

**Orange County Commission on Aging  
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting – July 10, 2017**

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

**Meeting Minutes**

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Vision	<b>Create Positive Aging!</b> 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

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**Members Present**

Mr. Gus Martinez, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Sandria Foster  
Ms. Edith Gendron  
Ms. Cathy Kerns  
Dr. Carmel Munroe  
Mr. Lynn Nicholson  
Mr. Lee Watson

**Members Absent**

Mr. Crockett Bohannon  
Mr. Randy Hunt  
Ms. Aquasia Johnson McDowell

**Others Present**

Ms. Sara Georgiades, Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center  
Ms. Mimi Reggentin, Office on Aging  
Ms. Lavon Williams, Community Action Division

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**Meeting Notes**

- Mr. Martinez opened the meeting at 8:40 a.m. and thanked Ms. Williams for attending the meeting.
- Ms. Williams stated her appointment as Manager of the Community Action Division is scheduled for action by the Board of County Commissioners on July 11, 2017. Ms. Williams provided a synopsis of her 20-year career at Orange County.
- Ms. Williams stated Orange County supports the mission on the Commission on Aging and is committed to ensuring the Commission on Aging remains an effective resource to the community. Orange County is committed to keeping services at current levels as much as possible, while understanding there are staffing and funding constraints. In response to the Board's questions on how decisions are made in Orange County, Ms. Williams stated that

most decisions originate in the Mayor's Office and then are directed to the Board of County Commissioners and staff. Ms. Williams stated that ideas and issues can also originate from elected Commissioners or any of the advisory boards. These ideas and issues would be directed to the Mayor's Office for review.

- Ms. Williams excused herself at 8:45 a.m., stating that she had a prior commitment to attend.

#### Consent Agenda

- Mr. Martinez noted there was no quorum at the May meeting, thus the Board has a larger consent agenda to approve. Upon a motion by Mr. Nicholson, seconded by Ms. Kerns, the Commission on Aging minutes from the March 13 and May 8 meetings were unanimously approved. Upon a motion by Dr. Munroe, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, the Community Partnerships Committee minutes from the March 7 and May 2 meetings and the Elder Ambassador Committee minutes from March 15 and April 19 were unanimously approved.

#### Community Partnerships Committee Update

- Ms. Gendron provided an overview of the Community Partnerships Committee meeting that was held on June 26. The featured speaker was Wynter Solomon-Cuthbert from the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court. Ms. Solomon-Cuthbert oversees the guardianship program. The Board asked staff to forward the summary of this presentation to them.

#### 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's Committee on Aging has changed their schedule to bi-monthly meetings. The Committee is asking different County departments to overview their services and how they affect the older adult population. The goal is to develop a brochure of city programs that serve elders. Mr. Nicholson stated Mayor Dyer hosted a farewell party for Ms. Antonio Torres who has just retired from City's Mayor's Committee on Aging after 27 years of service.

#### Six-Month Status Update

- Mr. Martinez provided an overview of the six-month status update of the Commission on Aging. Mr. Martinez reviewed the goals of the Commission on Aging advisory board and the Community Partnerships Committee. He commented that everyone on the Board has a passion to serve elders, adding that it is also important to reach out to youth who may become caregivers of elders.
- Mr. Martinez reviewed the activities of the Elder Ambassador program, noting that there were 13 events held in May. All total, there were 755 volunteer hours donated by Elder Ambassadors from February through June. Mr. Martinez also reviewed the LIFE Information for Elders program and commented that attendance has grown over the last year. After Mr. Martinez reviewed the senior sensitivity training program, Ms. Reggentin stated this program does not have the same administrative demands as the Elder Ambassador program. Most of the trainings are scheduled by the elder services professionals who are volunteer trainers, rather than staff. Mr. Martinez reviewed the statistics related to Commission on Aging's monthly e-newsletter, noting that many organizations also forward this newsletter to their staff. He also highlighted the other outreach efforts of the Commission on Aging, including the 50+ FYI Expo in May and the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Symposium in June.

### Additional Status Updates

- Second Quarter Attendance Report – Mr. Martinez reviewed the second quarter attendance report that staff has forwarded to the MMRB staff. He noted that attendance has been a challenge this spring. Mr. Martinez stated the MMRB has recommended the appointment of Ms. Kinda Haddad to the Commission on Aging and the Board of County Commissioners is scheduled to take action on this recommendation on July 11. Ms. Haddad would replace Ms. Kerns. Dr. Munroe noted the MMRB recommended that Ms. Johnson McDowell be reappointed to the Commission on Aging despite her lack of attendance. Dr. Munroe asked staff to share the Board's concerns with the MMRB staff. In response to the Board's inquiries regarding Mr. Hunt's absenteeism, Ms. Reggentin stated she had discussed the Board's concerns with the MMRB staff. The Commission on Aging's resolution states the position is reserved for the executive director of the Area Agency on Aging and the resolution does not allow for an alternate. Ms. Reggentin stated that it would take a significant amount of time to change the enabling resolution. The Board directed staff to ask Mr. Hunt that when he was unable to attend, if he could send a staff person to give his report and comment on initiatives of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. This staff person would be attending as a member of the public.
- Volunteer Hours – Mr. Martinez asked the Board to review their volunteer hours for the first six months of 2017. No additional volunteer hours were added.

### Elder Ambassador Update

- Mr. Martinez stated the Elder Ambassador program is of benefit to the community. The Board discussed the Elder Ambassador program and there was consensus that a permanent staff position was needed to manage this program. Mr. Martinez noted this decision was being made by the Board, not by staff. The Board discussed sending a letter of support for this program to the County.
- Dr. Munroe moved that the Board draft a letter to the County advocating and requesting to reinstate the permanent staff position to the Office on Aging. Ms. Foster seconded. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed this letter should cite the success of the Elder Ambassador program and should ask for the position to be established by September 1. The motion passed unanimously.

### New Business

- Mr. Martinez stated his organization, Miles of Help Through Christ, is hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving for homeless and poor at the Lake Eola amphitheater on November 18 from noon to 4 p.m. It was last held in 2015, when 240 volunteers served meals to 800 people. As part of this event, volunteers will help connect individuals to community services. Mr. Martinez stated the Elder Ambassadors could have a table at the event at no charge.

### Public Input

- Ms. Georgiades introduced herself, stating she is an intern with the Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center.

Upon motion by Mr. Nicholson, seconded by Ms. Gendron, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

MMR/