

BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES



**Building C, Space Coast Room
Thursday, February 8, 2024
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

CHAIR: Dr. John Potomski-absent, **Vice Chair:** Will Scheiner-absent

CHAIR PRO TEM: Yvonne Minus

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Kammerdener, Sandy Stauffer, Lisa Noble, Laura Anderson, Yvonne Minus, Judy Healy, Kia Quintana, and Kerry Fink

GUESTS PRESENT: Jason Maine, Jital Patel, Dorie Hill, Cheryl Bornemann, Jane Price, Susan Houts, Carlos Cuesta, and Jodi Pena Castaldi

BREVARD COUNTY STAFF: Cindy Short

SUMMARY:

Call to Order/Introductions: Once quorum was attained, staff explained the group they need to vote for a Chair pro tem; **Judy Healy** made the motion to have **Yvonne Minus** as Chair Pro Tem, seconded by **Laura Anderson**, approved by consensus. **Yvonne Minus** thanked everyone for their confidence, and called the meeting to order 3:10 pm. Roll call occurred by everyone present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2024: Minutes were reviewed by all members. Motion to approve minutes as presented made by **Kia Quintana**; seconded by **Judy Healy**; approved by consensus.

Guest speaker(s): **Yvonne Minus** introduced our guest speaker, **Jital Patel**, founder and owner of Coastal Occupational Therapy, and Ms. Patel gave everyone her background information. She is an Occupational Therapist as well as a Driving Rehab Specialist and has a master's degree in occupational therapy.

Ms. Patel's program provides current drivers with a new diagnosis or a change in their ability to drive, individuals with physical limitations who are interested in driving and

elderly drivers and their families seeking professional recommendations through evaluation and training.

Research has proven that accidents that happen to seniors are far worse for older people. Accidents involving speed and vision are the most prevalent and she gave red flags for determining signs of needing to be evaluated. These signs include medication, cognitive issues, poor vision due to undetermined issues, and can be assessed through a vision standard test. She showed a sample of a test for driving, and what the measures are. She added that her agency does go driving with the patient, and the assessment is very comprehensive. She said they also work with patients that have had their license revoked, but it is a long process and can be costly.

Tom Kammerdener asked what is their success rate going from red to green? Ms. Patel said good, but most are very understanding when they recommend not to drive any more. She spoke about self-assessment tools and things that can be looked at ahead of time to check your performance. A good one to consider is available online from the University of Florida at <https://ftds.phhp.ufl.edu/us/>. If there are red flags, then consider contacting them for a further assessment.

Ms. Patel explained all of the comprehensive testing they provide. Additionally, they can assist people who need assistance with adaptive equipment in their vehicles such as hand controls, steering devices, pedal extensions, and adaptive seat modifications. Yvonne asked about teen drivers; are they driving seniors? Ms. Patel said no; this program is for teens with Autism, and they evaluate and work with the teens to determine if they can learn to drive. They are hoping for funding to help and if funded, the program will be during the summer.

Yvonne Minus asked Ms. Patel if her screening shows someone in the “red” of her evaluation, where does the report go? Ms. Patel explained it goes to the person’s doctor, and they make the final decision regarding driving or not. **Judy Healy** asked what age is the oldest driver they evaluated; she said 90’s. **Judy Healy** said her 97 year old father still drives! Cheryl Bornemann from the audience asked if they take Medicare Advantage Plan? Ms. Patel said if it is the PPO plan they can. Cheryl Bornemann also inquired if they have helped anyone with Down Syndrome and Ms. Patel said not yet. **Yvonne Minus** thanked Ms. Patel for coming and sharing her organization and knowledge with everyone.

Legislative update: Staff introduced Jason Maine, Attorney, and lobbyist representing Senior Resource Alliance, and explained that **Karla Radka** had asked him to provide a Legislative update for our committee. Mr. Maine said he was happy to provide information to the Commission and explained the many agencies that he represents, in addition to Senior Resource Alliance. Mr. Maine said the Legislature is in week five as of today’s meeting, and what he will cover is subject to change.

He spoke about priorities with the Legislature, of which are Live Healthy and social media bills. The heart of Live Healthy is providing money for uniform Community Based services. These bills and funding amounts are subject to change. He spoke about other

Aging related bills such as the Alzheimer's training for Law Enforcement officers. He added the Department of Elder Affairs are responsible for putting this training together.

Mr. Maine also spoke briefly about Medicaid reimbursement for prioritizing those in an ALF who have been waiting at least six months for homecare based services. He showed the two budgets reflecting the differences between the House and the Senate, and how the process works to come to a final budget.

He also shared that the office of Economic Development provided these numbers recently; Florida is growing by 1000 people per day; of this amount 620 are seniors, so aging is going to continue to be an issue, and that Florida must have services that match the demand.

He spoke about a senior home rehabilitation program and hoping to fund a program that repairs homes for seniors. Mr. Maine stated that Brevard has a very strong delegation and provided their information as well. After hearing no questions, **Yvonne Minus** thanked him for his presentation and information.

Advocacy: Staff provided all the members a flyer for Older Americans month and the new theme, Powered by Connection. Staff asked the members to consider someone they want to recognize with a resolution for Older Americans month in May and bring their nominations to the March meeting for discussion.

BCOA Newsletter: Staff shared the newsletter article that was published in Senior Life about Early Detection Health Screenings. All the members reviewed the next article for March "Guardianship and the Alternatives". **Judy Healy** made the motion to accept the article as presented, seconded by Kia Quintana, approved by consensus.

Staff reminded everyone that **Barbara Fradkin** will provide an article about Parkinson's since April is Parkinson's awareness month.

Staff Update: Staff spoke to everyone about the conversation with **Karla Radka**, member from Senior Resource Alliance, regarding the possibility of having someone locally attend the meetings on her behalf. Staff shared her follow-up email appointing **Tom Kammerdener**, CEO of Aging Matters of Brevard, as her alternate representing Senior Resource Alliance.

Staff also shared the Brevard by the Numbers page since we found out that we are not able to get good numbers from the Department of Elder Affairs. Staff asked for help from the agencies to provide the numbers for this report. Sandy Stauffer said she could pull the numbers that we need and send them to me. Staff thanked her for her assistance.

Member Updates: **Tom Kammerdener** said Aging Matters of Brevard will have a walk to celebrate March for Meals and the walk will be on the 23rd at Viera Regional Park for no cost to participants.

Sandy Stauffer said they are taking the Dementia Live Experience to the Center for Family Caregivers located on Babcock Street in Melbourne on March 26th and participants need to call to register.

Kerry Fink thanked Yvonne for attending Joe Steckler's Birthday and worked out the "Joe Steckler Day" proclamation presentation. He also thanked **Sandy Stauffer** and Deidra Schubert for the excellent Dementia Live Experience training they received. **Kerry Fink** also provided upcoming dates of February 22nd and March 28th for their Wellness Series events. And the kickoff for the annual car raffle event will be February 24th; there will also be an open house at Joe's Senior Resource Center in Melbourne that same day.

Public Comments: None

Upcoming Events: Senior Life Boomer Guide Expo March 29 at Cocoa Beach Country Club 9am until 1pm; Health First Memory Disorder Clinic's **Stress Busting Program for Family Caregivers**, classes beginning January 22nd at the Memory Disorder Clinic 3661 S. Babcock St. Melbourne from 10 am until 12 pm for 9 weeks; **Brevard Parkinson's Alliance's Walk/Run**, April 19, 2023.

Next Meeting: March 14, 2023, 3:00pm, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C, Space Coast Room, Second Floor Viera, FL 32940.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.