

BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES



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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Noble, Judy Healy, Sandy Stauffer, Tom Kammerdener, Marisol Martinez, Kia Quintana-Ramos, Yvonne Minus, Dorinda Hill, and Kerry Fink

GUESTS PRESENT: Janet Price, Carlos Cuesta, Lizzie Johnson, Joe Rowlette, Corina Savela and Joe Killian

BREVARD COUNTY STAFF: Cindy Short

SUMMARY:

Call to Order / Introductions: Dr. Potomski called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm. Roll call occurred by everyone present.

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

Guest speaker: Dr. Potomski introduced Joe Killian, President, and CEO of St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care. Previously, he worked as the CEO of Hospice Southwest Ohio, and Vitas Innovative Hospice Care. As an expert in creating healthcare service lines for seniors, Mr. Killian worked closely with University Hospital and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Department of Geriatrics. Mr. Killian holds a Bachelor's degree in Administration from Eastern Kentucky University and a Master's in Organizational Leadership from Indiana Wesleyan.

Mr. Killian spoke about their new program, PACE, a Medicare program, All-inclusive Care for the Elderly. It is a community based coordinated care program for the elderly, which allows them to remain in their homes if they can. PACE has Part D of Medicare as well. This model of care program began in California back in the 70's, and now there are more than 150 throughout the United States. The program is currently located in Titusville and is a one stop shop in terms of transportation, food, as well as medical

care. St. Francis the not only the provider but also the health plan for the patients. Mr. Killian explained the program is a capitated arrangement between Medicare, Medicaid, and St. Francis. This program can help people ages 55 and up, and the average age of their participants is 76. Approximately 46 participants in the program currently have dementia; on average they have 6 prescriptions. More than 80% of the participants are Medicare, some with Medicaid but any health care need is covered by the PACE program. If the patient can't come to them, then St. Francis will go to the patient in their home. Mr. Killian explained how the program came to fruition and that they are in the process of expanding. Mr. Killian went on to explain how the program still helps even if the participant goes into a nursing home. The program will continue to coordinate the participant's care. The PACE program has better preventative care, reduced hospital admissions and ER visits, and fewer nursing home admissions along with a 95% recommendation rate from family caregivers.

Dr. Potomski asked if they were going to locate their next facility in the central area of Brevard; Mr. Killian said probably in Melbourne or south of Melbourne. They have approval for 200 people currently and will have to go to the State for approval to serve more participants. **Yvonne Minus** asked if they would seek local funding. Mr. Killian said they are always applying for grants to help. **Dr. Potomski** thanked him for coming.

Legislative update: Staff reported that our department is expected to receive full funding for the SHIP program this year from Florida Housing Finance. Staff shared with the members that the State added 100 million for the Hometown Hero's program statewide. **Dr. Potomski** asked if there is an income requirement for the Hometown Hero program; staff responded probably, but not certain since it is not a program we have. Staff will research and let the Chair know. Staff also shared information about the new House bill taking effect in October regarding public sleeping.

Advocacy: **Dr. Potomski** said he wants to get with **Kerry Fink** about doing something to let the local candidates know how they can help seniors more. **Kerry Fink** said they will talk about it for next year. **Yvonne Minus** spoke about the political Hob Knob last month, where there were at least 55 candidates available. Attendees could speak to them about any questions or concerns for the community and have good discussions about how to help people in Brevard. **Yvonne Minus** said that would have been the perfect time to advocate for seniors. **Kerry Fink** said he felt like the admission price kept a lot of people away. **Dr. Potomski** said he was out of town and wanted to know if another will happen; **Yvonne Minus** stated she thinks so since it was so well attended. **Tom Kammerdener** from Aging Matters attended the event and said it was very good and felt good about their interactions with the candidates. **Dr. Potomski** suggested that it will be something to consider for next year.

BCOA Newsletter: Staff shared the newsletter article that was published in the July edition of Senior Life. Staff also shared two articles titled "**Falls and the Elderly**" as well as "**Companion Animal Care of Brevard County**" for consideration to upcoming Senior Life newsletters. **Dr. Potomski** added that he understands the length of his article could be reduced. Members reviewed both articles.

While the members were reviewing, staff shared a list of non-perishable food items flyer to have on hand for their hurricane box at home. Staff suggested that items not consumed could be donated to the local sharing center. **Dr. Potomski** added to not forget the manual can opener for the box!

For the September article, **Falls and the Elderly**, **Yvonne Minus** made the motion to accept the article as presented; **Sandy Stauffer** seconded; approved by all. For the October article, "**Companion Animal Care of Brevard County**", **Yvonne Minus** asked if the Companion Animal Care of Brevard County's Facebook page could be included in the article; staff said they would ask. **Judy Healy** made the motion to accept the October article as presented, **Yvonne Minus** seconded; approved by all.

Staff Update: Staff provided an update from an article regarding weather related heat and its impact on the population, especially the elderly. Staff provided statistics from the article and added that the Housing and Human Services department has a program to help the elderly with air conditioning if they need help.

Member Updates: **Tom Kammerdener, Aging Matters of Brevard**, began by updating everyone regarding the Older Americans Act of 2024, and that it has been increased and approved by Congress.

Sandy Stauffer, Health First Memory Disorder Clinic, spoke about their upcoming **Empowering the Caregiver** program, happening at the Health First Center for Family Caregivers in Melbourne, on August 14th and August 21st from 6pm until 7:30pm. This event is at no cost to all participants.

Lisa Noble, Aging Solutions, said they received funding to take people off their wait list and help people get the help they need from the Office of the Public Guardian. **Dr. Potomski** added this is great news.

Yvonne Minus, Space Coast League of Cities, spoke about the Burrell Osteopathic White Coat event and added there were about 200 students there. **Yvonne Minus** added she also felt like the Hob Knob event was worth the cost, especially since she spoke to a lot of people. **Yvonne Minus** also spoke about the Florida League of Cities conference, and Cocoa Mayor Michael Blake will be sworn in as their future President at their annual conference. **Yvonne Minus** added there was also another Hob Knob event which occurred on August 1st. It was sponsored by the Space Coast Central Alliance and the Central Brevard NAACP and held at the Universalist church in Rockledge. **Yvonne Minus** said it was also very well attended.

Kia Quintana-Ramos, Florida Department of Health Brevard County, shared the Brevard Covid numbers are increasing, and reminded everyone to be aware. **Dr. Potomski** also cautioned everyone about the new Covid strain. **Kia Quintana-Ramos** also shared information about new cases of rabies in the Melbourne area.

Kerry Fink, Helping Seniors of Brevard, spoke about their 4th Thursday event Knowledge College, and shared that Corina Savela will be speaking about what people need to know about their aging plan. **Kerry Fink** said there is a networking lunch at

Glenbrook for senior care agencies in the community. Additionally, the Helping Seniors of Brevard annual raffle drawing will be held Sunday, October 27th.

Dorinda Hill, Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation (BAFI), said BAFI is starting a new raffle called "Wheels4Mealz" and there is more information on their website:<https://wheelz4mealz.org/>. All proceeds go to feed seniors in the community.

Dr. Potomski reminded everyone about Mental Health awareness, and currently there is training for suicide prevention with flyers on the table containing the details.

Public Comments: Joe Rowlette spoke about the Hob Knob event, and that it was a great event. He added that he was hoping that Traci would be able to attend the event in Titusville.

Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting: September 12, 2024, 3:00 pm, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C, Space Coast Room, Second Floor Viera, FL 32940.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 pm.