

BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES



**Building C, Space Coast Room
Thursday, May 9, 2024
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Noble, Sandy Stauffer, Marisol Martinez, Tom Kammerdener, Judy Healy, Kia Ramos, and Nancy Deardorff

GUESTS PRESENT: Dorinda Hill, Deidra Schubert, Janet Price, and Kimberly Newton

SUMMARY:

BREVARD COUNTY STAFF: Cindy Short

Call to Order / Introductions: **Dr. Potomski** called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm. 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 **Tom Kammerdener**; approved as presented by consensus.

Guest speaker: Dr. Potomski introduced Kimberly Newton, Art Therapy Practitioner, and founder at White Bird Art Farm. He said she provides creative, nature based Art Therapy events. Ms. Newton has worked with the Orlando Museum of Art and their Art's the Spark Dementia program as well as the Creative Connections Autism Spectrum Accessibility program since 2022. **Dr. Potomski** added that she also received certification for Person-Centered Dementia Care from the Alzheimer's Association and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

Ms. Newton provided information packets for each of the attendees. She described the marketing information and spoke about her Watercolor Workshops currently available, and about the article in "Canaveral Explorer" regarding her current endeavors. Ms. Newton shared with the group reminders of aging, and gave statistics about what happens when seniors isolate and/or become depressed. Since May is Mental Health Awareness month, she said this information is timely for those who may need more

accessible options to age without mental health issues. Her program provides seniors the ability to engage in art activities to help them reduce anxieties, and contributes to increasing their socialization. She said the programs being held in Cape Canaveral and at the Eau Gallie Library, and provided handouts about each program. She also described how the program at the Orlando Museum of Art works from start to finish, and Caregivers are included. Her goal is to continue to grow, and she is partnering with various agencies in the community to present quality programs. The programs are free and available to all who wish to attend. **Tom Kammerdener** spoke about the Seniors at Lunch programs with Aging Matters of Brevard, and he wants to speak with her about the possibility of working together after the meeting.

Ms. Newton then explained that there is no experience necessary to participate in the programs, and she can provide more skilled programs for those who want them, and to please feel free to attend any of her programs. She does all types of mediums, but for this program watercolor is the best to start with. **Dr. Potomski** thanked her for coming and sharing her information with us.

Legislative update: Deidra Schubert provided an update from the Rally in Tally back in February, that she and Dorinda Hill attended. Deidra addressed the SB208 /HB 801 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) Training for Law Enforcement Officers which creates a continuing education course on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia training. It is optional training, but it was approved by the Governor. Deidra also spoke about Biomarker Testing, SB964 /HB 885, which addresses appropriate coverage for biomarker testing to support the early detection and diagnosis of ADRD. This should reduce the time it takes to receive an accurate diagnosis. Priority funding requested was budgeting for the Brain Bus, ADRD Awareness Campaign, funding for Respite and the Center of Excellence, and Ed and Ethel Moor Alzheimer's Research. Deidra said they also went to Washington to see our local leaders there to discuss the NAPA Reauthorization Act, which will make Alzheimer's a priority at a national level, and ensure the nation continues to address Alzheimer's and dementia as priorities. Deidra said the BOLD Act is expiring as well, and they also lobbied for this to be renewed. She also spoke about the AADAPT Act, to provide primary care providers training to better diagnose Alzheimer's and other dementia and deliver high-quality, person-centered care in community-based settings.

Advocacy: Staff informed everyone present about the next Affordable Housing Summit, happening on Friday, May 31, 2024, from 9 am until 4 pm, and it will be held at Space Coast Convention Center in Cocoa. There will be state and local speakers, and both breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Dr. Potomski spoke briefly about reaching out to our county leaders regarding helping seniors. Staff reminded him of the particulars when it comes to advocating, and he reminded everyone there as well. **Dr. Potomski** asked if an agency would like to host an advocacy event, and **Nancy Deardorff** stated that Helping Seniors would be interested. **Tom Kammerdener** from Aging Matters spoke about their reduction in the Meals on Wheels program due to expiring funds, and the need for help to continue funding the program at its current level. He said they are beginning a new awareness

program called “Feed the Need” to try to get more funding before they must cut their list in half. Discussion continued among the members regarding the issues surrounding seniors in the county and how to address their needs.

BCOA Newsletter: Staff shared the newsletter article that was published in the May edition of Senior Life titled “Older Americans Month proclamation recognizes Joe Steckler for helping seniors”. Members shared how appreciative Joe was to be the recipient of the resolution. Staff then shared the next article for the June Senior Life, provided by Deidra Schubert, for the upcoming World Elder Abuse Awareness Day with an event on June 14, 2024 at Zon in Indian Harbor Beach. **Sandy Stauffer** made the motion to accept the newsletter article as presented, **Judy Healy** seconded, approved by all.

Staff Update: New Business is a request regarding Dorinda Hill, to consider her as a Planning member for the Commission on Aging. Discussion among the members occurred; **Sandy Stauffer** made the motion to accept Dorinda Hill as a Planning member, **Judy Healy** seconded, approved by all. Staff also addressed two flyers provided for the members and **Dr. Potomski** suggested everyone should take them and share with the community.

Member Updates: **Sandy Stauffer** spoke about the Caregiver Café happening on May 28th from 6pm to 8pm at Joe’s Club on Wickham Road. There will be a social worker to speak about caregivers setting boundaries. The event is free and meals as well as respite care will be provided.

Tom Kammerdener reminded everyone about their next fundraiser, Dancing with the Space coast, happening on June 1st and he said he still needs more support. Staff gave the Kerry Fink reminder about the Sip and Stroll happening at Joe’s Resource Center on Saturday, May 18th.

Dr. Potomski said the Space Coast Chapter of the Florida Guardianship Association will have an event happening Tuesday, May 14th at Zon beachside, with a speaker addressing mental health. BAFI will be having their big BBQ fundraiser per Dorinda Hill. She also spoke about the respite care they provide at BAFI.

Public Comments: None

Upcoming Events: **WEAAD Lunch and Learn**, Friday, June 14, 2024, 11 am until 1:30 pm at Zon Beachside with speakers from Property Appraiser’s office, Elder Law, and a local Police Department.

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 4:35 pm.