

**Orange County Commission on Aging
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting – November 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, Chairman
Mr. Gus Martinez, Vice Chairman
Ms. Edith Gendron
Dr. Carmel Munroe
Mr. Lynn Nicholson
Mr. Lee Watson

Members Absent

Ms. Sandria Foster
Ms. Kinda Haddah
Mr. Randy Hunt
Ms. Aquasia Johnson McDowell

Others Present

Ms. Mimi Reggentin, Office on Aging
Ms. Lavon Williams, Community Action Division

Meeting Notes

- Mr. Bohannon opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He noted that a quorum was not present so the consent agenda could not be approved.

Community Partnerships Committee Update

- Ms. Gendron provided an overview of the November 7, 2017 Community Partnerships Committee meeting. Orange County's Mental Health and Homelessness Issues Division was the main speaker. Ms. Gendron recapped this presentation, stating that Florida was 49th in the nation for mental health funding. Ms. Gendron also noted that when an elder who either has dementia or delirium is exhibiting mental health behaviors, local law enforcement have no other alternatives except the Baker Act process. She stated the Baker Act system is not an appropriate solution for these individuals. Ms. Gendron stated the Community Partnerships Committee also selected speakers for the 2018 calendar year. At their September meeting,

the Committee selected the Spring 2018 topics for the LIFE Information for Elders seminar series.

Senior Resource Alliance Update

- Mr. Hunt was not present. Ms. Gendron stated the Florida Department of Elder Affairs has launched a statewide dementia care initiative. The focus is to assist local communities in their efforts to create dementia-friendly communities based on their own individual needs. Ms. Gendron stated there was no funding for this statewide initiative. Ms. Gendron added that the Florida Council on Aging is asking local providers and citizens to contact State Legislators to request additional funding for home and community based funding.

City of Orlando Mayor's Committee on Aging

- Mr. Nicholson stated the City's board has been hosting City departments at their meetings for the last year. The goal has been to learn how City services help elders living in Orlando. Mr. Nicholson added that Cathy Kerns had recently been elected chair of the City's board, but had passed away prior to the next board meeting. The next meeting will be in January and, at that time, the board will elect a new chair.
- Ms. Williams excused herself from the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Commission on Aging Status Update

- Mr. Bohannon provided an update on the Commission on Aging's activities, as noted below.
 - Regularly scheduled board meetings for 2018
 - Commission on Aging's PowerPoint slides that were presented to the Community Action Board at their November meeting
 - Commission on Aging's November e-newsletter
 - Spring 2018 schedule for the LIFE Information for Elders seminar series
 - 3rd quarterly attendance report for the Commission on Aging
- Dr. Munroe arrived at the meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- The Board discussed the attendance report, noting that several Board members had a high absenteeism rate. There was concern the Commission on Aging could not effectively conduct Board business without a quorum and without all the vacancies filled. Ms. Reggentin stated that on November 14, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners are scheduled to take action on the Membership and Mission Review Board's recommendation to appoint Randiesa Spires to replace Corey Douglas. Mr. Martinez requested that staff email the County advisory board application to him.

Open Discussion on Commission on Aging Activities

- Mr. Bohannon distributed the 2018 calendar of activities for the Commission. He noted the calendar lists regularly scheduled meetings, seminars, quarterly training's for the Elder Ambassadors and other events. The larger events include the two 50+ FYI Expos and the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Symposium. Ms. Reggentin provided an update on the Elder Ambassador program. Staff had previously indicated this program would be placed on hiatus. However, while the Elder Ambassadors will not be scheduled for community outreach activities, it is anticipated that staff will have the opportunity to continue the quarterly trainings for the volunteers.
- Dr. Monroe inquired about the status of the letter the Board had requested the Board Chair send to County Administration regarding staffing levels of the Office on Aging. Mr. Bohannon stated that he had personally met with several County Commissioners and their

staff rather than writing a letter, with the belief this was a more personal approach. He added the feedback from these meetings was additional staff for the Office on Aging was not warranted at this time. Discussion ensued. The Board directed Mr. Bohannon to follow up with a letter to County Administration. Mr. Bohannon stated he would send a copy of the executed letter to staff for distribution to the Board.

- Ms. Monroe suggested staff research whether there are grant opportunities that can help fund staffing needs. Ms. Reggentin reviewed the County process for grant applications. Discussion ensued. Ms. Gendron stated often grants target specific populations, such as children. Finding a grant for elder services for government entities is more challenging.

New Business

- Mr. Martinez stated that Latino Leadership has taken a lead role in helping evacuees from Puerto Rico. He encouraged the Board to direct individuals who may need assistance to this organization.
- Mr. Martinez stated his nonprofit, Miles of Help Through Christ, will be hosting a Thanksgiving for the Homeless on November 18. Volunteers are welcome at this event. Mr. Martinez stated Miles of Help Through Christ is also hosting a day of fun at Fun Spot that is open to underprivileged youth on December 10. The organization will also be hosting a Christmas miracle toy drive for over 300 youth who are homeless.

Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

MMR/