

**New York City Department for the Aging  
Annual Report of the Advisory Council  
Local Law 122 Report 2024**

In compliance with Local Law 122 of 2020, the following is the annual report of the New York City Department for the Aging Advisory Council activities outlined during its meetings for 2024.

**NYC AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA**

**Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Attendance:** Isabel Ching, Lewis Goldstein, Jeremy Kaplan, Susan Stamler, Evelyn Laureano, Blondell Lighty, Maria Luna, Katherine Martinez, Mohammad Razvi, Beth Shapiro, Rabbi Moshe Wiener, Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Daneen Ausby, Eric Rivera, Sarah Sanchala, Paul Santos, Meghan Shineman, Jennine Ventura, Edgar Yu

**Introductions & Welcome Remarks** – *Isabel Ching, Chairperson*

Chairperson Ching called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. Blondell Lighty moved to approve the minutes and Lewis Goldstein seconded the motion.

**Commissioner's Report** – *Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Commissioner*

Commissioner Cortés-Vázquez invited Advisory Council members to join in advocacy regarding Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization. In addition, the Commissioner discussed the recent Intergenerational Groove event in which about 1000 people participated, including 100 youth and hundreds of older adults, learning dances as a collective in commemoration of National Older Adult Health and Fitness Day. Deputy Mayor Anne Williams-Isom and Council Member Crystal Hudson were in attendance as well and the event received media coverage. The Commissioner also provided an update on NYC Aging's Executive Budget hearing. There were no budget cuts or negative impacts to programs.

**Older Americans Act Reauthorization** – *Sarah Sanchala, Consultant, Government Affairs*

Sarah Sanchala presented on the OAA Reauthorization. The OAA is set to expire by the end of September 2024. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) recently announced a rules change on how the OAA operates. The rules change includes a mandate for states to define "greatest social" and "greatest economic" need. Other areas covered by the rules change are state agency responsibilities, area agency on aging responsibilities, person-centered service delivery, program evaluation, and emergency preparedness. Compliance with the rules change is required in October 2025. The presentation also discussed other OAA program changes regarding elder abuse and legal assistance, family caregivers, nutrition updates, grab and go meals in congregate settings, home delivered meals, and funding transfers.

**Older New Yorker Service Needs Assessment Overview** – *Meghan Shineman, Senior Director, Research and Development*

Meghan Shineman gave an overview of the Older New Yorker Service Needs Assessment, which will be conducted through September 2024. The outreach flyer is available in 11 languages and more than 5,300 responses were submitted. More than 50% of respondents are

OAC participants and NYC Aging would like to hear from other individuals who are not connected to the service network through focused community outreach. Plans include connections to libraries, food pantries and other neighborhood events. Physical copies of the assessment survey are available, though online participation was higher than expected.

**National Age-Inclusive Working Group Update & Cabinet for Older New Yorkers Legislation** - *Jennine Ventura, Assistant Commissioner, Interagency Collaboration & Innovation*

Jennine Ventura provided an update on the US Conference of Mayors National Age-Inclusive Working Group and the Cabinet for Older New Yorkers legislation. The National Age-Inclusive Working Group was established following a resolution adopted by the US Conference of Mayors to promote age-inclusive cities nationally, and to develop a framework for age-inclusive standards and practices. The Working Group is comprised of 19 cities with populations of older adults age 60+ of approximately 20%, including New York City. Each of the member cities have shared how they are advancing age-inclusive practices and collaborating with partners to realize this vision. The working group is finalizing a definition and framework for age-inclusive with a guidebook for distribution.

In addition, the New York City Council passed Local Law 64 of 2024 to codify the Cabinet for Older New Yorkers. The legislation includes the current 24 member agencies and adds the following Mayoral Offices: Criminal Justice, Equity & Racial Justice, Food Policy, Talent & Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture. The library systems are incorporated as well. The legislation is effective 90 days after enactment. Recent Cabinet milestones were mentioned, such as the culminating events for the NYC Public Schools Kids Action Team program focusing on anti-ageism and the NYC Department of Youth & Community Development intergenerational storytelling initiative, and the roundtable discussion with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities regarding the needs of older adults born with a disability and older adults who acquired a disability during the aging process.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

## NYC AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

### AGENDA

Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Attendance:** William Dionne, Jeremy Kaplan, Evelyn Laureano, Blondell Lighty, Maria Luna, Claudette Macey, Katherine Martinez, Beth Shapiro, Rabbi Moshe Wiener, Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Daneen Ausby, Sandy March, Eric Rivera, Paul Santos, Jennine Ventura, Edgar Yu

#### **Introductions & Welcome Remarks** – *Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Commissioner*

Commissioner Cortés-Vázquez called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Maria Luna moved to approve the minutes and Blondell Lighty seconded the motion.

