

Orange County Commission on Aging
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting – May 9, 2016
Holden Heights Community Center, 1201 20th St, Orlando 32805

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. Corey Douglas
Ms. Sandria Foster
Ms. Edith Gendron
Mr. Randy Hunt
Ms. Cathy Kerns
Mr. Gus Martinez
Ms. Aquasia Johnson McDowell
Dr. Carmel Munroe
Mr. Lee Watson

Members Absent

Mr. Crockett Bohannon
Mr. Lynn Nicholson

Others Present

Ms. Mimi Reggentin, Office on Aging

Meeting Notes

- Ms. Gendron welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated Mr. Bohannon was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict.
- Upon a motion by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Dr. Monroe, the Commission on Aging minutes of March 14, 2016 were unanimously approved.
- Upon a motion by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Ms. Kerns, the Community Partnerships Committee minutes of March 1, 2016 and the Aging Matters minutes of April 14, 2016 were accepted.

Community Partnerships Update

- Ms. Gendron provided a summary of the Community Partnerships Committee meeting of May 3. Representative Bruce Antone spoke on the topic of “how elected officials plan for the needs of their elder constituents.” The Commission commented that it would be beneficial to have candidate forums focused on elder issues.

Senior Resource Alliance Update

- Mr. Hunt stated the Florida Legislature is on hiatus for the summer.

City of Orlando Mayor's Committee on Aging Update

- Ms. Kerns gave the report since Mr. Nicholson was absent. The City of Orlando will be moving forward with submitting a 'livable community' application with AARP, with a focus on transportation.

Status Updates

- Ms. Gendron provided a brief status update on the projects of the Commission on Aging including the Aging Matters program, Elder Ambassador program, 50+FYI Expo and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event.

COA Projects and Priorities

- Ms. Gendron reviewed the transition plan. The project coordinator position was transitioned from the Office on Aging to the Citizens Resource and Outreach Office and the request for a new project coordinator position did not make the budget for FY 2016/17. As a result, the Commission on Aging will need to reduce programming. The LIFE Information for Elder program will be cut by two-thirds and the West Oaks Library and Renaissance Senior Center locations will not be continued in the fall series. The Orlando location will continue. The Elder Ambassador program will be significantly reduced. Staff will not be coordinating another core training program and no new vendor events will be schedule. Staff will continue to schedule speaking engagements for the present time.
- The Commission discussed the reduction in programming and expressed concern that programs are being reduced at a time when the elder population is rapidly increasing.
- Mr. Douglas made a motion that Mr. Bohannon draft a letter to Mayor Jacobs and the Board of County Commissioners asking that the project coordinator position be reinstated. Discussion ensued. The Board expressed concern the traction that has been gained in educating local seniors will be lost by reducing programming. The Board commented this traction is important since the Baby Boomer population is reaching retirement age and the demand for services is rapidly increasing. The Board commented that reducing educational outreach may result in more seniors entering nursing home facilities. It was noted that the County pays a portion of the nursing home Medicaid costs from general revenue. The Board discussed the purpose of the County advisory boards. Board members commented that, as volunteers, it was within their purview to express their concerns to Orange County's Mayor and Board of County Commissioners. The motion did not have a second.
- Mr. Douglas made a motion to hold a special meeting to draft a letter to Orange County's Mayor and Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Johnson seconded. The motion passed.

New Business

- Mr. Martinez stated there will be another resource fair focused on providing services to individuals who are homeless on June 25th.

Public Input

- There was no public input.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

MMR/