

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

**Tuesday, November 1, 2016 \* 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, Bruce Antone, Florida House District 46  
Rachel Basseh, UCF  
Michele Blackmon, Orlando Cloisters  
Audrey Hauser Burnett, Orlando Health Memory Disorder Clinic  
Sylvia Gaddis, KEPRO  
Nancy Gavaghan, FUNctional Independence Training  
Edith Gendron, Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center  
Ken Jenkins Taylor, Easter Seals  
Helen Jones, AARP Florida  
Laura Lang, Orange County Sheriff's Office  
Anne Maley, FUNctional Independence Training  
Kathy Mascritelli, Homecare Assistance  
Nancy Nix, Sawyer & Sawyer, P.A.  
Sharon O'Neil, Ninth Judicial Circuit Court  
Wynter Solomon-Cuthbert, Ninth Judicial Circuit Court  
Ada Tirado, Community Health Centers

**Staff Present**

Mimi Reggentin, Office on Aging

**Minutes**

- Welcome - Ms. Gendron opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The Committee reviewed the draft minutes of September 6, 2016. Ms. Blackmon noted her name was misspelled. Upon a motion by Ms. Maley, seconded by Ms. Gavaghan, the minutes of September 6, 2016 were unanimously approved as amended.
- Ms. Gendron noted that Ms. Pappalardo had a last minute conflict and was not able to attend and give her presentation on the "Baker Act process and elders."
- Ms. Reggentin provided a brief overview of the Commission on Aging projects. The 8-month long leadership program, Aging Matters: Connecting with the Media, concluded in October with an opportunity for the agencies to pitch stories to different media professionals. Staff is continuing to schedule the Spring 2017 series for LIFE Information for Elders series.
- Ms. Gendron stated the November meeting is traditionally focused on identifying speaker topics for the coming year. It was suggested that next year's topics focus on how government services (especially county services) impact or help elders. Ms. Gendron led the group in

identifying potential topics. Committee members then voted on the presentation topics for 2017.

- Selected topics
  - Mental health services – 12 votes (include Baker Act, elder abuse from topic not selected below)
  - Emergency services – 11 votes (including responses and falls prevention)
  - Transportation – 11 votes
  - Housing – 9 votes
  - Elder justice / domestic violence – 9 votes
  - Tie – to combine into one presentation on “post retirement issues)
    - Planning jobs placement (working after retirement) – 7 votes
    - Health insurance after retirement – 7 votes
- Topics that were not selected
  - Baker Act process and elder abuse – 6 votes
  - Planning for liveable communities – 5 votes
  - County-funding for human services agencies – 5 votes
  - Veterans services – 3 votes
  - Communications – 3 votes
  - Code enforcement – 3 votes
  - Animal services – 1 vote
  - Neighborhood services – 1 vote
  - Parks and recreation – 1 vote
  - Human resources (employee caregiver support) – 1 vote
  - Community centers – 0 votes
  - Tourism (and senior tourists needing services – 0 votes
- Additional comments
  - The Committee discussed the rise in elder abuse cases and the need for a Harbor House shelter dedicated to older adults who are victims of domestic violence.
  - The Committee suggested that an “aging track” be added to the County’s neighborhood conference since many of the attendees to this conference are older.
  - Law enforcement has seen a growing trend in the tourists using hotels as an “assisted living” environment, where families leave their frail elders at the hotel while they visit the attractions.
- Ms. Gendron stated the Commission on Aging Board will be discussing and identifying future focus areas at their November meeting. Ms. Gendron asked the Community Partnerships Committee for comments and ideas that could be shared with the Commission on Aging as they began their discussion.
  - A “mini-mission” is needed and should focus on what Board wants to accomplish for 2017.
  - The Board should focus on rebuilding the Elder Ambassador program.
  - A critical role for the Commission on Aging is bringing information about elder services into communities. This includes outreach to faith communities as well as residential care communities. More effort should be placed on proactively reaching out to people, rather than waiting for people to seek out information.

- There is a need for case management services that can assist elders in completing forms and managing applications for services. Help with making the phone calls into the service agencies is also needed.
  - The Board should focus on reaching out to the media about aging issues, including television (through public service announcements) and print publications.
  - The community needs an outreach center that contains a library of resources for elders.
  - The Board should focus on developing educational materials that explain the impact that an aging population will have on communities, including demographic projections. This information should be shared with elected officials.
  - The Board should research historic data on the demand for elder services in Central Florida.
  - The Board should advocate for funding.
  - The Board should become advocates for elders and should participate in training on the issues affecting elders. The Board should collect information on how issues affect local elders. The Board should use this training to educate the community on pertinent and critical issues.
- Partnership “Go Around” – Ms. Gendron asked attendees to share any new programs or events associated with their organization. Discussion ensued.
  - The meeting ended at 10:30 a.m.

MMR/