#### **Commissioner's Report** – *Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Commissioner*

The Commissioner discussed the latest finale of the Talent Is Timeless competition, which included members of older adult centers and naturally occurring retirement communities under organizations represented on the Advisory Council. The event followed Ageism Awareness Day and demonstrated the tremendous talent of older New Yorkers. In addition, the Commissioner presented at the United Nations in recognition of the International Day of Older Persons with 83 million viewers globally. NYC Aging also testified before the NYC Council Aging Committee on the Community Care Plan. The agency is also preparing to host its first ever national conference – BOOM! A Silver Dawning in American Cities. The conference will focus on advancing an age-inclusive agenda and combating ageism, as well as highlighting particular topics and strategies, such as caregiving, health, workforce development, elder justice, technology, and local and national collaboration. Advisory Council members are encouraged to attend.

#### **Annual Plan Summary** – *Sandy March, Deputy Director, Planning & Performance*

Sandy March presented on the NYC Aging Annual Plan Summary. While there is no updated Census data since the previous Annual Plan Summary regarding older adult demographics and projections, the change in life expectancy was underscored. Covid impacted life expectancy, but trends show some gains to recover from the decrease. The Annual Plan Summary covers agency programs, budget and service level information, as well as areas of focus on nutrition, caregiving and workforce development. The public hearing schedule was shared and Advisory Council members were invited to attend.

#### **Age-Inclusive American Cities** – *Jennine Ventura, Assistant Commissioner, Interagency Collaboration & Innovation*

Jennine Ventura presented an overview of the Age-Inclusive American Cities guidebook developed by the National Age-Inclusive Working Group. The National Age-Inclusive Working Group was established following a resolution adopted by the US Conference of Mayors to promote age-inclusive cities nationally, and to develop a framework for age-inclusive standards and practices. The Working Group is comprised of 19 cities with populations of older adults age 60+ of approximately 20 percent, including New York City.

The guidebook defines and frames how cities can become Age-Inclusive, laying out examples of best practices in activities, priorities, operations, and city planning. The Working Group also

developed a tagline: Aging Out Loud – Uniting every generation and person. Member cities of the Working Group contributed Age-Inclusive resources from their areas, such as:

- Seattle – Training for all city workers explores ageist biases, explains the harms of ageism and provides strategies to combat ageism both personally and professionally.
- San Francisco – Dignity Fund established via Charter amendment, which sets aside a \$38 million annual investment to fund social services for older adults, adults with disabilities, veterans, and caregivers.
- Oklahoma City – One-cent sales tax approved by voters to allocate to older adult health and wellness centers for individuals age 50+ with four centers built, averaging 40,000 square feet at \$13 million per center with the longest operating center having 5800 members.
- Columbus – Lyfting Villages partnership to provide age-inclusive transportation access with guidance for both drivers and passengers regarding considering wait times, offering walking assistance, helping to fold/unfold mobility devices if needed, assisting with carrying items, etc.
- Memphis – Habitat for Humanity partnership to adapt homes for older adults to age in place, offering mobility and accessibility modifications and critical home repairs for homeowners.
- Miami – EMPOWER60 course creates individual civic engagement plans for older adults across Miami, and facilitates discussions on public policy, which addresses lack of awareness of local government representation and operations.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

## NYC AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

### AGENDA

Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Attendance:** Isabel Ching, William Dionne, Saeeda Dunston, Jeremy Kaplan, Imam Tahir Kukiqi, Blondell Lighty, Claudette Macey, Katherine Martinez, Mohammad Razvi, Beth Shapiro, Susan Stamler, Rabbi Moshe Wiener, Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Daneen Ausby, Michael Ognibene, Eric Rivera, Jennine Ventura

#### **Introductions & Welcome Remarks** – *Isabel Ching, Chairperson*

Chairperson Ching called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Blondell Lighty moved to approve the minutes and Katherine Martinez seconded the motion.

#### **Commissioner's Report** – *Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Commissioner*

The Commissioner discussed performance review reallocations to support preserving resources within the provider network. In addition, the Commissioner updated Advisory Council members on the work of the National Age-Inclusive Working Group comprised of 19 cities, including New York City, which will be expanding. Each of the member cities is working to advance an age-inclusive agenda, similar to the breakthroughs of the Cabinet for Older New Yorkers with each member agency applying an age-inclusive lens to its work. Following Talent Is Timeless, the Commissioner raised being ambassadors for the creative talent among older adults and recommended showcasing their work. The Commissioner was also on The Brian Lehrer Show and spoke about how there should be a focus and redistribution in support of the community care aging services model versus a medical model.

#### **BOOM! A Silver Dawning in American Cities Conference Recap** – *Michael Ognibene, First Deputy Commissioner/Chief Operating Officer*

Michael Ognibene presented an overview of the BOOM! A Silver Dawning in American Cities Conference organized by NYC Aging. The name of the conference illustrates that every member of the Baby Boomer generation will turn 60 by December 31, 2024, and will be older adults. The conference was national in scope with participants and panelists from across the country, as well as international representation from Canada and the United Kingdom. The opening plenary on “Confronting Ageism: The Final -ism” framed the context for the conference, and how that is the overarching issue that needs to be addressed through a comprehensive, sustainable and systemic age-inclusive approach. There were about 260 attendees from aging and social services, health care, philanthropy, academia, government, and more, including several Advisory Council members. Session topics covered age-inclusive models, workforce, technology, caregiving, elder justice, healthy aging, mental health, nutrition, and funding. The conference served as a call to action to combat ageism and champion age-inclusive policies.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.