

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, March 22, 2012

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Hon. Peter Candland	County of Prince William
Hon. Janet Clarke	County of Loudoun
Hon. John C. Cook	County of Fairfax
Hon. Steve DeBenedittis	Town of Herndon
Hon. Jay Fiset	County of Arlington
Hon. Robin Gardner	City of Falls Church
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr., NVRC Vice Chairman	Town of Purcellville
Hon. Fernando "Marty" Martinez	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay	County of Fairfax
Hon. Suhas Naddoni	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Chairman	County of Prince William
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II (departed at 7:45 p.m.)	City of Manassas
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer	City of Alexandria
Hon. Frank J. Principi	County of Prince William
Hon. M. Jane Seeman	Town of Vienna
Hon. R. Scott Silverthorne	City of Fairfax
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
Hon. Nancy West	Town of Dumfries
Hon. Scott K. York	County of Loudoun
vacancy	County of Arlington

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	Executive Director
Linda M. Tenney	Deputy Director
Linda Summerall	Executive Secretary
Ken Billingsley	Director, Demographics & Information Services
Normand Goulet	Sr. Environmental Planner
Laura Grape	Coastal Resources Program Manager
David Schwengel	Director, Regional Business Planning
Michelle Simmons	Director, Human Services
Peggy Tadej	No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator
Aimee Vosper	Director, Environmental & Planning Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Bruce Bennett	Hunter Mill Defense League/ Traffic Calming Cmte.
Kate Boyle	Fairfax County Legislative staff
Brenda Gardiner	Fairfax Co. Dept. of Administration for Human Services
Dana Kauffman	Northern Virginia Community College
Maggi Luca	Legislative Assistant, Sen. Toddy Puller
Mike Nardolilli	Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Beth Rosenberg	Loudoun Co. Dept. of Family Services
Sue Rowland	NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Nohe called the meeting to order at 7:38 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 York moved approval of the minutes of the February 23, 2012, Commission meeting. The motion was seconded and carried, with Commissioners Smedberg and Silverthorne abstaining. (Commissioner Parrish departed.)

POVERTY AND THE
SOCIAL SAFETY
NET

Chairman Nohe introduced the researchers from the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service: Qian Cai, Director of Demographics and Workforce; Dustin Cable, Policy Associate; and Rebecca Tippett, Research Associate.

Rebecca Tippett

The original federal poverty line (FPL) developed in 1963 by Molly Orshansky, a food economist with the Social Security Administration, estimates the minimum overall income needs by tripling the cost of minimal food consumption. This threshold became the basis of the official U.S. measure of poverty in 1969 and has not changed in basic structure. The Census Bureau defines income as income from private sources (wages, capital gains, retirement pensions, Social Security, unemployment insurance and TANF) but excludes in-kind transfers (food stamps, Medicaid, Medicare, housing transfers, earned income tax credit, child and dependent care tax credit). In 2010, the FPL for a family of four (two adults, two children) was just over \$22,000 a year.

In recent decades the accuracy of the Orshansky FPL has been questioned for many reasons, including:

- costs of many household necessities (e.g., medical care, child care) have risen over time with food costs declining as a proportion of household budgets;
- the FPL is a national standard and does not account for regional variations in costs of living;
- the FPL does not fully account for public assistance programs and taxes that affect a household's disposable income.

Virginia's poverty rates have historically been lower than the nation, its poverty rates rising and falling with the economy. Poverty rates in Virginia differ significantly across demographic groups, with black Virginians having the highest poverty rate (20.2 percent compared to 10.8 percent of all Virginians and 8.1 percent of non-Hispanic whites), and similar patterns hold for those near poverty. Nearly one in five children in Virginia is in or at near poverty.

