

BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES



Building C, Space Coast Room
Thursday, February 9, 2023
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CHAIR: Dr. John Potomski, **Vice Chair:** absent

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judy Healy, Will Scheiner, Sandy Stauffer, Ina Fritsch, Terry Stone, Kia Quintana Ramos, Yvonne Minus, Kerry Fink, and Deidra Schubert

GUESTS PRESENT: Elizabeth Bublitz, Kiliki Burgess, Dan McDow, Lizzie Johnson, Brittany Dunbar, and Kathleen Turnquest

SUMMARY:

BREVARD COUNTY STAFF: Cindy Short

Call to Order / Introductions: John Potomski called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Roll call occurred by everyone present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2023: Minutes were reviewed by all members once quorum was attained. **Judy Healy** made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, **Terry Stone** seconded the motion; minutes approved as presented by consensus.

Guest speaker: Dr. Potomski introduced guest speaker, Elizabeth Bublitz, from Tobacco Free Brevard. Elizabeth began with the definition of “Big Tobacco”, or the 4 major companies that have always been the mover and shakers in the tobacco world, and how they are taking over the electronic tobacco industry. She gave background information regarding lawsuits against the industry and how the companies have been forced to change their business practices. She described the new electronic cigarettes that were originally marketed to those who were trying to quit smoking, and how these e-cigarettes are far more addicting than regular cigarettes. She went on to speak about the youth vaping crisis here in Brevard County, and gave the statistics to back it up. Elizabeth explained the partnership they have with the schools, and their SWAT program, or Students Working Against Tobacco, and how they are all working together. She also described their partnership with the local Housing Authority, to implement policies that protect residents from second hand smoke, or help the older adults that

want to quit and begin their journey. Her agency provides access to cessation services through their various programs providing help whatever age the person is. She is working to expand her programs to the higher education schools as well. **Ina Fritsch** asked about any Smoke-Free Communities; Elizabeth said yes, there are a some in Brevard; Melbourne and Viera have a few. **Dan McDow** asked if Tobacco Free Brevard has addressed the cigar issue, and Heather said that they have been exempted. **Dr. Potomski** spoke a little about the history of smoking in regards to the medical community. **Yvonne Minus** asked about the schools that are participating in their programs; Elizabeth said there are 5 schools currently participating and she is working to encourage more through the Student Resource Officers and other partners. **Will Scheiner** asked if the schools are addressing the vaping issue at the Elementary level, to reach them at a younger aged or before they are exposed. Elizabeth stated they are starting an elementary program and working through Eckerd Connects here in Brevard. **Dr. Potomski** thanked her for her work, and coming in and speaking to the committee.

Legislative update: **Dr. Potomski** spoke about the legislative committees meeting and the possible updates coming to the Baker Act. After discussion, **Dr. Potomski** said he is going to continue to reach out about the issues surrounding dementia here. **Deidra Shubert** provided an update from the Legislative event in Tallahassee from last week. **Deidra Shubert** stated that Senator Mayfield is on board with anything to help with dementia. Deidra said that HB 299 is waiting to be filed; it will require mandatory annual 4-hour training for those working with seniors in long term care facilities or other health facilities. **Deidra Shubert** added that the state budget looks very solid for dementia services, and provided additional information about other various bills in the works.

Advocacy: Staff provided an update from the sub-committee meeting that occurred prior to this meeting. Housing was discussed and staff informed everyone about the upcoming Housing Summit in May with more information coming. **Kerry Fink** spoke about a program that Helping Seniors of Brevard is working to connect those seniors who need independent living, and connecting them with people that have a room available to rent. **Kerry Fink** went on to discuss the possibilities of an App, and discovered there is a company in Colorado that is already doing this. The group discussed doing more research on the company before bringing it to the committee.

BCOA Newsletter: Members reviewed the February article in Senior Life. Article for March was not discussed at last meeting; staff found a relevant article regarding Health Screenings, and updated in conjunction with **Sandy Stauffer** from Health First. **Yvonne Minus** made a motion to approve the article, seconded by **Kia Quintana Ramos**; approved by all. **Deidra Shubert** spoke about doing an article for poly-pharmacy, and a suggestion was made to tie in with the DEA Drug Take-back program happening in April. **Sandy Stauffer** made the motion to have **Deidra Shubert** provide the article; **Terry Stone** seconded; approved by consensus.

Staff Update: Staff told the committee they were remiss from discussing the re-election of the Chair and Vice-Chair positions in January. Staff requested the members discuss if they want to recommend new people for the positions, or keep the ones they have. After very little discussion, a motion was made by **Terry Stone** to keep the current Chair

and Vice-Chair of **Dr. Potomski** and **Phil Koechlein**; **Yvonne Minus** seconded; approved by consensus. Staff informed the members that the Commission on Aging web page on the Housing and Human Services Department Advisory Board website is not correct and why. Staff is working to get it updated. In the meantime, staff provided the updated marketing brochure for the committee members to review. Staff also spoke about the Older Americans month theme for this year (Aging Unbound) and gave reminders about suggesting nominees as well as what is needed for the resolution. Discussion occurred regarding the new theme and how it is related to Ageism.

Member Updates: **Sandy Stauffer** spoke about Dr. Visa's presentation happening February 22nd at Aging Services located on Babcock St. in Melbourne at 10:30 am. **Deidra Shubert** spoke about planning beginning on February 13th for the World Elder Abuse Awareness event happening in June. Deidra said the Dementia Live program is coming back on the 3rd Tuesday every other month, in partnership with **Sandy Stauffer** and Health First. Also, February 28th is the quarterly Caregiver Café, a partnership with Aging Matters, to provide Medicaid Myths and Facts information and dinner beginning at 6:00 pm for Caregivers at Brevard Alzheimer's. Joe's Club will be available for respite if needed. **Will Scheiner** spoke about an upcoming event happening on February 24th at 7 pm; St. Francis Reflections will be having a fundraiser called Rockin the Sunset complete with an Elton John Tribute band at the USSSA Space Coast Complex. **Kerry Fink** spoke about their upcoming fundraiser with new cars for the raffle this year. **Kerry Fink** said that Helping Seniors of Brevard has a new resource center in Melbourne and provided a brochure about their new facility.

Public Announcements and Comments: Brittany Dunbar from the Housing Authority of Brevard said their Wait List is currently closed for the new building in Melbourne; and the Housing Authority works with **Sandy Stauffer** who is having a brain clinic with her residents. She added they also work with Tobacco Free Brevard with their residents and thanked the BCOA members for the work they do. Kathleen Turnquest reminded everyone about upcoming Webinars for Health Care Professionals and provided a flyer for those who are interested.

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

Next Meeting: March 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 4:40 pm.