

**Orange County Commission on Aging
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting – September 16, 2020
Meeting hosted by WebEx**

Meeting Minutes

Vision	Create Positive Aging! 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

Members Present

Mr. Willie Patterson, Chairman
Ms. Chandra Ewell, Vice Chairman
Ms. Edith Gendron
Ms. Gloria Harris
Dr. Barbara Keene
Mr. George McZeal
Ms. Karla Radka joined at 8:50 a.m.

Members Absent

Ms. Javecia Colston
Mr. Ken Terrell

Others Present

Ms. Yvette Luckett, Orange County Office on Aging
Ms. Mimi Reggentin, Orange County Office on Aging

Meeting Notes

- Mr. Patterson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Consent Agenda

- Upon a motion by Dr. Keene, seconded by Ms. Ewell, the Commission on Aging minutes of July 15, 2020 were unanimously approved.
- Upon a motion by Ms. Gendron, seconded by Ms. Ewell, the Community Partnerships Committee meeting of March 6, 2020 and the Community Resources Working Committee minutes of August 21, 2020 and September 2, 2020 were accepted.

Commission on Aging Mid-Year Update

- The Board reviewed the January through June update from the Commission on Aging. A new program, the weekly e-blast newsletter began in January and has been very successful in sharing news about community events and programming for older adults. Orange TV programming has continued on a limited basis as has the Elder Ambassador program. The Senior Sensitivity training has been placed on hold due to COVID-19.

Discussion on Elder Services Needs in the Community

- Ms. Gendron stated elders and their care partners are experiencing more mental health and stress issues due to the pandemic. Families are frustrated that Governor DeSantis has established a voluntary opening of the assisted living and nursing homes in Florida. Many facilities have elected not to open their homes to visitors, thus many families continue to not be able to visit loved ones. Opening up facilities should be a mandatory order.
- Elder mental health needs also includes the fact that many older adults are worrying about the financial challenges their adult children are facing.
- Discussion ensued. The Board noted that many older adults have embraced technology and are participating in educational and fitness classes. Many older adults are getting technology help from younger family members and friends. It was noted that cable TV is often a good option for older adults who have difficulty with virtual learning.
- Ms. Luckett stated the Elder Ambassadors have a virtual learning on September 17. Topics include elder abuse and gut health. Ms. Luckett stated she is in the process of contacting the elder ambassadors to introduce herself. She is connecting with the Pine Hills Seniors and Seniors First. Ms. Luckett stated the primary purpose of the Elder Ambassador program is to educate volunteer ambassadors and have them share their knowledge and resources in the community. Discussion ensued. The Board asked to be notified of future Elder Ambassador trainings.
- Ms. Harris stated the Fit to Dance 2 virtual classes have been very successful. Word of mouth has been a very effective means of advertising. Also, fliers for the exercise classes have been distributed at several food distribution sites. When reaching out to seniors, fliers should be targeted to the unique audience and should be focused on one topic. It is also important to have a distribution plan before creating a flier.
- Dr. Keene stated one target audience should be the faith communities.
- Ms. Ewell noted the number of scams target to seniors has increased during the pandemic.

New Business

- Ms. Gendron stated the Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center provides many educational seminars in the community. These seminars are free to the public and, typically, there is no cost to schedule these trainings.
- Dr. Keene recommended two books, *Life Isin Transitions* and *Peace in the Last Third of Life*.

Public Comments

- No public comments were made.

The meeting ended at 9:50 a.m.

MMR/