

BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES



**Building C, Space Coast Room
Thursday, June 8, 2023
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judy Healy, Lisa Noble, Patricia Seibert, Sandy Stauffer, Terry Stone, Ina Fritsch, Laura Anderson, Yvonne Minus, Kia Ramos, Juan Salgado, Kerry Fink, and Deidra Schubert

GUESTS PRESENT: Jerry and Mrs. Phillips, Jackie Moses, Allison Adler

SUMMARY:

BREVARD COUNTY STAFF: Linda Graham, Cindy Short

Call to Order / Introductions: **Dr. Potomski** called the meeting to order at 3:13 pm. Roll call occurred by everyone present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2023: Minutes were reviewed by all members. **Phil Koechlein** made the motion to accept the minutes with corrections to Rosemary Laird's name and changes to the SALT council acronym definition; **Terry Stone** seconded the motion; minutes approved with corrections by everyone.

Guest speaker: Yvonne Minus spoke about Mr. Jerry Phillips and provided background information about his life, his accomplishments, and why she nominated him for the resolution. **Linda Graham**, Assistant Director of Housing and Human Services, read the resolution to everyone, and congratulated Mr. Phillips. Pictures were taken with everyone presenting and receiving. Mr. Phillips addressed the members and thanked everyone for the recognition and for their prayers for his wife. **Dr. Potomski** thanked him for all his contributions over the years.

Legislative update: Phil Koechlein said he didn't have any updates since they are waiting for the Governor's approval. **Deidra Schubert** gave the update regarding new legislation from the Alzheimer's Association. She said that SB 1182/HB 299 requiring the DOEA to provide education and training regarding Alzheimer's disease and related

forms of dementia, and staff training requirements for nursing homes, home health agencies, ALF's, adult day care centers, adult family care homes, etc. passed. HB 8017 designating June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness month passed. SB 784/HB 1275 which is legislation designating a Special Persons Registry or database, to develop and be maintained by law enforcement agencies, to house relevant information for law enforcement for certain circumstances has passed. Brevard already has this according to Deidra. SB 558/HB 351 has also passed, allowing nursing homes to delegate certain tasks to Certified Nursing Assistants. SB 1324/HB 539 has passed that requires nursing homes to file their audited actual experience for financial reporting with AHCA. Also, SB 1540/HB 1567 authorizing the establishment of elder and vulnerable adult abuse fatality review teams for specific purposes, such as types of incidents to review, has passed. SB 1474/HB 1519 authorizing AHCA to reimburse day care services under the Medicaid program did not pass. SB 1296/HB 1411 revising the list of individuals who may not be appointed as ombudsmen and to notify complainants within a specified timeframe after the determination did pass. **Phil Koechlein** spoke about this particular bill. SB 1218/HB 805 requiring AHCA to pay for biomarker testing under the Medicaid program did not pass. SB 1098/HB 1119 provides requirements for court to modify or revoke authority of surrogate passed. **Laura Anderson** and **Lisa Noble** spoke to the members about how complicated this law can be. And finally, SB 1034/HB 1029 provides requirements for admissible evidence claims for long term resident's rights violation and provides immunity from liability for certain individuals; this legislation did not pass. The discussion continued about other issues affecting those with Alzheimer's.

Advocacy: **Dr. Potomski** briefly spoke about the need to advocate for those with dementia not being able to be Baker Acted due to a recent change in legislation. Staff gave an update for everyone about the Housing Summit that occurred in May. Staff provided a handout of important points and data and shared with everyone present. Included in the handout was the Brevard County Point in Time Count report as well as other important data representing our county and the need for more housing. Staff mentioned that there was a good article in the Sunday Florida Today about the event as well. The good news is there are great collaborations happening in Brevard and there will be another summit to continue as an annual event. Discussion continued about the event and all the information shared. **Dr. Potomski** reminded everyone that they can meet with their commissioner and talk to them one on one about our advocacy.

BCOA Newsletter: **Phil Koechlein** spoke about the new article for the newsletter. **Dr. Potomski** told everyone about the article regarding shelters in the current edition. Staff reminded everyone that the new Senior Life article relates to what is currently happening in Brevard, or the "Face of Homelessness" with the numbers provided from the annual Point in Time Count completed this past January. **Phil Koechlein** added additional conversation regarding another statistic about the increasing number of homeless women as well. Discussion continued about the article to be considered. **Yvonne Minus** made the motion to accept the article as presented; **Laura Anderson** seconded, approved by all.

Staff Update: Staff spoke about one of the last public speakers who spoke to the group in May and gave a summary of what happened with the Community Action

assistance. Staff also thanked Phil Archer's office for adding the AARP Fraud website link to their newsletter, the "Monthly Brief". Staff shared an email that was received from the Florida Office of the Attorney General, Lead Senior Protection Team Analyst and Military & Veterans Assistance Program of the Consumer Protection Division, Stephanie Chambers, regarding a citizen of Titusville and her large increase in lot rent. Staff shared the email response and discussion continued among the members regarding possible help available and other similar issues happening with other local mobile home parks.

Member Updates: **Terry Stone** spoke about the Enhanced Home Care for the Elderly Home Modification Program for 2023 and provided specifics about the program and the phone number to call for more information which is 321-806-3802. **Juan Salgado** from Senior Resource Alliance also spoke and stated they are confident the funding will be extended to December, but they haven't received that in writing yet. Terry Stone stated there is more information on the table for everyone about the program. **Deidra Schubert** reminded everyone about the World Elder Abuse Awareness event happening next week and encouraged everyone to attend. **Kerry Fink** spoke about the same event and how excited they are about it. Kerry also reminded everyone to get their ticket for their upcoming fundraiser happening on October 7th at the American Muscle Car Museum in Melbourne.

Public Announcements and Comments: Mr. Jerry Phillips addressed the members and stated that he is very impressed with the Commission on Aging and to keep up the good work!

Upcoming Events: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, **June 15th** at Space Coast Health Foundation, Rockledge, from 9 am. until noon.

Next Meeting: July 13, 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 4:55 pm.