

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF PASCO-PINELLAS
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 11, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betty Beeler – via Conference Phone
Miriam Benitez-Nixon
Sue Castonguay
Susannah Caum
Louise Dolsay
Barb Epstein
Mike Estigo
Samantha Fenger
Nancy Giles – via Conference Phone
Julie Hale
Kerry Kimball Marsalek
Carole McLeod
Paul McClintock
Cristina Spiegel – via Conference phone
Lenny Waugh
Becky Yackel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Betty Hayward
Linda Patterson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dick Motley, Bay Area Legal Services
John Herbst, Gulfcoast Legal Service
Jason Martino, AAAPP
Shannon Fernandez, AAAPP
Helen King, AAAPP

Agenda Item #1 Welcome and Introductions

Paul McClintock, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM at the Aging Well Center at the Long Center's Board room. All present introduced themselves.

Agenda Item #2 Approval of May 9, 2016 Minutes

It was moved by Miriam Benitez-Nixon and seconded by Susannah Caum to approve the May 9, 2016 meeting minutes, motion carried.

Agenda Item #3 Legal Services in Pasco and Pinellas Counties

Shannon Fernandez, AAAPP Program Manager, gave a brief explanation as to why the Area Agency works so closely with the agency legal providers. Shannon stated that back in 2012, there was a re-authorization of the OAA (Older Americans Act), meaning that the roles and responsibilities of the Act are looked at to see if there are any gaps or additional needs that are not being met. Back then there was a gap between the Area Agencies and the legal providers. In an effort to bridge the gap, there was an initiative called OFLAP (Older Floridians Legal Assistance Program), which is a collaboration of key stake holders, like the Area Agencies, Legal Providers in the community, the court system, law schools, and the Florida Bar, and is focused on meeting the legal needs of seniors in the community and the outcomes. Shannon introduced the Pasco and Pinellas legal providers. Dick Motley, Bay Area Legal Services for Pasco County, stated that they provide legal assistance for senior Floridians 60 and older.

They provide 4 types of services: advice and counseling, which in most cases can be done over the phone; brief services, which may require drawing up a paper like Power Of Attorney; extended services, which may require multiple visits; and court representation, which may require full representation in a court proceeding. Mr. Motley explained prioritization of cases and the types of cases they don't take. John Herbst, Gulfcoast Legal Services for Pinellas County, stated that there is no waiting list for legal services in Pinellas or Pasco Counties. Emergency cases are typically seen the same day or the day after, such as eviction or foreclosure cases that have a timeline. The most common cases are income based, such as debt issues or housing issues. Legal referrals called directly into the office are screened and then set up for an appointment. The statewide legal senior helpline also provides legal services and advice. If the legal helpline feels the client needs further assistance, they will refer them to whatever legal service is in their area. Mr. Herbst started a new project called "Solutions on Site" (S.O.S) which will expand services, help reach more clientele, and target low income areas by use of legal interns, iPads, and Facetime. There were a few questions to which Mr. Herbst answered.

Agenda Item #4 Advocacy for SHINE Program

Jason Martino, AAAPP Director of Planning, reported that in June of this year, the Senate had voted to eliminate the SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) funding nationwide, also known as SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) here in Florida. A House subcommittee voted to continue the funding that the Senate committee voted to eliminate. The next step is the Appropriations Committee will meet with the Sub Committees and take their recommendations on the Senate and House side, and then make their final decision for the 17-18 FY. Last year the SHINE program helped over 22,000 people with Medicare navigation and counseling in just the Pinellas/Pasco area. There is \$52.1 million at stake nationwide and approximately \$450,000 budget locally. 95% of the people who conduct the SHIP programs nationwide are volunteers, so the program generates more money than is used. Mr. Martino is asking for help from Advisory Council members in reaching out to our Congressman and/or Senators to advocate and educate the importance of these programs.

Agenda Item #5 Disaster Preparedness

As an annual reminder of Disaster Preparedness and Hurricane Season, Jason presented this topic. He talked about what procedures we take as an agency when preparing for a disaster, how to plan in advance, kit suggestions, evacuation routes, and how we can help others. Jason stated that agency providers have to have their own disaster plan as well. Jason distributed hurricane guides for both Pasco and Pinellas Counties that cover various types of disasters.

Agenda Item #6 Update on Recruiting for Executive Director Position

Helen King, AAAPP Deputy Director, updated everyone on the selection of the Executive Director position stating that Sally Gronda's last day is September 30, 2016. The Board of Director's Transition Committee has narrowed down the selection from over 75 applicants to approximately 5 candidates thus far. Decisions on who to interview have not yet been made. Helen was pleased to share that the Board President wanted an Advisory Council member to sit in as an ad hoc member of the Transition Committee and give input on the selection process. Kerry Marsalek was chosen by the BOD to participate on the search committee. DOEA's Secretary has been invited and advised of the interview process. There were a few questions and comments to which Helen addressed.

Agenda Item #7 AAAPP Board of Directors Minutes

Helen presented the Board of Director's meeting minutes for April 18, 2016 and May 16, 2016. Helen asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Agenda Item #8 Announcements

Helen reported that the public hearing is rescheduled for July 27, 2016 at the Hale Center in Dunedin at 10:00 AM.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be held on September 12, 2016 at the AAAPP.

Paul announced that Rebecca Yackel was one of 18 members of State employees who received the Prudential Productivity Award for the Comprehensive Safety Program she developed for the Department of Veteran Affairs.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:09 PM.

(Minutes transcribed by Katherine Thomley)