

**Community Partnerships Committee  
Of the Orange County Commission on Aging**

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017 \* 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**  
Holden Heights Community Center, 1201 20th St., Orlando, FL 32805

*Bringing together local organizations that work directly with & provide services for seniors, their caregivers & their families in the Central Florida community. Providing the Commission on Aging input on proposed projects & identifying needs of older Orange County adults.*

**Members Present**

Carolyn Austin, Representative Bruce Antoine's Office, Florida House District 46  
Lauren Benoit, Senior Resource Alliance  
Katie Bridge, Orlando Health Memory Disorder Clinic  
Audrey Hauser Burnett, Orlando Health Memory Disorder Clinic  
Diane Burns, Florida Hospital Centre for Aging and Wellness  
Jennifer Campbell, Age Advantage  
Michelle Caibio, Volunteers for Community Impact  
Wynter Solomon Cuthbert, 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court  
Scott Egan, Orange County Fire Rescue  
Rick Diden, Foresters Financial  
Lin Ferrol, Westminster Towers of Orlando  
Nancy Gavaghan, FUNctional Independence Training  
Edith Gendron, Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center  
Helen Jones, AARP Florida  
Linda Kline, DCF-Adult Protective Services  
Sally Kopke, VITAS  
Laura Lang, Orange County Sheriff's Office  
Anne Maley, Nancy Gavaghan, FUNctional Independence Training  
Karla Melo, Family Physicians Group  
Bridgett Monroe, Cornerstone Hospice  
Nancy Nix, Sawyer & Sawyer, P.A.  
Delilah Rivera, Volunteers for Community Impact  
Rob Roy, DCF-Adult Protective Services  
Ann SanCartier, Watercrest Assisted Living  
Nicole Stratman, Orange County Fire Rescue  
Luis Tapia, Florida Hospital Centre for Aging and Wellness  
Ada Tirado, Community Health Centers Florida  
Richard Santiago Wilcox, Foresters Financial

**Staff Present**

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

## **Minutes**

- Ms. Gendron opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Ms. Gendron asked the Committee to review to the minutes of the January 10, 2017 Community Partnerships meeting. No changes were made. Upon a motion by Ms. Gavaghan, seconded by Ms. Lang, the minutes of January 10, 2017 were unanimously approved.

## **Presentations**

- Presentation – Emergency Services Programs for Elders
  - Lieutenant Stratman and Mr. Egan provided an overview of Orange County Fire Rescue services, including fire suppression, medical services, technical rescue, hazardous materials, 911 communications, Fire Marshall services and community outreach. In 2016, Fire Rescue responded to 83,374 calls, of which 41% were calls for individuals over age 55 and 26.9% were for individuals over age 65. Lieutenant Stratman overviewed Fire Rescue training and certification requirements as well as discussed protocols for responding to emergency calls. Lieutenant Stratman summarized Fire Rescue special programs including station tours, blood pressure checks, sharp disposal exchange, child safety seat checks, smoke alarm installation, home safety survey, hands-only CPR training and fire extinguisher demonstrations. Lieutenant Statman stated smoking is the number one fire-related cause in the older adult population.
- Presentation – Changes to Florida Elder Abuse Laws
  - Mr. Roy and Ms. Kline provided an overview of the implementation regulations associated with Florida elder abuse laws. Mr. Roy stated no changes are being made to Florida Statutes. The changes center on the redesign of policy in how the Florida Department of Children and Families' Adult Protective Services Office will respond to *immediate* elder abuse reports. Mr. Roy stated for an elder abuse report to be elevated to an *immediate* response, all criteria for an immediate response must be met. 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. Mr. Roy stated his office is looking to partner with providers who have the ability to coordinate emergency care. Mr. Roy stated no changes have been made to the response protocols for child abuse calls.

## **Commission on Aging Update**

- Elder Ambassador Program – Ms. Gendron welcomed Ms. Taylor to the Office on Aging. Ms. Taylor has filled a six-month contract position created to help reestablish the Elder Ambassador program. This program trains volunteers to become spokespersons on elder programs and resources in Central Florida. Staff began taking requests for presentations or vendor events on March 1 and a core training program is scheduled for May. Staff is hosting three open houses in March to recruit volunteers for the core training.
- LIFE Information for Elder Seminars – Ms. Gendron stated that staff has begun the process of developing the schedule for the Fall 2017 program. A survey was distributed

to past attendees of the LIFE Information for Elders seminars. The votes have been tallied and the topics that received the highest number of votes will move on to become the topics for the fall. Ms. Gendron asked the Community Partnerships Committee to help identify speakers for these topics. The following speakers were recommended:

