

BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES



**Building C, Space Coast Room
Thursday, April 11, 2024
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

CHAIR: Dr. John Potomski **Vice Chair:** Will Scheiner (absent)

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Janet Price, Anne Humphries, and Kisha Wilkinson

SUMMARY:

BREVARD COUNTY STAFF: Cindy Short

Call to Order/Introductions: Dr. Potomski called the meeting to order at 3:11pm. Roll call occurred by everyone present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2024: Minutes were reviewed by all members. Motion to approve minutes as presented made by **Judy Healy**; seconded by **Yvonne Minus**; approved by consensus.

Guest speaker: Dr. Potomski introduced Kisha Wilkinson, Community Outreach Coordinator from the Consumer Protection Division in the Office of the Attorney General here in Florida. Kisha began her presentation with statistics regarding people that have been scammed, noting the majority of those are elders. She described financial abuse and what it can look like: sudden changes in legal documents, unpaid bills, suspicious signatures on legal documents or checks or financial activity that the person would not have done themselves. Kisha described identity theft and signs that everyone should be aware of, especially those relating to your credit report. She spoke about the online and social media scams as well, and what to watch for. The top five complaints in Florida were for: 1. Contractors, 2. Time shares, 3. Contracts for automotive insurance and/or repair complaints (especially warranty related) 4. Imposter scams, and 5. Internet related scams, such as fake stores, fake offers, fake websites, etc. In each category, she gave examples and spoke about the latest ways people are being tricked into giving up their money. She had brought to share a Guide for Seniors from the Attorney

General's Office with suggestions on how consumers can stop fraud from happening. **Lisa Noble** asked if Kisha had heard of Driver's License agencies selling information; Kisha said she does not have knowledge of it. **Lisa Noble** also asked if she reported fraud and didn't get a response, what is her recourse. Kisha suggested to call the Office of the Attorney General and they have a senior division that can assist. Kisha went on to provide suggestions in different circumstances, especially when online or on your phone. She added to make sure that you shred all your important documents. And junk mail needs to be torn up as well since people can get information about you that way too. Most importantly, she insisted that you should never share your personal information with anyone, and to never respond to anything unsolicited. Kisha also shared information about a new program called Seniors versus Crime, and how these volunteers are helping people in the communities. She gave information on how to obtain the guide she brought with her if we need more. **Dr. Potomski** thanked Kisha for her excellent presentation, and for traveling so far to come and speak to us.

Legislative update: No update yet since the budget has not been finalized.

Advocacy: Staff informed everyone present about the next Affordable Housing Summit, happening on Friday, May 31, 2024, and it will be held at Space Coast Convention center in Cocoa, and members should have received an email to register. **Dr. Potomski** asked about the fee for lunch and staff answered yes, the Convention Center will have a good networking breakfast and lunch, and there will be speakers from all over the state.

BCOA Newsletter: Staff shared the newsletter article that was published in the April edition of Senior Life titled "April is Parkinson's Awareness Month" and written by Barbara Fradkin. The members reviewed the next article for May titled "May is Older Americans Month" and shared the information provided by **Kerry Fink** about Joe Steckler, along with the information about the Resolution presentation happening on April 23rd at the Commissioner's meeting in Building C, first floor. Staff explained that Senior Life will attend to take pictures of the presentation, and this will be for our May article. After review and discussion among the members, **Yvonne Minus** made the motion to accept the article as presented, seconded by **Laura Anderson**; approved by consensus. Staff said the June article will be about Elder Abuse Awareness from Deidra Schubert, and the event that is currently being planned. **Sandy Stauffer** said there will be speakers and a Lunch & Learn especially for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day happening on June 14th this year. There will be a flyer coming very soon.

Staff Update: Staff directed everyone to the new Boomer Guide they were given, and shared information about all the fun at the BoomerFest event that was held at the Cocoa Beach Country Club on March 29th. Staff also spoke about the resolution presentation and reminded everyone to meet down front on the morning of the presentation for pictures. **Dr. Potomski** asked about one of the flyers he had, and staff explained it's someone from the Boomer event that will be coming to speak to the group. Staff added there were lots of contacts made at that event and staff will be reaching out to find more speakers.

Member Updates: **Dr. Potomski** asked about the Health First flyer that he was given, and asked **Sandy Stauffer** if she wanted to speak about it. **Sandy Stauffer** said it's her monthly newsletter that she does for the Memory Disorder clinic and the newsletter is sent out electronically to various agencies and people in the community with pertinent information about those with memory care.

Tom Kammerdener from Aging Matters said they had a March for Meals walk for awareness and for attended India Fest last month and received \$45K to help for their agency but lost the Palm Bay CDBG grant and they really needed those funds for Meals on Wheels. They have had to reduce their feeding list by 280 seniors to keep the program going. But they are at a critical point, and they need more funding to help those seniors in need, especially with food. **Tom Kammerdener** added they are the recipient for the Sheriff's Dance for the Space Coast fundraiser happening on June 1st and Tom will be one of the dancers. **Kerry Fink** said they will do whatever they can to bring awareness to the Meals on Wheels program and the need for additional funds to help. **Tom Kammerdener** was very appreciative and said they will take all the awareness they can get for their cause and help the seniors in need in this county! **Dr. Potomski** added that it is a necessity, not a luxury, to have food, and the Commission on Aging would help in any way that we can. Discussion occurred among the members about grants, and processes to obtain funding.

Sandy Stauffer reminded everyone about the Parkinson's Walk happening on the 27th.

Dr. Potomski said his annual symposium will be on November 13th this year and to save the date.

Yvonne Minus shared an event happening in Melbourne at the auditorium on April 17th and 18th, to recognize the 100th birthday of Colonel Hal Gibson, and to help celebrate his contribution to the municipal band. **Yvonne Minus** added that the CDBG Advisory Board is meeting next week for the Public Service grant award process and said that it is a public meeting and will be at the Walter Butler Community center in Cocoa.

Kerry Fink said they are getting a flurry of calls again about seniors becoming homeless and Helping Seniors of Brevard wants to have a roundtable event. He said he followed up with citizens Doris Varner and Traci Graf, and hopefully the pastor from the church on Merritt Island, and ask what can citizens do? **Kerry Fink** also shared their current fundraiser, Tea and Tasting with chefs on Saturday afternoon of May 18th at 2:00pm to 5pm at their center.

Public Comments: None

Upcoming Events: **Brevard Parkinson's Alliance's Walk/Run**, April 27, 2024.

Next Meeting: **June 13, 2024, 3:00pm**, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C, Space Coast Room, Second Floor Viera, FL 32940.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.