FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OLDER ADULTS COMMITTEE MEETING

October 6, 2026 at 11:00 A.M.
Government Center Conference Room 10/11

Board of Supervisors Members Present:
Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn, Hunter Mill District (Committee Chairman)
Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay
Supervisor James N. Bierman, Jr., Dranesville District
Supervisor Pat Herrity, Springfield District
Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District
Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik, Providence District (Committee Vice-Chairman)
Supervisor Kathy L. Smith, Sully District
Supervisor Rachna Sizemore Heizer, Braddock District
Supervisor James N. Bierman, Jr., Dranesville District

Link to agenda and meeting materials: Board of Supervisors Older Adults Committee Meeting: Oct. 6, 2026 | Events

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 A.M.

Item I: Opening Remarks – Supervisor Alcorn

Supervisor Alcorn opened the meeting with brief comments introducing the presentation for the day.

Item II: Presentation Community Assessment for Older Adults (CASOA).

- **Dr. Michael Becketts, Director, Department of Family Services**, introduced staff and offered to share information on the community engagement work.
- **Beth Ann Margetta, Assistant Program Manager, Department of Family Services, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging**, highlighted that the last meeting focused on an update on the SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan, which aligns with OneFairfax and the Countywide Strategic Plan and supports older adults, adults with disabilities and caregivers. The Community Assessment for Older Adults (CASOA) survey was conducted in the summer of 2026 and results will be shared today.
- **John Ruthinoski, Data Analyst, Department of Family Services,** shared findings from the CASOA which focused on highlighting the needs of older adults in the community. The survey, administered by POLCO, is a nationally benchmarked survey. A copy of the full POLCO report will be made available to the Board of Supervisors after the presentation. The survey was administered in Fairfax County in 2019, 2022 and in the summer of 2026.
- Physical and mental health, safety and recreation questions were among the most highly rated on the 2026 CASOA. Of the lowest rated items, respondents listed housing, employment, and cost of living.

- Information access and housing were the most frequently reported challenges, followed by physical health and health care.
- Some promising data when staff look at the survey results from 2019 to 2026: while residents still report many challenges with "Information Access," the number of people who feel informed about available services and activities has improved in each survey since 2019.
- Other notable findings included high rates of civic engagement, specifically volunteerism, voter turnout and digital connectivity. Significant percentages are caregivers providing care for children younger than 18 and/or care for someone 55+.
- John shared the survey is the first step of a multi-layered approach to understanding the needs of the community. Staff will review CASOA data with the Commission on Aging and SHAPE Initiative Development Committees to identify gaps that will inform the community engagement phase. The Fairfax Area Agency on Aging will work closely with Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) for an inclusive community engagement approach.
- The Fairfax Area Agency on Aging will be marketing and hosting community engagement sessions and focus groups starting in late 2026 and throughout 2027. At least one session will be held in each magisterial district.

Item III: Discussion

- Chairman McKay asked for further look at the challenge of affordable long-term care options. The Chairman also expressed interest in impacts to older adults from HR 1.
- Supervisor Herrity recommended considering the topic of Transportation for a future meeting.
- Supervisor Sizemore Heizer expressed interest in further research on the needs of the sandwich generation and to help them plan for the future, learning more about the housing data, and advocacy to the state for long-term care.
- Supervisor Palchik encouraged that community engagement includes faith-based communities and people integrated in neighborhoods. Staff shared that they are working with NCS as part of their community outreach.
- Supervisor Lusk noted the increase in challenges faced by Hispanics and the findings on scams continuing to be a challenge despite continued work.

Item VI: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P.M.