

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

Tuesday, September 5, 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
Kim Boettner, Orange County Housing and Community Development Division
Sue Bonder, Flourish in Place
Diane Burns, Florida Hospital Centre for Aging and Wellness
Cissy Daniels, North Star Senior Advisors
Alexis Davis, Seniors First
Nancy Gavaghan, FUNctional Independence Training
Helen Jones, AARP
Maggie Koziol, Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling
Sally Kopke, VITAS
Monarcha Marcet, Adventure in Building, Inc.
Bridget Monroe, Cornerstone Hospice
Tatiana Ortiz, Cornerstone Hospice
Stephanie Palacios, Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy's Office, Florida Congress District 7
Ignacio Quinones, North Star Senior Advisors
Nancy Sharifi, Orange County Housing and Community Development Division
Francesse Stilo, Florida Hospital Intern
Larri Thatcher, Legal Aid Society of OCBA, Inc.
Ada Tirado, Community Health Centers
Lisa Whaley, Seniors First

Staff Present

Mimi Reggentin, Office on Aging

Minutes

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

Presentation - Affordable Housing Options for Elders by Nancy Sharifi and Kim Boettner, Orange County Housing and Community Development Division

- Ms. Sharifi stated that in 2016 there were an estimated 1,078,325 renter households living or below 60 percent of the annual median income, which represented 43 percent of all renter households. Of these households, 756,648 (70 percent) were cost burdened – that is they paid more than 30 percent of their income on housing. In Orange County, 43 percent of elderly households paid more than 30 percent of their income for rent or mortgage costs.

- Ms. Sharifi and Ms. Boettner provided an overview of several programs managed by the Orange County Housing and Community Development Division.
 - Housing Development – This program focuses on construction/acquisition and/or rehabilitation of new multifamily housing. Approximately 500 new units are produced through this program over a five-year strategic planning period.
 - Rental Assistance – The Section 8 and HOME programs both have significant waitlists. Individuals interested in being placed on this waitlist must wait until it is opened to apply, which only occurs every couple of years. Not everyone who applies during this process is placed on the waitlist due to the volume of applications. A lottery is conducted to fill the waitlist slots.
 - Section 8 – Individuals receiving Section 8 funds receive a housing voucher and are authorized to find a housing unit that meets the needs of their family and the requirements of the program.
 - HOME Tenant Base – This program is similar to the Section 8 program but is focused on providing housing vouchers for seniors, people with disabilities and homeless individuals.
 - Down Payment Assistance – This program provides down payment assistance for individuals interested in becoming a homeowner. Individuals must attend a mandatory home buying class and meet other eligibility criteria.
 - Single Family Housing Rehabilitation – This program is for families at or below 50 percent of the federal poverty level and provides emergency as well as substantial repairs to a homeowner's property.
 - Single Family Construction – This program involves acquiring land for affordable housing developments that are constructed by third-party developers.
- Ms. Sharifi stated the Orlando Metro Area, which includes Orange, Seminole, Lake and Osceola counties, is ranked third nationally for its lack of housing for extremely low-income residents. Reasons for this ranking include the area's low wages, flat incomes and rising rents.
- Ms. Sharifi overviewed some of the challenges with regards to affordable housing, including:
 - A lack of funding increases at the federal level;
 - The aging and deteriorating of existing affordable housing units; and,
 - HUD regulations state that multifamily housing complexes that use HUD funds only need to remain "affordable" for a set period of time; after which these units can be converted to full rental properties.
- Ms. Sharifi discussed other affordable housing programs within Central Florida. In addition to Orange County's Housing and Community Development Division, both the City of Orlando and the City of Winter Park maintain housing authorities. Florida also has a Florida Housing Finance Corporation to assist in providing a range of affordable housing opportunities throughout the state. Other resources include Low Income Housing Tax Credits that are issued by the U.S. Treasury and the HUD Section 202 housing for the elderly.

Minutes

- Ms. Reggentin asked the Committee to review the minutes of June 27, 2017. No changes were made. Upon a motion by Ms. Monroe, seconded by Ms. Kopke, the minutes of June 27, 2017 were unanimously approved.

Commission on Aging Update

- Ms. Reggentin asked the Community Partnerships Committee to help identify speakers for the LIFE Information for Elders seminar series for spring 2018. She added the topics were selected by past attendees of this seminar series. The Committee made the recommendations provided below.
 - Arthritis: tips and tricks for reducing pain – Ms. Austin stated she would reach out to her contacts for a recommendation.
 - Free classes by local nonprofits – The Committee had no recommendations. Ms. Reggentin stated she would research the topic and select a speaker. This speaker may be the Office on Aging.
 - Latest in dementia research – The Committee recommended Edith Gendron, Compass Research or Audrey Hauser Burnett.
 - Nutrition for optimal bone health – The Committee recommended Ronice Weaver or Sheryl Flynt.
 - Senior discounts – AARP was recommended.
 - Solving communication issues within families – The Committee suggested several individuals including Edith Gendron, Amy Angert, the Hispanic Family Counseling and Lenny Burke.
- Ms. Reggentin thanked the Committee for their recommendations and stated she will begin the process of completing the Spring 2018 schedule.

Partnership “Go Around”

- Ms. Reggentin asked attendees to share any new programs or events associated with their organization.
 - Ms. Kopke, VITAS – VITAS is partnering on three upcoming events. The Mind * Money * Medicare seminar is scheduled for September 14 from 1:15 – 3 p.m. at First Baptist Orlando. The Aging with Grace 2017 is scheduled for September 23 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Faith Assembly. The annual Veterans Day celebration is September 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at One Senior Place.
 - Ms. Bonder, Flourish in Place – Ms. Bonder stated she is developing an in-home brain care program. She also runs a Lewy Body dementia support group at One Senior Place.
 - Ms. Palacios, Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy’s Office, Florida Congress District 7 – Congresswoman Murphy’s staff can assist constituents’ who are experiencing difficulty accessing federal services.
 - Ms. Tirado, Community Health Centers – Ms. Tirado stated the network of Community Health Clinics provides a full range of health services on a sliding fee scale.
 - Ms. Jones, AARP – Ms. Jones stated AARP is currently visiting elected officials. Top priorities are Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP and Social Security.
 - Ms. Marcet, Adventure in Building – Ms. Marcet stated she consults on home accessibility issues and is licensed home modification business.
 - Maggie Koziol, Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling – Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling has a number of services including one-on-one counseling, community presentations and other outreach.
 - Ms. Austin, Representative Bruce Antoine’s Office, Florida House District 46 – Ms. Austin stated there are a number of community outreach events scheduled this fall including a health disparities summit on September 23, a job fair on October 3, a college fair on October 4 and a caregiver workshop in October.

- Ms. Monroe and Ms. Ortiz, Cornerstone Hospice – Staff at Cornerstone are available for a range of presentations including advance care planning, hospice 101 and senior sensitivity classes.
- The meeting ended at 10:30 a.m.

MMR/