

**Orange County Commission on Aging
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting – March 13, 2017**

Pine Hills Community Center, 6408 Jennings Road, Orlando FL 32818 * 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Vision	Create Positive Aging! An elder-friendly community that empowers older adults through choices that allow them to support and maintain their independence within their home community
Purpose	To identify the needs of the senior population and find ways to help by working collaboratively

Members Present

Mr. Crockett Bohannon, Chair
Ms. Sandria Foster
Ms. Edith Gendron
Mr. Gus Martinez
Dr. Carmel Munroe
Mr. Lynn Nicholson
Mr. Lee Watson

Members Absent

Ms. Cathy Kerns
Mr. Randy Hunt
Ms. Aquasia Johnson McDowell

Others Present

Ms. Mimi Reggentin, Office on Aging
Ms. Ona Taylor, Office on Aging

Meeting Notes

Consent Agenda

- Mr. Bohannon opened the meeting and welcomed Ona Taylor as the new project coordinator for the Office on Aging. Ms. Taylor is under a six-month contract with the County.
- Upon a motion by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, the Commission on Aging minutes of January 9, 2017 was unanimously approved. The Community Partnerships Committee minutes of January 10, 2017 and the Elder Ambassador Committee minutes of February 27, 2017 were unanimously accepted.

Community Partnerships Committee Update

- Ms. Gendron stated that at the Community Partnerships Committee meeting of March 7, the Orange County Fire and Rescue Department spoke on the topic of “emergency services programs for elders.” The Florida Department of Children and Family’s Adult Protective Services unit also presented an overview of the policy changes regarding how the Department would respond to after-hours calls that met all the criteria for an immediate response. Effective March 7, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week, cases that are tagged for an immediate response will have a four-hour response time. During the hours of 5:01 p.m. to 7:59 a.m., a supervisor will monitor all calls designated as needing immediate response, and will consult with first responders. Ms. Gendron stated the Community Partnerships Committee also selected speakers for the LIFE Information for Elders’ Fall 2017 program.
- Ms. Gendron stated she would like to speak on the proposed budget allocations for fiscal year 2017-18 recommended by the Florida Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. There are \$21 million in proposed cuts, of which \$5.5 million are specific to elders. One of the most significant cuts is the elimination of funding for the state’s memory and disorder clinics. In Central Florida, this would reduce Orlando Health Memory and Disorder Clinic’s funding by \$222,801. Local professionals anticipate this would result in the closing of the Memory Disorder Clinic. Ms. Gendron is contacting elected officials to express her concerns and encouraged the Board to do the same. The Commission expressed strong concern for these cuts and directed staff to obtain more information and distribute this information to the Commission on Aging and its Community Partnerships Committee.

Senior Resource Alliance Update

- Mr. Hunt was not present, so no report was given.

City of Orlando Mayor’s Committee on Aging Update

- Mr. Nicholson stated the City of Orlando’s Solid Waste Division spoke at the February meeting of Mayor Committee. The Solid Waste Division has a program where frail residents can request assistance with bringing their garbage cans to the curb. The City’s Mayor’s Committee on Aging is moving to bi-monthly meetings beginning in April 2017.

Vice-Chair Elections

- Mr. Bohannon stated the Commission on Aging needed to elect a Vice Chairman to run the Board meetings in May and July since he is not able to attend these meetings due to conflicts. Mr. Martinez expressed interested in serving as Vice Chair. Upon a motion by Dr. Munroe, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, the Board unanimously elected Mr. Martinez the Vice Chair of the Commission on Aging.

Elder Ambassador Update

- Ms. Taylor stated she was hired to help reestablish the Elder Ambassador program. During the next six-months, there are three primary goals – to increase awareness of this program, to redeploy existing volunteers and to host a training class for new volunteers. Staff has already visited 19 centers to raise awareness of this program. Staff has contacted all existing volunteers and 70 percent have elected to continue volunteering for this program. As of March 1, this program was officially reestablished in the community and there are already 13 planning events through June with ten events scheduled in March. The Elder Ambassador Committee is also planning on hosting a core training program for new volunteers in May.

Three open houses are planned for March 20, 22 and 30 so that individuals who are interested in becoming Elder Ambassadors can learn more about the program prior to submitting an application. The application process will be opened from March 20 through April 12. A refresher class will also be scheduled for existing volunteers. Mr. Bohannon asked the Board to help recruit volunteers for this program. He also asked the Board to raise awareness that the Elder Ambassador program is now taking requests for speaker or vendor opportunities.

- Ms. Gendron expressed concern that the Elder Ambassador program may be discontinued in July if the project coordinator contract position does not become a permanent full-time position. Staff was directed to conduct a survey about the effectiveness of the Elder Ambassador program. The Board asked staff to add an agenda item to their May meeting about writing a letter to County Administration in support of the Elder Ambassador program. Mr. Bohannon requested that staff compile the Board's comments and forward these comments to him after the May meeting. Mr. Bohannon stated he would draft a letter based on the input of the Board. The Board discussed contacting the media to request stories on how the Elder Ambassador program benefits the community. Ms. Reggentin stated all media requests would need to go through the County's Communication Division.

Additional Status Updates

- LIFE Information for Elders - Mr. Bohannon stated attendance at these seminars has grown to more than 60 attendees each month.
- Fraud Prevention Resource Guides – Mr. Bohannon stated the Creole translation of the Fraud Prevention Resource Guide has been printed. This document will be announced in the April issue of the COA e-newsletter.
- COA E-Newsletter – Mr. Bohannon circulated the survey results of the online survey that was given to readers of the monthly e-newsletter. Over 200 people responded to the survey and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

New Business

- Ms. Reggentin stated the Office on Aging is under the Community Action Division and Division Manager Sherry Paramore as tendered her resignation, effective March 17. An acting manager has not be assigned.
- Mr. Martinez stated Miles of Help through Christ is hosting a community outreach event for the homeless community on April 8 at the Callahan Community Center in the Parramore neighborhood.

Public Input

- There was no public input.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

MMR/