

**Orange County Commission on Aging  
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting – March 13, 2019**

Holden Heights Community Center, 1201 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Orlando FL 32805 \* 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Meeting Minutes**

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Vision	<b>Create Positive Aging!</b> 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

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**Members Present**

Mr. Gus Martinez, Chair  
Dr. Sandria Foster  
Ms. Kinda Haddah  
Mr. Randy Hunt  
Dr. Barbara Keene  
Mr. Willie Patterson

**Members Absent**

Ms. Edith Gendron, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Carmel Munroe  
Mr. Ken Terrell

**Others Present**

Chaplain Edwin Alicea, Director for Pastoral Care, AdventHealth  
Mr. James Coffin, Interfaith Council of Central Florida  
Ms. Mimi Reggentin, Orange County Office on Aging  
Ms. Yamile Rodriguez, A Place Called Sweet Home  
Ms. Luz Ruiz, A Place Called Sweet Home  
Ms. Roxy Santiago, Orange County Membership and Mission Review Board  
Ms. Lavon Williams, Orange County Community Action

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**Meeting Notes**

- Mr. Martinez opened the meeting and welcomed Mr. Patterson to the Commission on Aging advisory board. Mr. Patterson provided a summary of his background.

**Consent Agenda**

- Mr. Martinez stated there was a quorum to take action on the consent agenda.
- Upon a motion by Ms. Haddah, seconded by Dr. Keene, the Commission on Aging minutes from January 9, 2019 and November 12, 2018 were unanimously approved.

- Upon a motion by Mr. Hunt, seconded by Mr. Patterson, the Community Partnerships Committee minutes from January 11, 2019 and November 2, 2018 were unanimously accepted.

#### Discussion of the Interfaith Symposium on Aging Coalition

- Mr. Martinez welcomed Mr. Coffin and Chaplain Alicea to the meeting to discuss the Interfaith Symposium on Aging and the Community Council on Spirituality and Aging that were formerly in the community.
- Dr. Keene provided an overview of these community endeavors. The local coalition began in 1994 as the Interfaith Symposium on Aging. When this coalition disbanded, the community reconvened and developed a Community Council on Spirituality and Aging. These coalitions focused on hosting an annual event to promote spirituality and aging. The coalitions also provided an opportunity for the community to explore how different cultures and religions support elders. Dr. Keene stated these discussions on spirituality provided a supplement to the medical model of caring for elders.
- Discussion ensued. There was consensus that continuing the discussion on spirituality and aging is relevant and can be empowering to elders. Dr. Foster stated future efforts should also include a discussion on how faith communities can support frail elders. Mr. Coffin stated two themes were emerging in the discussion – spirituality as a central theme (for individuals and organizations) and the need to support faith organizations in their efforts to serve their communities. These could be alternating themes for an annual event.
- Mr. Martinez asked for input on how to move the conversation forward. Discussion ensued. There was consensus the project would need a dedicated funding source with funds allocated to administrative support. There was also consensus the pastoral care programs at both hospital organizations should be actively involved. Mr. Coffin stated Florida Hospital has a funding stream for community projects. Mr. Hunt stated he would investigate the possibility of submitting a funding request for the Spring 2019 cycle. Ms. Williams stated that staff will meet to identify future possibilities for this initiative. She also stated the Board’s Community Partnerships Committee could be invited to participate in this discussion.
- Upon a motion by Mr. Hunt, seconded by Dr. Foster, the Board unanimously agreed to continue discussing the possibility of reconvening the Interfaith Symposium on Aging and to invite both hospitals to recommitment to this interfaith spirituality and aging effort.
- Mr. Martinez invited Mr. Coffin and Chaplain Alicia to the Commission on Aging’s May 8 meeting.

#### Community Partnerships Committee Update

- Ms. Reggentin provided an update of the Community Partnerships Committee meeting of March 1. Alexander Mercier from the Senior Resource Alliance provided an overview of the Elder Helpline and services managed by the local Area Agency on Aging. The Committee also selected the speakers for the fall 2019 series of the LIFE Information for Elders program. Ms. Reggentin also provided a brief overview on the Florida Sunshine Law.

#### Senior Resource Alliance Update

- Mr. Hunt stated the Florida Legislature is in session. In 2018, the Legislature provided no additional funds for Medicaid screenings. This year, \$2.4 million in additional statewide funding for Medicaid screenings is proposed. The Area Agencies on Aging across the state are asking for an additional \$20 million in general funds for elder services such as Community Care for the Elderly and adult day services.

#### City of Orlando Mayor's Committee on Aging

- Mr. Hunt provided the update for Mr. Terrell. The City of Orlando is exploring the possibility of applying for AARP's Livable Communities designation.

#### Commission on Aging Update

- Mr. Martinez postponed the discussion of the Board's roles and responsibilities to the May meeting since the two Board vacancies are scheduled to be filled.

#### New Business

- No new business was discussed.

#### Public Comments

- Mr. Martinez stated Miles of Help Through Christ will be hosting an open air praise and worship event at Festival Park on March 23 from noon to 5 p.m. The event will be free and open to the public. It will include music, food and entertainment.
- Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Luiz provided an overview of A Place Called Sweet Home, which is an adult day program at 4360 W. Vine St., Kissimmee. Services are currently available from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with plans for a 24-hour operation. The Board was invited to stop in at any time.
- Mr. Martinez thanked Ms. Santiago for attending the Commission on Aging meeting and for her efforts to appoint members to the Board.

Upon a motion by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Dr. Keene, the Board moved to adjourn at 10:10 a.m.

MMR/