Mr. Cable's and Ms. Tippett's research also addressed Virginia's regional differences in poverty (population size, demographics), with rates ranging from three to 30 percent. Although Northern Virginia has a very low overall poverty rate, 17 percent of poor Virginians live in this region and it has the highest percentage of working poor (45 percent); based on 2.3 million people, this is 391,000 poor and 1,035,000 working poor in Northern Virginia. Furthermore, the prices for goods and services in the D.C. metropolitan area are, on average, 15 percent more expensive than the national average. So, in a high cost-of-living area such as Northern Virginia, it requires three times the poverty line to be self-sufficient (earning enough to meet monthly mortgage or rent, food and utility bills).

questions & answers Ms. Tippett clarified for Chairman Nohe that Hispanics account for 30 percent of the poor in Northern Virginia, while Richmond and Hampton Roads have a larger proportion of poor blacks and Southwest's poor is comprised mainly of whites.

NO. VA. TRAINING
CENTER BRIEFING

Chairman Nohe introduced George Braunstein, Executive Director, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

George Braunstein The state's five training centers house people with intellectual disabilities (IQ below 70) and many have chronic medical needs as well; a few of the residents need round-the-clock registered nursing care. The Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC) has 152 residents. Based on the federal ADA law and the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision, the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigated Virginia's ability to provide services and housing for people with an intellectual disability as an alternative to facility-based services. The published timeline for NVTC's closure is 2015. The DOJ agreement does not require state facility closure – the state has chosen to do so in order to pay for community services. Mr. Braunstein stressed there is no obligation to discharge residents if the funding for community-based services is not in place.

Medicaid funds services for intellectually disabled people through its waiver system so they can receive a package of services that meets their needs. Services can include: residential (group home or supported), employment training and support, and day services; targeted case management; medical assistive devices, respite for families supporting someone at home, and other types of community services. In Northern Virginia, employment and day services cost more than Medicaid reimburses so local governments contribute funding.

The local Community Services Boards (CSBs) are performing a needs assessment of all NVTC residents and will issue a Request for Information to identify potential qualified private providers for all services. The regional CSB system has contracted with a crisis stabilization provider for those services with state funds. Additionally, the CSBs will put together a steering committee to plan for the needs of the people coming into the community from the training center.

Key challenges to transitioning residents from the training centers to the community will center on adequate service reimbursement rates, adequate support for purchasing housing and sufficient qualified providers. Mr. Braunstein added there are over 1,000 people with intellectual disabilities in Northern Virginia who are waiting for Medicaid waiver funding. The current DOJ agreement provides for a very limited amount of annual funding for their needs.

questions & answers Mr. Braunstein stated there will be meetings regarding the disposition of the NVTC property. The state believes that putting group homes on the property recreates the same atmosphere as the training center and DOJ would sue the state.

The expectation in Northern Virginia is that the private sector will run the group homes.

Commissioner McKay asked about the logistics of transporting this population relocated into group homes to jobs/day services and medical appointments. Mr. Braunstein said this will be the responsibility of the CSBs.

Residents are starting to be discharged from NVTC when appropriate space becomes available in group homes; there are no new admissions.

Commissioner Bulova moved that staff work with Mr. Braunstein to draft a letter to Secretary Hazel expressing concern over the unrealistic 2015 timeline and sufficient state funding to implement the state's directive. Commissioner Cook asked that the letter encourage the funding that is needed to make the deadline as opposed to moving the deadline down. Commissioner Hudgins suggested adding that the members believe it is a good option to provide services in the community but the timing must be realistic. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

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

- A. Financial Reports for January 2012
- B. Resolution No. P12-20: Adoption of the Conservation Corridors Planning In Northern Virginia Assessment Report

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

NVRC will co-sponsor a rain garden workshop in Arlington on Saturday, March 31.

