

BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES



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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Noble, Sandy Stauffer, Terry Stone, Judy Healy, Marisol Martinez, Kia Quintana, Will Scheiner, Tom Kammerdener, and Kerry Fink

GUESTS PRESENT: Deidra Shubert, Barbara Fradkin, Cheryl Bornemann, Dorinda Hill

SUMMARY:

BREVARD COUNTY STAFF: Cindy Short

Call to Order / Introductions: **Dr. Potomski** called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm. Roll call occurred by everyone present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2023: Minutes were reviewed by all members. Motion to approve minutes as presented made by **Terry Stone**; seconded by **Judy Healy**; approved by consensus.

Guest speakers: Sandy Stauffer, from Health First Memory Disorder Clinic, was introduced by **Dr. Potomski**. Sandy gave everyone a background about the Memory Task Force and how it came to be. **Sandy Stauffer** explained that she, along with **Deidra Shubert** and **Barbara Fradkin**, go out into the community and provide the "Dementia Live Experience". There were 4 participants at the meeting that agreed to participate and go through this experience. They were each given gloves to put on, to mimic certain issues that seniors may suffer from as they age, such as neuropathy. They were each given special glasses to wear to take away their peripheral vision, to show what happens to some seniors as they age. The participants were also given special headphones, which provides sounds that some seniors may have going on that only they can hear. **Sandy Stauffer** stated the participants should have difficulty hearing. The participants were each given instructions of various simple daily tasks to perform. **Sandy Stauffer** shared that they go to speak to nurses in training, and **Deidra Shubert** added that Caregivers really benefit from the experience as well. **Barbara Fradkin** said they are really trying to teach people patience and understanding. The

participants each gave a statement about how they were feeling during the experience and how important it is to have everyone go through this for understanding. A suggestion was made by an audience member, Cheryl Bornemann, to take the experience to the rehab centers in Brevard. Discussion continued as other members experienced the headphones and tried on the glasses. Suggestions were provided to the group about understanding different ways to recognize, and help individuals with Dementia, and what they are experiencing. **Dr. Potomski** agreed that this training would benefit everyone in the health care field and should be mandatory in his opinion. **Deidra Shubert** explained one of their next experiences is being held out at the Cape, with a company that is wanting to help all their employees understand the human connection with Dementia. **Will Scheiner** said it's eye opening to experience what happens; he thought it was about remembering but this experience helped him understand the difference. **Kerry Fink** said he gained insight when watching what the participants went through, their reactions to the tasks they were going through. The next Dementia Live experience will be in December at Joe's Club. **Dr. Potomski** thanked everyone for the presentation.

Legislative update: Staff provided an update that Commissioner Tobia attended the Legislative Delegation meeting happened on Wednesday, October 25th. The Commissioner brought forth three concerns that had to do with infrastructure. If we get a copy of what all was discussed, staff will share with the group.

Advocacy: **Dr. Potomski** suggested to put together a flyer of the 3 items the BCOA wanted to see move forward from the AARP Legislative Priorities for 2024 so the members can advocate about the issues that we also view as important for seniors. **Deidra Schubert** spoke about the upcoming "Rally in Tally" event happening February 14, and 15th 2024, and there is a website www.alzimpact.org for more information.

BCOA Newsletter: **Dr. Potomski** share with the members the page number for the BCOA article. He also told everyone the next article was in front of them to review. Staff shared the figures had been updated, and the article as well. The members reviewed the newsletter article; **Terry Stone** made the motion to approve the article as presented, Will Scheiner seconded, and passed with consensus. Staff asked about a January article; discussion among members about the Dementia experience and tying it to the Rally in Tally. **Sandy Stauffer** stated that she would write the article. **Will Scheiner** made the motion to proceed with the January article, **Terry Stone** seconded, approved by all.

Staff Update: Staff asked for approval of the 2024 calendar; **Kia Quintana** made the motion to accept the calendar, **Judy Healy** seconded the motion, approved by all. Staff also asked everyone to RSVP when my email goes out regarding the next meeting. Dr. Potomski spoke to everyone about the December meeting and encouraged everyone to reach out to their alternate member and invite them to the December meeting.

Member Updates: **Sandy Stauffer** spoke about the Caregiver Café at Joe's Place on Wickham Road in Melbourne. There will be respite care and dinner provided on November 28th. **Terry Stone** spoke about Senior Santa and not to forget about the annual gifts for seniors in needs. She also spoke about the fundraiser at Aging Matters

for ornaments. **Lisa Noble** said Elves for Elders is currently happening. She added that she will be going to Tallahassee next week for a meeting about housing the mentally ill. **Lisa Noble** said that Brevard County is one of five counties chosen to participate in the program and she will bring back more information to the next meeting about what she learned. **Dr. Potomski** reminded everyone about his event next Wednesday, at the Hilton Rialto, and encouraged everyone to sign up if they are interested in attending. **Kerry Fink** spoke about different holiday events coming up at Helping Seniors of Brevard. He added there will be a “Breakfast with an Attorney” at Mee Maws restaurant in Palm Bay, and the meeting is about Renter’s rights and what the landlord can and cannot do. It will be held Saturday, November 18, 2024, and attendees must register with Helping Seniors of Brevard.

Public Comments: None

Upcoming Events: Space Coast Medical Director’s Symposium Hilton Rialto, Wednesday, **November 15, 2023**, from 4:30 pm until 10 pm.

Next Meeting: December 14, 2023, 11:30 am. Tuscany Grill, Viera, FL 32940.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.