

**Community Partnerships Committee of the Orange County Commission on Aging  
Friday, November 6, 2020 \* 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting was conducted through the WebEx virtual platform.

*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**

Audrey Alexander, Florida Department of Health in Orange County  
Carolyn Austin, retired  
Mark Batchelor, Cybercrime Support Network  
Michele Blackmon, Flourish In Place  
Ruth Caldwell, Help Me Grow Central Florida  
Bernadette Cipriani-Major, Halifax Health Hospice  
Ingrid Collins, AARP Florida  
John Davis, USA Dance  
Melissa Duhamel, Unified Rehabilitation  
Janet Fogg, Florida Department of Children and Families  
Fabiola Gaines, Hebni Nutrition Consultants, Inc.  
Sarah Garcia, Cornerstone Hospice  
Nancy Gavagan, FUNctional Independence Training  
Edith Gendron, Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center  
Denise Hogan, Second Harvest  
Valerie Hudgins, AARP SCSEP  
Annette Kelly, Neighbors Network  
Nikki Magyar, Right at Home  
Anne Maley, FUNctional Independence Training  
Stephanie Malally, Guardian Care  
Kim McMahon, UF/IFAS Extension in Orange County  
Josephine Mercado, Hispanic Health Initiatives  
Andre Minott, AdventHealth Hospice  
Bridget Monroe, Cornerstone Hospice  
Abril Pabon, SELF-Solar and Energy Loan Fund  
Elizabeth Rich, Osceola County  
Mexcy Roberts, Legal Aid Society of Orange County Bar Association  
Fred Robinson, VITAS Hospice  
Marcia Romero, People Who Make A Difference  
Jose Santana, Easter Seals Adult Day  
Ada Tirado, AdventHealth Hospice  
JacQuie Walker, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, CARES

**Staff Present**

Yvette Luckett, Office on Aging  
Mimi Reggentin, Office on Aging

## Minutes

- Ms. Gendron opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Ms. Gendron asked attendees to share how their organizations have been affected by the pandemic and any new programs that have been implemented to support local elders.
- Audrey Alexander, Florida Department of Health in Orange County – The focus is on COVID-19 testing and flu shots. Free testing is available in the Lake Underhill community. If you have an event, the Health Department can provide flu shots for your attendees.
- Mark Batchelor, Cybercrime Support Network – This national nonprofit is noticing a significant trend in the number of COVID scams – especially targeted to older adults.
- Ruth Caldwell, Help Me Grow Central Florida – This nonprofit helps children age 8 and under – and, also works to connect families and caregivers to local support services.
- Bernadette Cipriani-Major, Halifax Health Hospice
- Ingrid Collins, AARP Florida – AARP has a number of programs focused on helping older adults. Volunteers are providing friendly voices calls to check-in with seniors who have requested the services. There is also a card-writing campaign to provide cards to Central Florida Veterans.
- John Davis, USA Dance – No performances have been held since March. One outdoor performance is planned at a local nursing facility.
- Janet Fogg, Florida Department of Children and Families – Ms. Fogg stated the state of Florida has a COVID resource page – visit [www.flgov.com/covid-19/](http://www.flgov.com/covid-19/).
- Fabiola Gaines, Hebni Nutrition Consultants, Inc. – Hebni has moved all of their programming to virtual events, especially Facebook Live demonstrations. This includes their cooking classes as well as exercise classes. Hebni is offering a \$5 fill-up bag of groceries on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Nancy Gavagan and Anne Maley, FUNctional Independence Training – This falls prevention class for elders has been on hiatus since the spring. Staff is developing an online curriculum.
- Edith Gendron, Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center – Programming has expanded during the pandemic and includes the new Michael's Mission program, seminars on reducing stress and anxiety as well as one-on-one counseling for caregivers. Staff is working toward being able to broadcast their programming.
- Denise Hogan, Second Harvest – Access to food has become critical over the last several months. Second Harvest is partnering with governments, businesses and the faith community to meeting this increased need. Seniors in need of food can call 407-514-1096.
- Valerie Hudgins, AARP SCSEP – This job training program remains active. Participants are engaging in the program at home, rather in their host agencies. Participants are still finding employment.
- Annette Kelly, Neighbors Network – This Village to Village nonprofit has found that many of its elder members facing social isolation and fears about the pandemic. Only half of their members are connected to technology. Volunteers are still helping members with essential services such as grocery shopping and transportation to medical appointments.
- Yvette Luckett, Orange County Office on Aging – The Elder Ambassador is moving forward and staff is reaching out to the community and sharing our resources. Many of the seniors who participate in the senior clubs at the community centers do not have email.
- Stephanie Malally, Guardian Care – The adult day care, which was licensed in December 2019, was closed in March 2020 due to COVID-19. Staff is anticipating the adult day program will reopen in the near future.

- Josephine Mercado, Hispanic Health Initiatives – The nonprofit has been focusing in the Volusia County community for the last several years. Since the pandemic, the focus has been on advocacy and distributing masks and hand sanitizers in the community. Staff is working with the UCF School of Medicine to roll out an existing mobile medical unit.
- Andre Minott, AdventHealth Hospice – Community outreach and outreach to medical offices has been significantly reduced due to COVID-19. Staff is noticing an increase in COVID cases due to hospitals discharge patients back to the community.
- Bridget Monroe, Cornerstone Hospice – Cornerstone has partnered with other organizations on several educational training programs including an eight-week training program with Hebni and the Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center focused on dementia prevention.
- Abril Pabon, SELF-Solar and Energy Loan Fund – Ms. Pabon provided an overview of SELF, stating they focus on providing loans to homeowners who might otherwise not be able to obtain a loan for solar or air conditioning repairs.
- Mimi Reggentin, Orange County Office on Aging - A two-page reference guide has been released. This is a companion to the *Community Resources for Elders* document.
- Elizabeth Rich, Osceola County – Many community programs are currently closed. Osceola County has a rental assistance program and an eviction diversion program, both similar to the programs available in Orange County.
- Mexcye Roberts, Legal Aid Society of Orange County Bar Association – The focus is currently helping residents facing evictions. This is a partnership program with Orange County Government.
- Fred Robinson, VITAS Hospice – The VA is developing a cash assistance program for caregivers of veterans.
- Marcia Romero, People Who Make A Difference – This organization is focused on providing medical consultations to the uninsured population.
- Jose Santana, Easter Seals Adult Day – Services were halted from March to July, at which time it was operating at 1/3 of a capacity. It is currently operating at 50 percent capacity.
- Ada Tirado, Adventhealth Hospice – Ms. Tirado noted that many doctor's offices have been significantly restricting visitors into their offices. She has focused on distributing personal protective equipment to medical offices.
- JacQuie Walker, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, CARES – Staff is not conducting applications for the CARES program via the telephone, instead conducting in-person assessments.

The meeting ended at 10:10 a.m.

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