Mr. Gibb distributed a copy of his report on:

- CAREWare
Both VDH and HRSA complimented NVRC staff on its recently completed CAREWare client level data system for Ryan White services. This system significantly improves regional understanding of how care provided with Ryan White funds in Northern Virginia compares to quality standards; planning for future services; and contributions to client level reports required by state and federal funders.
- Transatlantic Urban Dialogue
Twenty-one board members from the Verband Region Stuttgart, Germany, will visit Northern Virginia in early May to strengthen the regional partnership. Their visit is part of the Transatlantic Urban Energy Dialogue launched by the University of Berlin.
- 8th Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Roundtable
NVRC will host this March 30 event at the Virginia Tech Research Center in Arlington, which is co-sponsored by APA and VAPDC.
- Community Appearance Alliance
Celebrated its 25th anniversary at its annual awards program, held at NVRC. Recipients were Town of Herndon for Runnymede Bio-Ponds; Fairfax Co. Health Dept. for Joanne Jorgenson Laboratory; Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston; No. Va. Association of Realtors' Fairfax Headquarters; and Arlington Co.'s Long Bridge Park (Phase I)
- Fairfax County Energy Task Force
NVRC is working with the county on this project and prepared a working paper estimating the number of people living within a half-mile and one-mile radius of existing and proposed Metro and VRE stations.
- Sustainable Cities Seminar
NVRC Executive Director moderated the panel of three participants from Finland and one each from Arlington County and D.C. planning offices, and explained the role of best practices exchanges between Northern Virginia and Europe, including Finland.
- Universal Waste Training
This April 24 event in Alexandria, co-sponsored by NVRC and the No. Va. Waste Management Board, will train and certify local government staff in handling/disposing commonly used hazardous materials (e.g., rechargeable batteries, fluorescent lights).
- Regional Hauler Forms
Several members of the No. Va. Waste Management Board worked with NVRC to develop this form for consistent data collection by waste haulers.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

Chairman Nohe reported the Operations Committee met this evening and agreed to meet April 5 with the attorney from Compton and Duling to further explore establishment of a nonprofit affiliate. Additionally, it is time for the committee to conduct the Executive Director's performance review.

Chairman Nohe distributed a letter from the Northern Virginia Delegation sent to the chairmen of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, NVRC, and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission requesting the organizations determine whether consolidation and/or improved

coordination would enhance regional planning, including transportation planning and services, and present the findings by October 1.

Commissioner York stated his belief that the mayors and chairmen and the jurisdictions' chief administrative officers should meet to discuss this. Chairman Nohe suggested including the four agencies' chairmen in the discussion. Commissioner York concurred, adding that he wants to make sure the conversation happens among the local elected officials and that they help shape the discussion.

Commissioner Gross stated her belief that Northern Virginia's participation on the TPB at MWCOG should be kept whole. Chairman Nohe replied that the Northern Virginia jurisdictions that are part of the greater D.C. TPB are members by federal statute, and Secretary Connaughton has acknowledged directly that neither he, the Governor nor the General Assembly have the power to remove the jurisdictions from the MWCOG TPB. The issue they looked at is a separate but overlapping entity that goes beyond the boundaries of the current TPB.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BRAC

Commissioner McKay, committee chairman, reported the committee will meet April 19 and hear from Hon. Cord Sterling and Marcel Acosta, Executive Director of the National Capital Planning Commission; Hon. Tom Davis has been invited to speak.

Last month, NVRC staff attended the Association of Defense Communities' conference on "BRAC-proofing your community," which confirmed that Northern Virginia is already doing many of the activities discussed.

Commissioner McKay reported the funding for the ride-share program will end before the program ends. Staff is looking for additional funding sources.

Legislative

Staff distributed a *sine die* report.

The Senate Finance Committee has added an additional \$300 million in bonds to offset higher tolls to finance the Dulles Rail Project. At Commissioner McKay's suggestion, the members unanimously agreed that NVRC should send a letter to the budget conferees and the Northern Virginia Delegation supporting this funding.

The Senate will meet March 26 to vote on the budget. If the Senate adopts a budget it then goes to conference.

Ms. Rowland confirmed that the Senate budget includes funding for Virginia's dues for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin but the House budget does not.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Nohe adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Martin E. Nohe
Chairman