

BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES



Tuscany Grill
Thursday, December 14, 2023
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Noble, Patricia Seibert, Sandy Stauffer, Jill Blue, Terry Stone, Judy Healy, Marisol Martinez, Kia Quintana, Yvonne Minus, Allison Adler, Tom Kammerdener, and Kerry Fink

GUESTS PRESENT: Phil Koechlein, Susan, guest of Dr. Potomski, Sylvia Montes, Deidra Shubert, and Joe Rowlette

BREVARD COUNTY STAFF: Cindy Short and Kim Ervin

SUMMARY:

Call to Order / Introductions: Dr. Potomski called the meeting to order at 11:48 am. Roll call occurred by everyone attending.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2023: Minutes were reviewed by all members. Motion to approve minutes as presented made by **Judy Healy**; seconded by **Terry Stone**; approved by consensus.

Guest speakers: None

Legislative update: Staff provided an update to the members about the legislative happenings; staff let everyone know that the Governor released his recommended budget for the upcoming State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and his recommendations represent a 2.2% decrease of the current state budget. Also, there will be a Legislative Day on January 17, 2024, and there will be more to discuss as the sessions convene on January 9, 2024.

Advocacy: Staff shared 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 the members of the BCOA view as important for seniors.

BCOA Newsletter: **Dr. Potomski** thanked member **Jill Blue** for continuing to allow the BCOA to have space in Senior Life and the articles that affect seniors in Brevard. He shared the page number for the December BCOA article. The members reviewed the newsletter article and discussion among the members occurred regarding the importance of addressing depression, especially during the holidays. **Dr. Potomski** also spoke about TRIAD disbanding and the article that was in the newsletter discussing the topic. **Lisa Noble** shared with the members about Elves for Elders and the importance of helping the people who are wards of the State. **Phil Koechlein** said that **Terry Stone** deserves a big thank you for all she has done for seniors through TRIAD. **Dr. Potomski** asked about the next article; **Sandy Stauffer** provided the article about the Dementia Live experience. **Jill Blue** asked if there are going to be any experiences for the Dementia Live happening in January? **Sandy Stauffer** said they happen every other month usually but can be scheduled if requested and they can go to them. **Jill Blue** asked if there were photos from the last meeting and discussion continued about emailing them to staff to send to **Jill Blue**. **Terry Stone** made the motion to approve the article as presented, **Yvonne Minus** seconded; and passed with consensus. Staff asked about a February article idea; hearing none, staff offered the idea of Early Detection and Health screening reminder article. It will be heart month and the article should be timely, and will include other screenings as well. Staff will put together the article with updated statistics.

Staff Update: **Karla Radka** from Senior Resource Alliance shared a Suicide Prevention training; it is a free virtual training and there are flyers for those who are interested. Staff shared the approved 2024 calendar with all the members, noting that 2024 will be an election year and that may mean that our meetings may get moved. If that happens, the meeting room in Building B has been reserved for the BCOA as a backup. Staff asked for a volunteer to help with the Boomer Statistic page since **Phil Koechlein** is no longer going to be able to do that. **Judy Healy** agreed to help with putting the page together.

Member Updates: **Deidra Shubert** shared there will be another prevention study coming up for seniors regarding memory. **Lisa Noble** thanked everyone that helped with Elves for Elders. Lisa said the trip to Tallahassee was good because they made headway in dealing with mental health issues and she will keep the group posted on the progress. **Patricia Seibert** said the Covid19 and Flu numbers are up, so prevention is the key. **Kerry Fink** said Joe turns 90 this month, and they are changing the name of the resource center after Joe-but it's a surprise! **Jill Blue** said they are working on the Boomer Guide and the listings as well. If any information has changed, let them know. **Jill Blue** also shared about the upcoming Valentine Expo and the BCOA can have a table. They will be doing vow renewals too! Venue yet to be determined.

Public Comments: Joe Rowlette shared that Open Enrollment ends today. He will be going to Tallahassee for Brevard Day, and he will make sure that Senior Housing will be discussed.

Upcoming Events: Senior Life Expo Event, February 14, 2024, Brevard Zoo.

Next Meeting: **January 11, 2024**, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Building C, Space Coast Room, Viera, FL 32940.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.