

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

Tuesday, November 7, 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
Diane Burns, Florida Hospital Centre for Aging and Wellness
Edith Gendron, Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center
Paul Henderson, Great Transitions
Helen Jones, AARP
Sally Kopke, VITAS
Brian Moore, Department of Children and Families
Bridget Monroe, Cornerstone Hospice
Tatiana Ortiz, Cornerstone Hospice
Maritza Perez, Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling
Francesse Stilo, Florida Hospital Intern
Heather Thomas, Orange County Mental Health and Homelessness
Sharon Wiley, Holden Heights Front Porch

Staff Present

Mimi Reggentin, Office on Aging

Minutes

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

Presentation – Mental Health and Homeless Issues, Heather Thomas, Orange County Mental Health and Homelessness

- Ms. Thomas provided an overview of the mental health and homeless programs offered by Orange County Government. In 2004, Orange County opened a Central Receiving Center (CRC) as a pre-booking jail diversion system. Individuals that might otherwise be Baker Acted or Marchman Acted are diverted to the CRC, which is collocated with Aspire Health. Approximately 98 percent of CRC clients are dropped off by law enforcement. Ms. Thomas provided an overview of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training that is provided to law enforcement and encouraged more public awareness about this service in the community.
- CRC successes include:
 - \$3.2 million in savings by the Orange County jail, since the CRC was established;
 - Reduction in jail population; and
 - 12 minute intake process when individuals are dropped off by law enforcement.
- The Committee discussed the lack of mental health and homeless services for elders. Ms. Gendron stated that Central Florida has no resources other than the Baker Act process when a

violent elder needs to be separated from their caregiver. Ms. Austin stated that a number of elders were displaced from their homes due to Hurricane Irma and there is no transitional housing for elders.

- Ms. Thomas stated homeless services providers use an assessment score to determine a person's risk of homelessness and these individuals are placement on the waitlist for transitional housing based on their assessment score.
- Ms. Gendron stated the Central Florida community could benefit from a taskforce on mental health and aging issues. Ms. Thomas agreed and encouraged the elder services community to move forward on this taskforce, stated that for this taskforce to gain traction, the elder services community would need to identify key stakeholders who would champion this issue.

Minutes

- Ms. Gendron asked the Committee to review the minutes of September 5, 2017. No changes were made. Upon a motion by Ms. Monroe, seconded by Ms. Wiley, the minutes of September 5, 2017 were unanimously approved.

Commission on Aging Update

- Ms. Reggentin stated staff is in the process of finalizing the Spring 2018 LIFE Information for Elders seminar series.
- Ms. Gendron asked the Committee to identify potential presentations for the Community Partnerships Committee meetings in 2018. Once identified, the Committee voted on their top choices and the six presentation topics were selected as noted below.

Selected Topics

- Veterans services: programming (not disabilities) – 11 votes
- Lobbying / community awareness of elder issues – 11 votes
- UCF School of Social Work – 9 votes
- Paratransit services – 8 votes
- Veterans services: disabilities – 7 votes
- Housing update- 7 votes

Additional Topics Identified

- Dementia update – 6 votes
- Livable communities – 5 votes
- Reverse mortgages – 4 votes
- Property Appraiser homestead exemptions – 2 votes
- Neighborhood Services – 2 votes
- Options for active aging – 1 vote
- Rideshare systems – 1 vote
- 50+ Resource Network – 0 votes

Partnership “Go Around”

- Ms. Gendron asked attendees to share any new programs or events associated with their organization.
 - Ms. Wiley, Holden Heights Front Porch – Ms. Wiley stated she assists elders who are 60 and over with their application for the federal EHEAP funds. These funds can be used to pay an elder's utility bill once in the heating months and once in the cooling months.

- Ms. Perez, Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling – Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling has a statewide helpline that people can call 24/7 if they have concerns about compulsive gambling. In addition to this toll-free hotline, their organization also provides counseling services and community outreach programs.
- Mr. Moore, DFC – Mr. Moore provided a brief overview of the adult protective services managed by the Florida Department of Children and Families.
- Ms. Jones, AARP – Ms. Jones stated AARP has begun meeting with state elected officials in preparation for the upcoming Legislative Session. AARP is also very active in the livable communities' effort and in the senior hunger issue.
- Ms. Burns, Florida Hospital Centre for Aging and Wellness – Ms. Burns provided a brief overview of the Centre and its geriatric assessment center.
- Ms. Gendron, Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center – Ms. Gendron stated the next Savvy Caregivers program begins in January. Upcoming events include the Blue World View fundraiser on November 9 and the Festival of Wreaths at Arden Courts ALF in December. Staff also provides outreach in the West Orange community each Thursday afternoon.
- Ms. Monroe and Ms. Ortiz, Cornerstone Hospice – Ms. Monroe provided an overview of Cornerstone Hospice and its service area. Ms. Ortiz stated that Cornerstone has partnered with Orlando Health to construct a hospice house at Health Central hospital. The ground breaking ceremony is November 9. This new hospice house will have nine private beds.
- Ms. Austin, Representative Bruce Antoine's Office, Florida House District 46 – Ms. Austin stated she has been working with FEMA and DCF to help victims of Hurricane Irma. She encouraged attendees to contact her if they needed help with local disaster relief efforts.
- The meeting ended at 10:30 a.m.

MMR/