

ORANGE COUNTY
ADVISORY BOARD ON AGING

Minutes
March 6, 2018

PRESENT: Heather Altman, Mary Altpeter, Alex Castro, Peggy Cohn, Keith Cook, Lorenzo Mejia, Donna Prather, Vibeke Talley, Dick White

EXCUSED: Colin Austin, Winston Liao

STAFF: Mary Fraser, Kathie Kearns, Yvette Missri, Janice Tyler

The meeting was called to order at the Seymour Center by Chair Peggy Cohn. Heather Altman announced that Carol Woods will be hosting an Eden At Home conference on April 24-26. The minutes of the February 13 meeting were approved as distributed.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Janice Tyler updated the Advisory Board on the implementation of the new Senior Center computerized check-in system. More than 900 key fobs have been issued to participants to date. Issues are being addressed by the vendor to make the system more 'user-friendly'.

A representative of Wellcare Medicare Advantage has approached the Department about sponsoring health-related activities. Staff will present funding opportunities at the second meeting this Friday.

Renovations have begun at the Passmore Center and the entrance has been temporarily relocated to the back door. The project is scheduled to be completed by August, adding drop-in space and redesigning the Front Desk area.

Triangle J Area Agency on Aging will conduct its annual audit of Orange County's Home & Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) and Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) services during the second week of April.

The next Brain Health Academy series will be held Thursday evenings from April 5 through May 10 at the Passmore Center.

The first Orange County Citizens Academy participants will tour the Passmore Center and staff will provide an overview of Department on Aging services.

A Latino Outreach event will be held on March 8 at the Seymour Center to inform community leaders about the resources and opportunities available. Heather Altman cited the low numbers of Latino elders reflected in Orange County demographics.

The Faith-Based Outreach breakfast held at the UNC Hillsborough Hospital earlier in the day had several new persons in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

Janice Tyler reviewed the list of Advisory Board members' terms that are expiring in June: Keith Cook, Lorenzo Mejia, Donna Prather, Dick White. Both Mr. Cook and Mr. White will continue to represent Orange County on the Senior Tar Heel Legislature. Those present offered suggestions to fill the upcoming vacancies.

The Department on Aging staff will meet with the County Manager to review the FY18-19 budget proposal later in the month; outside agency budget meetings begin this week. Department Directors have been asked to identify areas of their budgets that could be reduced.

Ms. Tyler noted that the vacant Social Worker I position formerly held by Mike Liu is being reclassified to Social Worker II and will be advertised in the near future. She met with Orange County Public Transit (OCPT) Director Theo Letman to discuss options for redirecting HCCBG transportation service dollars to fund the OC CARES occupational therapist position. Discussion followed on how successful respite activities initiated with the OC CARES grant can be continued. The funding for the Mobility Manager is secured through FY18-19. The Chair and Ms. Altman asked if there were ongoing programs in Orange County that could be utilized to absorb the OC CARES respite services.

Alex Castro, Vibeke Talley and Dick White volunteered to meet on March 21 to review the Outside Agency funding applications referred to the Department on Aging.

CONTINUING PROJECTS

Yvette Missri listed the five new Senior Resource Teams formed by the latest Project EngAGE (PE) graduating class: mental health, long-term care, intergenerational, policy & advocacy, LGBTQ. All PE graduates continue to meet quarterly to share experiences and report achievements. Senior Resource Teams are open to all volunteers.

COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORTS

Dementia Friendly Business Campaign – Lorenzo Mejia reported that over 900 persons have been trained since the project began. Al's Burgers is the first restaurant to request DFB training for its employees. The training video needs to be updated and the Rotary Club may be able to help. Discussion followed on efforts in other areas of the county and training options.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature – Dick White announced that the STHL will convene its 2018 session next week. Keith Cook's nomination for the Orange County alternate position is in process.

Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee – Vibeke Talley stated that Cherie Rosemond will discuss quality of life issues at tonight's Committee meeting.

Transportation Board – Alex Castro reported that the Orange Unified Transportation Board met in February. Items discussed included the Mountain to Sea Trail and the Highway 54 corridor. Cedar Ridge High School students are being utilized to create transit public service announcements.

Heather Altman reported on findings from the OC Affordable Housing Summit which 150 people attended. Discussion followed on the availability and condition of affordable housing, including the shift in focus from transitional housing to rapid rehousing.

Friends of the Passmore Center – Janice Tyler announced the upcoming Las Vegas night fundraiser.

Vice-Chair Lorenzo Mejia agreed to represent the Advisory Board on Aging at the April 26 Board of County Commissioners meeting to answer questions about its 2017 Annual Report.

Ms. Tyler distributed Senior Resource Guides to Board members and announced that the directory will not be reprinted due to rising costs but can be accessed through the Orange County website.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Tyler, Secretary