

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Beth Aker  
Betty Beeler  
Miriam Benitez-Nixon  
Sue Castonguay  
Anne Corona  
Louise Dolsay via Conference Phone  
Barb Epstein  
Mike Estigo  
Lori Felber  
Samantha Fenger via Conference Phone  
Nancy Giles  
Sharon Lena  
Carole McLeod  
Jodi Vosburgh  
Lena Wilfalk  
Becky Yackel via Conference Phone

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kerry Kimball Marsalek  
Lenny Waugh

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Helen King, AAAPP  
Ann Marie Winter, AAAPP

**Agenda Item #1 Welcome and Introductions**

Nancy Giles, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM at the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas conference room. All present introduced themselves.

**Agenda Item #2 Consent Agenda**

Nancy presented the August 21, 2017 Board of Directors' meeting minutes, the September 18, 2017 Board of Directors' meeting minutes, and the September 25, 2017 Advisory Council meeting minutes for approval. It was moved by Mike Estigo and seconded by Barb Epstein to approve the Advisory Council and Board of Directors meeting minutes. None opposed, motion carried.

**Agenda Item #3 Items for Discussion from the Consent Agenda**

There were no questions or comments.

**Agenda Item #4 Executive Director Report**

Ann Marie Winter, Executive Director, welcomed the new Advisory Council members and thanked all Advisory Council members for their time and input. Ann Marie reported that the Legislative session is coming up in January, 2018. Ann Marie stated that she presented before the Pinellas legislative delegation meeting in September, advocating for the state and requesting an additional \$12.4 million increase. This increase will serve an additional 1,800 seniors on the waiting list for CCE (Community Care for the Elderly) services. There was a request for an increase of \$865,000 for the SMMCLTCP (Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Long Term Care Program) workload adjustment for the ADRC's around the state. Ann Marie, along with some of the Board members, have been meeting with individual members of the Pinellas/Pasco delegation of the House and Senate and will continue to do so through

December. She welcomed advisory council members who have relationships with legislative members to reach out to her. There will be an advocacy day in Tallahassee where Ann Marie and the other 10 Executive Directors for the Area Agencies throughout Florida will meet with the House and Senate in groups to advocate during the legislative session sometime between January and March. Ann Marie will keep everyone updated as the time draws near. She talked about the SHINE Program and its many benefits to seniors. SHINE provides objective, unbiased information on Medicare health insurance plans to seniors throughout Florida and throughout the United States, and is called SHIP nationally. The cost of the program is minimal to run as it is mostly volunteer based. The President in his budget has zeroed out completely the SHIP program. The President's budget is a starting point, and Congress then decides whether or not to use that budget in what they pass. The SHIP program nationally, is in the Senate budget, but was zeroed out on the house side, as per the President's request, and so we are uncertain if the SHINE program will continue after December 8, 2017. The Area Agencies statewide rallied together and created some materials in support of the SHINE program, and sent them out to clients who have been helped by SHINE asking that they sign and send it out to Senator Rubio. In coordination with the Florida Council on Aging and PSA6 there will be an advocacy summit on November 29, 2017 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Senior Connection Center in Brandon, and they will be discussing legislative issues at the state level. Anne Marie reported that Helen will be leaving at the end of December and so there will be some restructuring within the agency. Helen does several different jobs and so Ann Marie will be dividing Helen's job into 2 positions and hiring 2 new employees. One will be an HR Administrator and the other will be an outreach position which will include outreach for some of our programs as well as outreach to some of the community organizations that we are closely affiliated with like, BLS (Better Living for Seniors) and PAN (Pasco Aging Network). Ann Marie will be taking over Helen's role on the Advisory Council.

**Agenda Item #5            Guest Speaker(s)**

Nancy Giles reported that due to unforeseen circumstances, the guest speakers are unable to attend the meeting. Nancy hopes they will be brought back to speak later in the year.

**Agenda Item #6            Nominating Committee Report**

Helen King, Deputy Director, asked if Ann Marie would speak a little about a discussion that took place at the Executive Committee meeting. Ann Marie reported that the AAAPP has 2 lead agencies, one in Pinellas County which is Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services and the other in Pasco County which is CARES, Inc. (Community Aging and Retirement Services). The AAAPP is the funding agency for these organizations and so we must monitor and audit our providers. At a monitoring in February, there were some findings that turned into a corrective action plan which was not resolved in a timely manner. Our contract with DOEA requires us to institute financial penalties in such cases and CARES was informed of this decision.

Helen moved on to the nominating committee report and thanked the nominating committee for their time and feedback. Helen reported that the Advisory Council is now full with no vacancies. Helen welcomed the new Council members, Anne Corona who replaced Paul McClintock and Lori Felber who replaced Cristina Spiegel. Anne and Lori both talked a little about their background. Helen reported that all nine members whose terms were expiring at the end of the year have renewed their terms for another 2 years starting January 2018 through December 2019. It was moved by Sharon Lena and seconded by Lena Wilfalk to approve the membership renewals for Barb Epstein, Lori Felber, Rebecca Yackel, Betty Beeler, Sue Castonguay, Nancy Giles, Miriam Benitez-Nixon, Kerry Marsalek, and Jodi Vosburgh. None opposed, motion carried. The final item on the committee report is the proposed slate of Officers: Mike Estigo for Chair and Sharon Lena for Vice Chair. It was moved by Beth Aker and seconded by Sue Castonguay to approve the Slate of Officers for a 2 year term from January 2018 through December 2019. None opposed, motion carried.

**Agenda Item #7            Conflict of Interest Form**

Helen asked that everyone read and sign the conflict of interest form and return it to her at their earliest convenience.

**Agenda Item #8            Announcements**

Helen announced the next Advisory Council meeting will be held on January 08, 2018 at the AAAPP conference room. Helen wanted to remind everyone of the DOEA monitoring on November 15 and 16, 2017. Helen would like to encourage any Advisory Council members to attend. The 2018 meeting dates have been posted on the website, and all of the meetings will be held here at the agency. The Annual Luncheon will be held at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater on April 27, 2018. Nancy Giles presented Helen with a card signed by all the Advisory Council members in recognition of Helen's last meeting with the Advisory before her retirement. Helen thanked everyone for the card. Helen announced that she plans to do some volunteering after her retirement, some will be with PAN and some with BLS. Ann Marie expressed her delight on Helen's decision to volunteer. Beth Aker talked about the damage done to her home due to Hurricane Irma stating that 4 trees hit her home and no other homes around her were damaged. Sue Castonguay also talked a little about Hurricane Irma and how important it is to stay in contact with emergency management. Nancy Giles announced she will be at an event in Straub Park called Shopapalooza this Saturday and the following Saturday if anyone is interested in attending. They will be making necklaces.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.  
(Minutes transcribed by Katherine Thomley)