

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

**Tuesday, June 27, 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  
Crockett Bohannon, Raymond James  
Katie Bridge, Orlando Health Memory Disorder Clinic  
Audrey Hauser Burnett, Orlando Health Memory Disorder Clinic  
Diane Burns, Florida Hospital Centre for Aging and Wellness  
Michele Caibio, Volunteers for Community Impact  
Matt Carli, Burgos and Brein  
Teri Cocking, Salvation Army  
John Davis, USA Dance  
Nancy Gavaghan, FUNctional Independence Training  
Paul Henderson, Great Transitions  
Randy Hunt, Senior Resource Alliance  
Ken Jenkins, Easter Seals Florida  
Maggie Koziol, Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling  
Sally Kopke, VITAS  
Melanie Lee, Flourish in Place  
Anne Maley, FUNctional Independence Training  
Bridget Monroe, Cornerstone Hospice  
Stephanie Palacios, Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy's Office, Florida Congress District 7  
Theresa Ronnebaum, Florida Attorney General's Office  
Wynter Solomon-Cuthbert, Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida  
Larri Thatcher, Legal Aid Society of Orange County Bar Association  
Ada Tirado, Community Health Centers  
Lisa Whaley, Seniors First, Inc.  
Sharon Wiley, Holden Heights Front Porch

**Staff Present**

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

**Minutes**

- Ms. Reggentin opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Ms. Reggentin stated she would oversee the meeting since Edith Gendron, Chair of the Community Partnerships Committee, is out-of-town.

## **Presentations**

- Presentation: Elders and the Court System - Ms. Reggentin introduced Wynter Solomon-Cuthbert. Ms. Solomon-Cuthbert manages the guardianship program for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida.
- Ms. Solomon-Cuthbert stated that she has managed the guardianship program since 2005. The number of guardianship cases has increased from 171 newly filed cases in 2005 to 468 new cases in 2016. To date, there have been 234 new cases filed this year.
- Ms. Solomon-Cuthbert explained that Florida Statutes Chapter 744.359 and Chapter 825.103 regulate guardianship in Florida. Guardianship is a legal relationship giving another person (the guardian) the legal right and duty to exercise specific rights that have been removed from another person (the ward.) Ms. Solomon-Cuthbert discussed which rights would be removed under guardianship, including the right to vote, manage property and possess a driver's license. She also explained which rights the ward would retain, including the right to be as independent as possible, treated humanely and receive visitors.
- Ms. Solomon-Cuthbert discussed the process for filing for guardianship. This includes filing a petition for incapacity from the court. The filing fee for guardianship is \$500. Other steps include a review by an examining committee, appointment of an attorney for the ward and criminal and credit checks on the potential guardian.
- Ms. Solomon-Cuthbert stated there are two primary types of guardians – family guardians and professional guardians. To become a professional guardian, individuals must take a 40-hour training course and pass an exam. Individuals interested in being a family guardian must take an 8-hour training course. In Orange County, this course is offered by Seniors First. Parents of a intellectually disabled child who has “aged out” of the youth system only need to take a 4-hour training course.

## **Minutes**

- Ms. Reggentin asked the Committee to review the minutes of May 2, 2017. No changes were made. Upon a motion by Ms. Solomon-Cuthbert, seconded by Ms. Burnett, the minutes of May 2, 2017 were unanimously approved.

## **Commission on Aging Update**

- Elder Ambassador Program – Ms. Reggentin provided a brief update on the Elder Ambassador program. To date this year, Elder Ambassadors have participated in 35 events and donated 750 hours of volunteer time to the program. There were also 20 volunteers who finished the core training and became new Elder Ambassadors in 2017.
- LIFE Information for Elders Seminar Series – Ms. Reggentin stated the fall schedule has been released and encouraged everyone to share this information in the community.

## **Partnership “Go Around”**

- Ms. Reggentin asked attendees to share any new programs or events associated with their organization.
  - Ms. Bridge and Ms. Burnett, Orlando Health Memory Disorder Clinic – This clinic is one of 15 state-funded memory disorder clinics that provide full medical evaluations for their clients. The Caregiver College series runs through August and includes two more sessions.

- Nancy Gavaghan and Anne Maley, FUNctional Independence Training – Two fall prevention classes are planned for the fall. These 8-week classes begin on September 6 at the Eatonville Library and September 12 at the Center for Independent Living.
  - Ms. Kopke, VITAS – VITAS is partnering with the Alzheimer’s Association on the annual memory walk, which is scheduled for October 7. Sponsors and walking teams are currently being recruited.
  - Melanie Lee, Flourish in Place – The new brain care program brings brain fitness programs and activities into the homes of elders who are not able to participate in community brain fitness programs. Management is recruiting new staff.
  - Paul Henderson, Great Transitions – Growing Bolder will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Growing Bolder Awards on December 6. He distributed the latest Growing Bolder Magazine.
  - Maggie Koziol, Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling – Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling is looking for partnerships to raise awareness on how compulsive gambling has impacted the elder population.
  - Ms. Palacios, Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy’s Office, Florida Congress District 7 – Congresswoman Murphy’s staff can assist constituents’ who are experiencing difficulty accessing services.
  - Lisa Whaley, Seniors First, Inc. – At the federal level, cuts to the national Meals on Wheels program are being proposed. Individuals are encouraged to visit Seniors First website to participate in the campaign to retain this national nutrition program. Sponsors for the annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot are being recruited. Mark Bachelor has replaced Maura Hassey’s and is currently in training.
  - Matt Carli, Burgos and Brein – The Orlando office is now located in downtown Orlando. Professional staff are available to do financial presentations in the community.
  - Mr. Taylor, Easter Seals Florida – Easter Seals receives Medicaid funds and these funds are slated for elimination under the proposed health care bill. Adult day services are provided to adults over age 18 who have cognitive decline.
  - Sharon Wiley, Holden Heights Front Porch – In addition to providing EHEAP assistance, Holden Heights Front Porch is hosting a summer youth employment program for approximately 75 students.
  - Ms. Austin, Representative Bruce Antoine’s Office, Florida House District 46 –The area that received significant new monies during the 2017 Legislative Session was children’s issues.
  - Ms. Monroe, Cornerstone Hospice – Cornerstone is hosting a motivational interviewing training class on July 12.
  - John Davis, USA Dance – There are 150 chapters across the United States and these chapters focus on “partner-led” dancing such as ballroom dancing or salsa. The Central Florida Chapter sponsors dances for special needs populations and will be hosting a dance for seniors on September 23. The Central Florida Chapter also provides free entertainment at events.
  - Teri Cocking, Salvation Army – The Salvation Army is hosting a resource fair on August 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sponsors and vendors are currently being solicited.
- The meeting ended at 10:30 a.m.

MMR/