- Caring for your skin – Ms. SanCartier will connect staff to a dermatologist
- Community resources for elders – The Elder Ambassadors will speak
- Hospital resources you never knew existed – Ms. Burnett and Ms. Burns will connect with their hospitals' staff
- Simple exercise to maintain strength and flexibility – Ms. Maley and Ms. Gavaghan will speak
- Ten pieces of technology seniors should embrace – Ms. Rivera will speak
- Where to travel, what to see – This will be a show and tell, with representatives from AAA, AARP and Life's a Trip

### **Partnership "Go Around"**

- Ms. Gendron asked attendees to share any new programs or events associated with their organization.
  - Ms. Austin, Representative Bruce Antoine's Office, Florida House District 46 – The Florida Legislative session began on March 7. Representative Antoine is sponsoring a parental alienation bill to help restore rights to parents who have had their children removed.
  - Ms. Benoit, Senior Resource Alliance – Organizations were recruited to host a chronic disease self-management program or diabetes self-management program.
  - Ms. Bridge and Ms. Burnett, Orlando Health Memory Disorder Clinic – This clinic is one of several state-funded memory disorder clinics. The spring Caregiver College flyer was distributed.
  - Ms. Burns and Mr. Tapia, Florida Hospital Centre for Aging and Wellness – The Centre supports elders, their caregivers and families.
  - Ms. Campbell, AgeAdvantage – AgeAdvantage is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The agency accepts non-motorized medical equipment and then distributes free of charge in the community. A wheel chair accessible limo is also available for clients.
  - Ms. Caibio and Ms. Rivera, Volunteers for Community Impact – Cyber Seniors matches seniors interested in learning about smart technology with a volunteer trainer. Foster Grandparents provides a small stipend to low-income elders interested in volunteering with youth. RSVP recruits and manages a team of community volunteers.
  - Ms. Solomon Cuthbert, 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court – The Guardianship monitoring program has grown in the last decade. In 2006, there were 105 new cases. In 2016, staff stopped counting at 468 new cases. There are 2,191 active cases. Staff is recruiting volunteers to help monitor cases and, potentially, conduct site visits of clients.
  - Mr. Diden and Mr. Santiago Wilcox, Foresters Financial – Forester Financial is interested in sponsoring community presentations and events. Forester is also

interested in exploring the possibility of establishing a hotline for individuals with financial questions.

- Ms. Ferrol, Westminster Towers of Orlando – Westminster has numerous residential communities in Central Florida.
- Ms. Gavaghan and Ms. Maley, FUNctional Independence Training – The next F.I.T. class begins on March 14 at the Center for Independent Living. There are a few more openings for this eight-week program.
- Ms. Gendron, Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center – Services offered include care coaching, Florida Brain Bank and support groups. The next Savvy Caregiver class begins on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Ms. Jones, AARP Florida – The AARP website has a wealth of information on all issues affecting older adults – from home safety to caregiving. AARP is concerned about the proposed changes to the Affordable Care Act.
- Mr. Roy and Ms. Kline, DCF-Adult Protective Services – DCF is interested in building an Orange County coalition to address the issue of elder abuse.
- Ms. Kopke, VITAS – VITAS has an office at One Senior Place and is sponsoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual volunteer and employment fair on April 21.
- Ms. Lang, Orange County Sheriff's Office – Cremation scams are on the increase. Seniors living alone are being targeted by individuals who offer caregiver support and move in. Many of these individuals have a criminal record or are drug users.
- Ms. Melo, Family Physicians Group – Their organization has 22 offices in Orange, Seminole, Osceola and Lake counties, and serves 20,000 patients.
- Ms. Monroe, Cornerstone Hospice – Cornerstone is hosting a seven-day case management program to help families learn how to manage a loved one's care.
- Ms. Nix, Sawyer & Sawyer, P.A. – Sawyer and Sawyer is an elder law office that provides full estate planning services.
- Ms. SanCartier, Watercrest Assisted Living – Watercrest is hosting a "sailing into your senior years" program on April 27.
- Ms. Tirado, Community Health Centers Florida – The Pine Hills Center was relocated to 840 Mercy Drive. Individuals interested in a tour of this full-service facility should contact Ms. Tirado. There are 11 centers in Orange and Lake counties.

- The meeting ended at 10:30 a.m.

MMR/