

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF PASCO-PINELLAS
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betty Beeler via Conference Phone
Miriam Benitez-Nixon
Susannah Caum via Conference Phone
Louise Dolsay
Barb Epstein
Mike Estigo
Samantha Fenger via Conference Phone
Nancy Giles
Kerry Kimball Marsalek
Carole McLeod
Paul McClintock
Cristina Spiegel
Jodi Vosburgh via Conference Phone
Lena Wilfalk
Becky Yackel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sue Castonguay
Lenny Waugh

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sherry Clester, AAAPP
Jason Martino, AAAPP
Helen King, AAAPP

Agenda Item #1 Welcome and Introductions

Paul McClintock, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM at the Aging Well Center at the Long Center's Board Room. All present introduced themselves.

Agenda Item #2 Consent Agenda

Helen King stated that she will have to pull the January 9, 2017 Advisory Council meeting minutes from the consent agenda due to an error in attendance. Paul requested a motion to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda: the November 21, 2016 Board of Directors meeting minutes and the January 9, 2017 Board of Directors meeting minutes. It was moved by Cristina Spiegel and seconded by Mike Estigo to approve the Board minutes. Helen moved on to explain how the consent agenda works stating that Paul mentioned wanting to try the consent agenda like the Board is doing. Helen explained that the Board takes items of a routine matter, that are expected to have little discussion, and lump them all together, which leaves more room for speakers and other items. If there is something on the consent agenda that someone wants to discuss then that item can be pulled for further discussion later. Helen requested a motion to correct the January 9, 2017 Advisory meeting minutes' as past member Linda Patterson was still listed as a "absent" member. She had resigned before that meeting and should not have been reflected on the minutes. It was moved by Louise Dolsay and seconded by Mike Estigo to correct the January 9, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #3 Nominating Committee Report

Helen reported that as of the last meeting there was still an opening left by Betty Hayward. Helen thanked Jason Martino for recommending Lena Wilfalk as Betty's replacement. Lena has since been appointed to the Advisory Council and everyone welcomed her. Helen also announced that Julie Hale, who was the Vice Chair on the Advisory Council, was selected to be on the Board of Directors, and so there is a vacancy for Julie's spot. Julie is looking into a possible replacement for a person from Pasco County. Paul McClintock appointed Nancy Giles as Vice Chair until the end of the year.

Agenda Item #4 Exploitation of Elders

Sherry Clester, Victim Advocate Program Manager, AAAPP, introduced herself and gave a little information about what she does at the agency. Sherry gave some statistics on abuse and exploitation of the elderly stating that the National Center on Elder Abuse estimates that 1 in 10 older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation every year. For every one case that is reported, as many as 23 cases go unreported. The US Department of Justice recently did a study and 1 in 20 older adults reported being financially abused by a family member in the past year. Financial exploitation is believed to cost older adults 36 billion dollars annually. Studies show that on average, anywhere between 75 to 90 percent of the time, family members are the perpetrators of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. In the last fiscal year, Adult Protective Services (APS) received over 5000 calls to the elder abuse hotline for elder abuse allegations in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. Last year in Pinellas County at least 5 senior women were killed by a family member. Florida ranked #1 for fraud complaints in 2015 according to the Federal Trade Commission. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Economic Crime Unit reported that they are inundated with complaints of phone scams on a daily basis. Local law enforcement currently does not have a tracking system in place to report the amount of scams or the amount of money that is taken from seniors. If there was data and stats collected then maybe there would be a push for more funding. Scammers are spoofing phone numbers to look like legitimate business calls and a lot are done overseas, so phone scams are virtually impossible to track down. Educating the public about abuse, neglect, exploitation and scams is possibly the only way to safeguard seniors from becoming a victim. Sherry gave several examples of the different types of scams going around targeting seniors today. Sherry distributed a DCF "Guide for Professionals" to the members and explained the definition of "Vulnerable Adult" under the Florida statute and how a senior victim of a crime may not qualify for an investigation through APS. The Florida Abuse Hotline will determine if a senior is considered a vulnerable adult through a series of questions, or if a senior has capacity to make their own decisions. If APS does not accept the report, they will recommend other options or avenues in order to follow through with filing a report. There were several comments and questions to which Sherry addressed.

Agenda Item #5 Legislative Priorities

Jason Martino, Director of Planning, AAAPP, reported that the AAAPP is requesting \$1.2 million continuation funding for the Local Service Program (LSP). \$8 million continuation funding for the General Revenue programs: Community Care for the Elderly (CCE); Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI); and Home Care for the Elderly (HCE) for both Pasco and Pinellas Counties. Aging advocates across the state are asking for increases for the General Revenue programs in order to take many people off the wait list. Aging advocates are also seeking \$1.5 Million increases for the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Long Term Care Program (SMMCLTCP). Jason went over the Policy Briefs on the national level, what can be expected in the upcoming months, and what individuals can do to help advocate. Helen stated that Congressman Bilirakis will be speaking at the April Board meeting in Pasco at the HCA Trinity Hospital if anyone is interested in attending during that time.

Agenda Item #6 Results of DOEA Monitoring Report on AAAPP

Jason indicated the good news that once again, the AAAPP has had no findings, making it 8 years in a row. Jason asked if there were any questions regarding the AAAPP monitoring report or the AAAPP responses to the Suggestions for Improvement identified in the report for the calendar year ending December 31, 2015 included in the packet and there were none.

Agenda Item #7 DOEA Advisory Council

Kerry Marsalek announced that she is very honored to be appointed to the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) Advisory Council and that she will be representing PSA5 for Pasco and Pinellas County. Kerry briefed everyone on her first teleconference with DOEA held on Feb. 27th. Secretary Jeffrey Bragg reported that the governor is recommending a \$15 million increase for the General Revenue programs. There was discussion on the 3 goals of the governor provided by Deputy Secretary Richard Prudom. The first goal is to redefine the DOEA statewide wait list process as the scoring methodology is antiquated, and that they want to include only those who qualify for services rather than everyone who has applied. For those that qualify for services, they will focus on the 4's and the 5's. The second goal is to promote compassion and awareness to those with dementia and designate \$20 million towards dementia care. The third goal is to increase transparency for professional guardians through senate bill 232.

Agenda Item #8 Announcements

Jason presented the 2016 Annual Report and went over all the highlights for the year.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for May 08, 2017 at the AAAPP conference room.

The annual luncheon will be held on April 21, 2017 at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater.

Nancy Giles announced that Lenny Waugh, who is a Veteran and Paratrooper, attended the event that Heavendropt Evergreen presented honoring Paratroopers. They did a dinner and fundraising event at the Bayou Club. Paul said that Lenny was one of the very first Navy Seals, which was originally called Frogmen.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:06 P.M.

(Minutes transcribed by Katherine Thomley)