

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

Tuesday, January 5, 2018 * 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Pine Hills Community Center, 6408 Jennings Road, Orlando FL 32818

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

Felicia Anderson, Bioclinica Research
Carolyn Austin, Representative Bruce Antoine's Office, Florida House District 46
Mark Batchelor, Seniors First
Katie Bridge, Orlando Health Memory Disorder Clinic
Audrey Hauser Burnett, Orlando Health Memory Disorder Clinic
Diane Burns, Florida Hospital Centre for Aging and Wellness
Matt Carli, Burgos and Brein
Jessica Csorba, Bioclinica Research
Heidi Farajallah, Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling
Nancy Gavaghan, FUNctional Independence Training
Edith Gendron, Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center
Paul Henderson, Great Transitions
Dennis Latta, Florida VA, Division of Veterans' Benefits and Assistance
Kim Lee, Flourish in Place
Nikki Magyar, Right At Home
Anne Maley, FUNctional Independence Training
Tatiana Ortiz, Cornerstone Hospice
Fredrick Robinson, VITAS Health Care
Robert Roy, Department of Children and Families
Ingancio Quinones, North Star Senior Advisors
Ada Tirado, Community Health Centers

Staff Present

Mimi Reggentin, Office on Aging

Minutes

- Ms. Gendron opened the meeting thanked everyone for attending.

Presentation – VA Disabilities Benefits and Services

- Ms. Gendron welcomed Dennis Latta with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Division of Veterans' Benefits and Assistance.
- Mr. Latta provided an overview of the benefits and services offered by the U.S. Veterans Administration to military retirees. Mr. Latta stated that individuals who were injured, became sick or contracted a disease during their military service may be entitled to disability

compensation. Disability does not have to be “service related,” but could have occurred during non-work hours during their military service.

- Mr. Latta stated that his staff can help veterans and their families apply for VA benefits. When the U.S. Veterans Administration reviews an application, they will assign a percent of disability. A zero percent disability does not mean a denial. Rather, it means the claim was approved, but the disability does not warrant compensation at the time of review. Disabilities are granted in 10 percent increments. Once a veteran’s claim is approved for at least a 10 percent disability, the veteran will begin receiving disability benefits. If the disability is at 30 percent or higher, the family also receives additional financial benefits. If a veteran’s disability is at least 60 percent, they can also receive long-term care services at a facility. At 50 percent or higher, the veteran no longer has to pay for any medications they receive from the VA. At 100% disability, the veteran is no longer charged for any medical care they receiving, including dental services. Mr. Latta stated all disability benefits are provided tax free to the veteran.
- Mr. Latta provided a brief summary of additional benefits military retirees receive for their years of services. Individuals are entitled to state benefits from their current state-of-residence as well as the state they lived in when they enrolled in the military. In Florida, veterans can enter any state park at no cost.

Minutes

- Ms. Gendron asked the Committee to review the minutes of November 7, 2017. No changes were made. Upon a motion by Ms. Monroe, seconded by Ms. Wiley, the minutes of November 7, 2017 were unanimously approved.

Commission on Aging Update

- Ms. Reggentin provided a brief overview of the Commission on Aging activities. The Spring 2018 LIFE Information for Elders seminar series has been released and staff is taking reservations for the series. Staff is also partnering with the Pine Hills Seniors and Cornerstone Hospice on a movie matinee that is scheduled for January 25.

Partnership “Go Around”

- Ms. Gendron asked attendees to share any new programs or events associated with their organization.
 - Ms. Hauser Burnett, Orlando Health Memory Disorder Clinic – The 2018 Caregiver College seminar series will be held monthly at the Orlando Health Heart Institute from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
 - Ms. Maley and Ms. Gavaghan, FUNctional Independence Training – Two new eight-week falls prevention classes will begin in January – one in Eatonville and one in Winter Park.
 - Mr. Lee, Flourish in Place – Mr. Lee provided an overview of their in-home brain care exercise program, stating the exercises are tailored to a persons’ individual needs.
 - Ms. Ortiz, Cornerstone Hospice –Ms. Ortiz stated that Cornerstone is offering palliative care consults to the general public at the UF Orlando Health Cancer Center. Individuals do not have to be enrolled in hospice to request a consult.
 - Mr. Batchelor, Seniors First – Mr. Batchelor stated he was recently hired to manage the Community Care for the Elderly program.

- Ms. Anderson and Ms. Csorba, Bioclinica Research – Bioclinica is a research company that does clinical trials and research on Alzheimer’s Disease, diabetes and PTSD. Bioclinica will conduct free baseline memory tests in the community.
- Ms. Tirado, Community Health Centers – Ms. Tirado provided an overview of the Community Health Centers, stating they have 12 locations in Orange and Lake counties.
- Ms. Austin, Representative Bruce Antoine’s Office, Florida House District 46 – Ms. Austin stated Representative Antoine is hosting a college fair on January 17, with 45 university attending this event. At the 2016 fair, \$8 million in college scholarships were awarded that day. Ms. Austin stated their office is still receiving calls from residents whose homes were damaged during the 2017 hurricanes.
- Mr. Roy, DFC – Mr. Roy provided a brief overview of the adult protective services managed by the Florida Department of Children and Families. Mr. Roy stated his staff is available to provide trainings on elder abuse prevention.
- Ms. Burns, Florida Hospital Centre for Aging and Wellness – Ms. Burns provided a brief overview of the Centre and its geriatric assessment center.
- Mr. Quinones, North Star Senior Advisors – Mr. Quinones stated his company helps families select an assisted living facility or adult family care home that fits their needs. Services are free to the consumer.
- Mr. Carli, Burgos and Brein – Mr. Carli stated Burgos and Brein is a financial firm that focuses on helping individuals with their retirement planning and VA planning.
- Ms. Magyar, Right At Home – Ms. Magyar stated her home companion agency is a VA Choice provider.
- Mr. Robinson, VITAS Health Care – Mr. Robinson stated he is the VA liaison for VITAS.
- Ms. Farajallah, Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling – Ms. Farajallah stated their organization is revving up for March, which is Problem Gambling and Awareness Month. Their organization is looking for community partners and events for this month.
- Ms. Gendron, Alzheimer’s and Dementia Resource Center – Ms. Gendron stated the next Savvy Caregivers program begins in January. Staff is also working to update their educational outreach for 2018, with an extensive new set of classes.
- The meeting ended at 10:15 a.m.

MMR/