



Fulton County Commission on Elder Affairs

General Meeting Summary | May 13, 2022

Attendance: Board Members - 8; Senior Services Staff - 3, Visitors - 5

Monthly Information Feature:

Topic: "Managing Costs in the time of Inflation." Marsetta Ray, Facilitator

- Inflation is an increase in prices and a fall in the purchasing power. It affects seniors more severely. Overall 8.5% from February 2021 to February 2022.
- To manage costs, begin with a budget. Review and adjust it often for changes.
- Cut housing costs – Strategies: relocate, downsize, get a housemate, reduce property taxes, bundle services for best prices.
- Cut food costs – Strategies: Use store loyalty programs, coupons; comparison shop; use bulk buying; never shop hungry; buy frozen veggies and fruit to avoid spoilage.
- Trim gasoline expense – Strategies: limit trips; carpool; use fuel rewards and store fuel points; use Uber/Lyft senior car benefit.
- Miscellaneous – Review and eliminate underused subscription services; negotiate lower prices whenever possible on purchases; eliminate all unnecessary spending; use free services (e.g., hair/nails); use beauty/barber school services; borrow books from the library instead of purchasing; buy used items.

COEA Officer & Committee Highlights

Chairperson Ray – COEA needs a Communication Committee for getting information out to the public. She reported no feedback has been received from the Board of Commissioners on the White Paper. Requesting assistance from Senior Services to get Board to communicate.

Health & Wellness – Investigating a Veterans' homecare assistance.

Senior Services – Chair Ray advised Ms. Adams has raised concerns about staff and participant problems at New Horizon. Senior Services is investigating.

Safety & Security – Advised paying attention to surroundings and looking out for seniors with dementia who often get lost while driving.

Technology – No report. Delays experienced with IT in posting to site.

Civic Life – Caregiver bill was passed and signed. Primary election on May 24; verify if district and polling location changes due to redistricting.

Programming – Calendar was reviewed. June meeting will feature GA Council on Aging.

Senior Services Updates – Adult Day (M-F); some transportation problems with getting some participants late; working to resolve. Incontinence supplies are available via StarLine. Older Americans' Month activities ongoing.

Business Items Approved:

- Service Project, eyeglasses collection. Members will report numbers donated for tracking.
- Confirmed date and time for June public presentation on Senior Housing Options. Ms. Fiber-Sutton gave overview of proposed topics.

Action Items:

- 1) Attempt to get resources from previous month's speaker, Nancy Meck on organization resources. Send to members. - Ray
- 2) Get additional information on Veterans' homecare benefit - Cayce
- 3) Inquire about COEA stationary, - Ray
- 4) Develop flyer for Senior Housing Workshop by May 31 – Ray & Fiber-Sutton