Elder Ambassador Committee of the Orange County Commission on Aging

FEBRUARY 27, 2017 – 8:30 A.M.
Pine Hills Community Center, 6408 Jennings Road, Orlando FL 32818
In Building B Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Present
Edith Gendron, Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center
Bridget Monroe, Cornerstone Hospice
Carlos Morales, Orange County Consumer Fraud
Mimi Reggentin, Office on Aging
Wendy Roman, Humana
Kimberly Saint-Preux, Community Connections Transportation
Ona Taylor, Office on Aging

Minutes
- Ms. Reggentin opened the meeting and stated that Chairperson Norma Asencio was unable to attend. Ms. Taylor introduced herself and stated she is the new contract staff person in the Office on Aging.
- Ms. Reggentin stated that Ms. Taylor was hired for a six-month contract and will be responsible for reestablishing and managing the Elder Ambassador program. Ms. Reggentin stated the program will be restarted on March 1 with the existing roster of Elder Ambassadors. Ms. Taylor reviewed the activities that have taken place in February. Staff has already contacted all existing Elder Ambassadors and received commitments to continue from 70 percent of the volunteers. More than half of these volunteers attended one of two ambassador meetings in February. Staff will be scheduling a quarterly refresher training for existing volunteers. The Committee discussed the agenda for this refresher training. Ms. Taylor also stated she will be creating standards of procedures for the Elder Ambassador program and demonstrated the standard vendor kit.
- Ms. Gendron expressed her concern that the project coordinator position is temporary for a six-month period. She stated she will bring this concern to the Commission on Aging at their March meeting.
- The Committee discussed hosting a core training class in May and then selected dates for future meetings and events. The Committee also requested staff schedule several open houses to recruit volunteers for the core training in May.
    - Committee meeting - March 15 at 3 p.m. (*Note: this date was amended after the meeting due to a conflict.)*
    - Quarterly training for existing Elder Ambassadors – April 18 from 9 a.m. to Noon
    - Committee meeting – April 19 at 2 p.m.
    - Core training – May 3, 4, 9 and 11

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- Ms. Reggentin stated that during the 2014 and 2015 core training programs, volunteers could easily have their background checks conducted by Human Resources offices for Family Services since their office was in the same building as the core training. Background checks are now being conducted by another County office and volunteers will have to make a separate appointment for this screening. The Committee expressed concern that the Level II background checks will be a significant burden on volunteers and may result in volunteers dropping out of the program. The Committee discussed the timing of the Level II background checks. It was decided that volunteers could not attend the core training without having scheduled their appointment for a Level II background check.
- Ms. Reggentin provided an overview of Florida Sunshine and stated this Elder Ambassador Committee is subject to Florida Sunshine.
- The Committee discussed the composition of the Elder Ambassador Class 2017. There was discussion on whether individuals employed in elder services or financial services could participate in this program. The Committee decided that no more than 20 percent of the Class 2017 could consist of individuals employed in elder services or financial services. It was also decided that no more than two individuals from any specific field could participate.
- The Committee agreed to cap the class size to 30 individuals.
- The Committee discussed how to publicize the core training program.
- Several Committee members offered to help sponsor the food costs. Staff was asked to develop food budgets for the core training and the quarterly training.
- The meeting concluded at 10:15 a.m.

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