

**Orange County Commission on Aging
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting – January 22, 2021
Holden Heights Community Center**

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. Willie Patterson, Chairman
Ms. Chandra Ewell, Vice Chairman
Ms. Javecia Colston
Dr. Barbara Keene
Mr. George McZeal

Members Absent

Mr. Victor Alzona
Ms. Edith Gendron
Ms. Karla Radka
Mr. Ken Terrell

Others Present

Mr. Jeff Benavides, Orange County Administration
Ms. Yvette Luckett, Orange County Office on Aging by WebEx.
Ms. Mimi Reggentin, Orange County Office on Aging

Meeting Notes

County's Efforts to Build a Strong Orange County

- Mr. Patterson opened the meeting and introduced Mr. Benavides as the Chief Sustainability and Resiliency Officer for Orange County. Mr. Benavides stated this is a new position created by Mayor Demings to create efficiencies both within Orange County Government and its community partners. The “sustainability” efforts focus on maintaining our existing resources for future generations. The “resiliency” efforts focus on how Orange County is able to effectively respond to changes and shocks to the community, such as the current pandemic. Another new position under Mayor Demings is the Chief Innovation and Emerging Technology Officer, which is staffed by Andrea Wesser-Brawner.
- Mr. Benavides provided a summary of Orange County’s community planning efforts, including Orange County’s LEED of Cities effort and the Vision 2050 initiative. The County

also participates in the East Central Florida Resiliency Collaborative. He stated these planning efforts tie into the new AARP Network of Livable Community initiative that Orange County Government just joined.

- Mr. Benavides stated that many community efforts, including Vision 2050, require feedback and involvement from local residents. Mr. Benavides asked for input on how staff could facilitate more input from older adults during the Vision 2050 community engagement effort that runs through September. Discussion ensued. Recommendations centered around connecting with seniors at the neighborhood level, engaging seniors when they connect to different county programming and targeting the “direct” message specifically to the older audience.

Consent Agenda

- A quorum was not present, therefore no action was taken on the minutes.

Summary of Annual Report

- Mr. Patterson provided a summary of the draft annual report, stating accomplishments for 2020 included launching a weekly e-blast of community events/programs, a major update of the *Community Resources for Elders*, publishing a quick summary of the new 40-page resource document, distributing a utility bill insert to customers of Orange County Utilities and submitting the application to join the AARP Network of Livable Communities.
- Mr. Patterson asked the Board to review this draft annual report and submit comments to staff by February 5. Discussion ensued. The Board asked if this annual report could be distributed to County administration and elected officials. The Board stated the Elder Ambassador program should be a primary focus for 2021.

Visioning Exercise and Discussion

- Mr. Patterson stated the vision exercise would be deferred to the next board meeting. In the meantime, the Board should consider how we can maximize the talents of its members. Discussion ensued. The Board stated the County’s centers should have programming that focuses on reducing isolation of local residents and more community volunteers are needed.

New & Other Business

- Dr. Keene asked if the postal service still alerted agencies if an elderly person had not picked up their mail for several days. Staff stated they would research this issue.

Public Input

- There was no public input.

Dr. Keene made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Colston seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

MMR/