

BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES



**Building C, Space Coast Room
Thursday, January 12, 2023
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

CHAIR: Dr. John Potomski, **Vice Chair:** Phil Koechlein

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Anderson, Judy Healy, Will Scheiner, Ina Fritsch, Terry Stone, Nancy Deardorff, and Deidra Schubert

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Kevin R. Campbell, Mark Woodley, Julie Cee, Matt Susin, Sherolyn Ingraham-Coleman, Lakesha Burn, Lisa Conway, Angie Higgins, Dan McDow, and Jodi Pena Castaldi.

BREVARD COUNTY STAFF: Cindy Short

SUMMARY

Call to Order / Introductions: John Potomski called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. Roll call occurred by everyone attending.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2022: Minutes were reviewed by all members once quorum was attained. **Judy Healy** made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by **Ina Fritsch** with correction to location; minutes approved as presented by all voting.

Guest speaker: Dr. Potomski read Dr. Campbell's extensive bio to everyone attending. He is a board-certified Cardiologist with Health First, and was invited to speak to everyone about heart health. He introduced his guest from the Brevard County School Board, Matt Susin, and spoke about their partnership to work with students about heart health. He reviewed risk factors for vascular disease, and knowing the symptoms of strokes. He spoke about treatments for strokes and prevention, as well as the importance of knowing what to do. He added that women's symptoms are different from men, and encouraged everyone who is unsure to seek treatment or help. Dr. Campbell said he prefers primary prevention over secondary prevention anytime.

Nancy Deardorff said that she comes across seniors who have ignored their symptoms and are embarrassed to call 911. She added they do go to the Emergency room, but only to find out that they have long wait times. Dr. Campbell encourages people to say

they are having symptoms of a heart attack when they arrive and are checking in, and their doctor sent them to the ER. **Dr. Potomski** spoke about a friend of his who is a Cardiologist in PA who does certain procedures-do we have them here? Dr. Campbell spoke about those procedures and also about how all the physician's work together to assist all the patient's with heart issues and discuss how best to treat these patients. **Dr. Potomski** thanked him for coming in and speaking to the committee.

Legislative update: **Phil Koechlein** spoke about the nursing home staffing issues happening and the law in 2022 that reduced these hours of per person care. He spoke about various lobbying efforts for subjects such as scams, guardianship, affordable housing, transportation and the expansion of tele-health. **Phil Koechlein** also spoke about updates to Medicare and future issues that will affect those who have Medicare.

Advocacy: **Dr. Potomski** stated that Randy Fine is from Brevard and currently chair of the House Healthcare Committee, and when we have issues regarding Healthcare, we should consider speaking to him about these concerns. **Dr. Potomski** also spoke about some of the concerns he sees happening in nursing homes today and that legislators may not be aware of these issues. **Phil Koechlein** spoke about putting together some goals and objectives and discussion continued about several issues happening now. Staff reminded everyone there was discussion about forming a sub-committee and wanted to know if there was still interest. After more discussion from different people, **Phil Koechlein** made a motion to form a sub-committee, seconded by **Judy Healy**, approved by all. After much discussion from several people, the subjects for advocacy include affordable housing, safe houses for those with dementia, and then researching having a candidate forum.

BCOA Newsletter: Members reviewed the January article in Senior Life. **Deidra Shubert** added that signup begins February 8th. Article submitted from Brevard Alzheimer's regarding Romance Scams was reviewed by all members. **Phil Koechlein** made a motion to approve the article, seconded by **Terry Stone**, approved by all.

Staff Update: Staff introduced the newest member to the group, Will Scheiner, Assistant State Attorney. Staff explained the Profile of Older Americans for the upcoming Boomer Guide, and copies are provided for anyone that wants them.

Member Updates: **Deidra Schubert** from Brevard Alzheimer's reminded everyone about the Rally in Tally happening February 7 & 8 for anyone interested in going to advocate for Alzheimer's Awareness. **Phil Koechlein** spoke about scam awareness. **Ina Fritsch** spoke about United Way working with everyone to file their taxes.

Public Announcements and Comments: Lisa Conway from One Senior Place spoke about the issues surrounding dementia and Baker Act and suggested looking at the Florida Statue. She said she has heard a lot of the same things we are talking about, and believes we need to change how what they are going through is viewed. **Dr. Potomski** discussed the issues from a Physician's point of view, and how other states view it as well. Discussion continued around having more awareness regarding mental health.

Upcoming Events: Boomer Guide Event, **March 17, 2023**, from 9 am to 12:30 pm
Hilton Rialto, Melbourne

Next Meeting: **February 9, 2023, 3:00 pm, Government Center** 2725 Judge Fran
Jamieson Way, Building C-Space Coast Room, 2nd floor, Viera, FL 32940.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.