

**Orange County Commission on Aging  
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting – July 15, 2020  
Meeting hosted by WebEx**

**Meeting Minutes**

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Vision	<b>Create Positive Aging!</b> 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

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**Members Present**

Mr. Willie Patterson, Chairman  
Ms. Chandra Ewell, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Javecia Colston  
Ms. Edith Gendron  
Ms. Gloria Harris  
Dr. Barbara Keene via phone at 8:50 a.m.  
Mr. George McZeal  
Ms. Karla Radka at 9:10 a.m.

**Members Absent**

Mr. Ken Terrell

**Others Present**

Ms. Yvette Luckett, Orange County Office on Aging  
Ms. Mimi Reggentin, Orange County Office on Aging  
Ms. Lavon Williams, Orange County Community Action

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**Meeting Notes**

- Mr. Patterson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**Consent Agenda**

- Upon a motion by Ms. Gendron, seconded by Ms. Colston, the Commission on Aging minutes of January 15, 2020.
- Upon a motion by Ms. Gendron, seconded by Ms. Ewell, the Community Partnerships Committee meeting of January 10 were accepted.

**Commission on Aging Update**

- Mr. Patterson stated the *Community Resources for Elder* document, which is the main educational document used by the Elder Ambassadors, is being updated and revised. Part of the revision process involves establishing a committee to provide input on the proposed updates. Mr. Patterson provided a list of recommended individuals to serve on this committee, including Diane Buechler, George McZeal, Bridget Monroe, Audrey Hauser-Burnett, Edith Gendron and Wendy Roman. The Board made additional recommendations,

including Ms. Ewell, Ms. Colson and Mr. Patterson. Mr. Patterson stated these individuals had not been asked to serve on this committee and commented staff should have the latitude to adjust membership on this committee as necessary. Mr. Patterson made a motion to establish a Community Resources Working Committee to review and revise the *Community Resources for Elders* document. Ms. Colston second and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Discussion: Emerging Needs of Elders During COVID-19

- Mr. Patterson asked the Board to identify the emerging needs of seniors during this pandemic. Discussion ensued.
- Board members discussed the experiences of family, friends and elders in Central Florida. Isolation as well as mental health and well-being were of primary concern for both elders and the individuals who provide care and support. These issues were of concern both in a traditional living environment as well as assistive residential housing such as assisted living facilities.
- The Board discussed available resources such as the telephone reassurance programs offered by the Senior Resource Alliance, Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center and others elder services providers. Other resources mentioned were training efforts to educate seniors on how to use new technology. Ms. Radka provided a summary of the new services available through the Senior Resource Alliance.
- The Board stated there is a need for expanded education and awareness about existing programs such as the telephone reassurance services, technology training classes and virtual events.
- The Board directed staff to evaluate the possibility of creating marketing materials that highlight new local programs established in response to COVID-19. Suggested outreach efforts included utility bill inserts, through existing programs such as Meals of Love or virtual events and through the faith community.

#### New Business

- Ms. Radka stated the Senior Resource Alliance is partnering with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs to develop an online risk safety score website that would help the general public assess their risk of contracting COVID-19 by participating in community events or activities.

#### Public Comments

- No public comments were made.

The meeting ended at 9:40 a.m.

MMR/