conference, and representatives of that organization will meet next week with Dr. Steinacher.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

Chairman Favola noted that the Commission expects to have a presentation on immigration issues at its January 25 meeting and a presentation on mental health at a future meeting.

Members were reminded that:

- The Commission does not meet in November; the next meeting will be December 14.
- The General Assembly session begins January 10.
- February 1 is VML/VACo Day in Richmond. The Commission will hold a brief business meeting in the General Assembly Building.

LEGISLATIVE
PLATFORM

A draft platform reflecting the Legislative Committee's updates from its meeting immediately prior to the Commission meeting was distributed. Commissioner Connolly commented that this year's platform is streamlined in order to focus the General Assembly members' attention. He briefly reviewed the positions.

Commissioner Connolly reported that the state's proposed funding for the new 2-1-1 Information and Referral telephone system is inadequate, and the committee is drafting a new position addressing the inadequacy of the funding, resulting in an unworkable program.

Commissioner Connolly asked that staff be empowered to elicit the initiation of legislation based on the Commission's Legislative Platform consistent with the Commission's positions in order to meet the General Assembly's deadline subsequent to approval. The members concurred.

Commissioner Smedberg reported that a major national study was recently released, showing that teen drivers are most at-risk for accidents during the after-school hours.

Commissioner Connolly added that Sen. Devolites Davis will re-introduce the bill on photo red cameras. The members agreed that this issue should be added to the Legislative Platform.

COMMITTEE
REPORTS

Communications

Commissioner Smedberg reported that the Commission recently received press coverage on the preservation efforts for the boundary stones and Chairman Favola's remarks at the Northern Virginia Aging Network's recent legislative breakfast.

The website's homepage has received an interim update. Photos of each Commissioner will be added to the website and members were asked to approve the photo received from their jurisdiction.

The RFP is under development and will be issued shortly.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:48 p.m., Commissioner Gross moved that the Operations Committee enter into closed session to discuss the Executive Director's contract renewal, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2.-3711, subsection A.1. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SESSION

At 9:13 p.m., Commissioner Bulova moved that upon an affirmative roll call vote in open session, it was certified that (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session by the Operations Committee. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gross moved that the Commission enter into a three-year contract with the Executive Director according to the terms discussed in the closed session. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Commissioner Connolly added that this was a strong vote of confidence in the Executive Director, with Commissioner Bulova expressing appreciation to Mr. Gibb for his handling of the Commission's transition to a body of all-elected officials.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Barg announced that the Governor has appointed her to a state panel on child abuse and neglect. Chairman Favola announced she has been appointed to the State Board of Health. Commissioner Bulova has been appointed to serve on the state's Rail Advisory Board.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Favola adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Barbara A. Favola
Chairman