

# BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES



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

**CHAIR:** absent, **Vice Chair:** Phil Koechlein

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Corina Savela, Joe Rowlette, and Kathleen Turnquest

## **SUMMARY:**

**BREVARD COUNTY STAFF:** Cindy Short

**Call to Order / Introductions:** **Phil Koechlein** called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. Roll call occurred by everyone present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2023:** Minutes were reviewed by all members once quorum was attained. **Judy Healy** made the motion to accept the minutes with correction to guest speaker's first name from Heather in Elizabeth; **Kia Ramos** seconded the motion; minutes approved as presented by consensus.

**Guest speaker:** None

**Legislative update:** **Phil Koechlein** began with speaking about the events in Tallahassee, and the problems with Homeowner's insurance. He said the re-insurance companies seem to be the ones that are overcharging homeowners all over the state. Phil said that AARP is advocating in Tallahassee for various issues, and one of the big ones is the requirements surrounding those employees that care for nursing home residents, and the businesses that train those employees. He added that Telehealth and Guardianship are also big issues to advocate for. Phil also shared information about a bill being discussed regarding nursing homes, and if approved, will remove any responsibility of the nursing home surrounding any of the resident's deaths. Discussion continued regarding this bill and Phil assured everyone that AARP is definitely fighting this bill. He said things change weekly and he will be traveling up to Tallahassee this month to continue to advocate for these issues. **Yvonne Minus** added regarding a

current law, that you can't sue a hospital if your child is over the age of 25, even if the hospital is negligent and they die from the care they received (or lack of). She shared her personal story regarding her family and **Phil Koechlein** shared his personal story as well. **Deidra Shubert** added that HB299 was added to the agenda, and it will add the mandatory training for health care workers, and she believes if it is approved, it will help prevent neglect.

**Advocacy:** **Kerry Fink** spoke about the challenges with seniors and homelessness. He gave a brief background about the types of calls they used to receive versus the types and increased amount of calls received now. Staff provided a research report from Shimberg at the University of Florida regarding the data that confirms the problems in Brevard surrounding housing issues. **Kerry Fink** spoke about the statistics and how the data exactly represents what his agency is seeing regarding the increase in help needed. He continued with information about a non-profit, SunshineHomeshare.org, which is out of Denver, and the owner is trying to start a group here in Florida to help seniors find a room to rent. Staff shared the date of the upcoming Brevard County Consortium Housing Summit, happening May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Cocoa Civic Center from 9 am until 4pm. Staff shared information about the speakers and the agencies they represent. Discussion continued with the members about homelessness and some possible areas to be addressed.

**BCOA Newsletter:** **Phil Koechlein** asked about the article for Senior Life and who wrote the article; staff updated everyone with that information. Members reviewed the March article submitted for the upcoming Senior Life from **Deidra Shubert** and **Tim Timmerman** about Poly-Pharmacy. **Yvonne Minus** made a motion to accept the article, seconded by **Laura Anderson**; motion approved. Discussion continued about the next article for May to be about World Elder Abuse Awareness for the May Senior Life.

**Staff Update:** Staff shared a memo from the Assistant County Attorney regarding operating in the Sunshine and the expectations required of the members. Staff spoke about the Older Americans month theme for this year (Aging Unbound) said there was a recommendation regarding a citizen that we should recognize in the community. **Yvonne Minus** spoke about Mr. Jerry Phillips and the type of citizen he is in addition to his many accomplishments over the years in the community. She updated everyone regarding how he is a Veteran and still works with citizens in the community. Phil made the motion to accept the submission of recognizing Jerry Phillips as this year's recipient of the Older American's month resolution; seconded by **Yvonne Minus**, and approved by all. Staff will provide a write up of the resolution at the next Commission on Aging meeting for the members to approve. Staff also shared the statistical page that **Phil Koechlein** worked on and will be in the Boomer Guide for this year.

**Member Updates:** **Deidra Shubert** spoke about Brevard Alzheimer's going to the Washington DC Forum during the week of March 19<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> to advocate for equal open access to the Alzheimer's treatments currently available and to make them more affordable. **Phil Koechlein** asked if anyone has any suggestions to help get more volunteers to please share them because they are needed now more than ever. **Yvonne Minus** shared about the City of Melbourne and the Brevard County Housing

Authority will have a ribbon cutting for the Palms at University and the second building will be completed. **Kerry Fink** spoke about being grateful for the CDBG grant they received from the county to help seniors this year with needed assistance. He also shared that their annual fundraiser this year will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup> and there will be 5 cars for the winning ticket holder to choose from.

**Public Announcements and Comments:** Corina Savela from the Brevard Healthcare Coalition will have an upcoming community panel discussion on April 20<sup>th</sup> regarding Hospice. She also shared that anyone interested in working in the healthcare field, there is a healthcare consortium and this will be beginning May 18<sup>th</sup> with Career Source Brevard.

Joe Rowlette from Florida Healthcare Plans, he said that Medicaid recipients must re-apply for their plans or they will be dropped. For the past few years, there has been a moratorium on this. The recipients now have to reapply annually or they will lose their coverage. **Judy Healy** asked how someone in a nursing home does this, and Corina Savela replied that the nursing home will do this for the recipient.

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

**Next Meeting: April 13, 2023, 3:00 pm, Government Center** 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C-Space Coast Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Viera, FL 32940

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.