



COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday October 12, 2023

Time: 11:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Live via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/92154181214>

Facilitator: Ann Germany

Board Members

Marsetta Ray, Past Chair, South Fulton Senior Center (Present)

Ann Germany, Board Chair, Sr. Services N. Fulton (Present)

Mary Blake, Chair Pro-Tem (Present)

Stephanie Fiber-Sutton, Member, District 1 (Present)

Beth Cayce, Member, District 2 (Absent)

Gary Snyder, Member, District 3 (Absent)

Linda Adams, Member, District 4 (Absent)

Dr. Sandra Wright, Member, District 5 (Absent)

Jill Lindsey, Member, District 6 (Absent)

Sarah Hilton, Member, Atlanta Housing Authority (Present)

Tracie Grant, Member, Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority (Present)

Teresa Pearsall, Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority (Absent)

Ruth Lyles-Bailey, Parliamentarian (Present)

Kweli Henry, Secretary, Department of Senior Services (non-voting)

Visitors and Staff

One (2) visitor present; One (2) Senior Services staff

I. **Meeting Called to Order: 11:32 a.m.**

- II. **Roll Call | Attendance:** Board Members Present (7), Absent (6)
- III. **Review/Approval of Minutes:** Action: Motion made, seconded, and carried.
- IV. **Updates from Officers or Board Members:** No updates provided
- V. **Senior Services Update**
 - a. COEA would like to receive full monthly calendar updates of all DSS activities, including any anniversary events to be held at the Centers. Per Ladisa, the HHS calendar updates will be shared with COEA.
 - b. COEA member asked for updates on the nail salons and DMV (tax offices) reopening in the Centers. DSS is working with the Fulton County purchasing department to finalize resuming nail salon services. The tax offices will be reopened during the week of October 16th at three MP locations, Benson, Darnell, and Mills on selected days. Services are available for seniors 55 and older. Benson will be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm only. Darnell Senior Center will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm only. Mills will be open Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm only.

VI. COEA Committee Reports

Advocacy - Marsetta Ray, Chair

- a. No report given

Dementia Education, Awareness, Training and Support - Beth Cayce, Chair

- b. The importance of understanding dementia and available resources, as well as the need to avoid duplicating efforts already being done in the field. They mention the possibility of integrating this knowledge into broader initiatives or services related to cognitive decline. Benchmarking is also mentioned as a tool for developing this approach, with reference to benchmarking done in RP World Health and Fairfax, Virginia.

Health and Well-being - Sarah Hilton, Chair

- c. Health and Wellness Committee members will work to develop a Holiday Resource Guide to include health and wellness information,

resources and events. Sarah requested the Board to provide any suggestions/ items to be included in the guide; additional information can be sent by emailing Sarah directly.d

VII. Unfinished Business

- a. The unfinished business mentioned was to discuss health and well-being, collect all information and topics for the holiday resource guide, send a draft of the resource guide to the board for consideration, and coordinate with senior centers to distribute the guide.

VIII. New Business

- a. The new business discussed during the meeting was the collection of information and topics for the holiday resource guide.

IX. Public Comments

- a. No public comments

X. Meeting Minutes Summary

- a. Updates are provided on senior services, including changes in operating hours and upcoming events.
- b. The importance of combating disinformation during election periods is highlighted by the advocacy committee.
- c. Webinars and seminars are announced, including one on Medicare open enrollment.
- d. Issues related to Medicare, including new rule changes and scams, are discussed.
- e. Seniors are encouraged to seek guidance and assistance. Kathy Mendelsohn discusses how to outsmart scammers and provides resources for further information.
- f. Hard copies of information on various topics are available. The remaining meetings for 2024 are mentioned, and the goal is to have a full quorum for the November meeting.

XI. Potential Actions

- a. Collect all information and topics for the holiday resource guide by the end of October.
- b. Send a draft of the resource guide to the board for consideration before final release.
- c. Coordinate with senior centers to distribute the holiday resource guide.
- d. Boil down Sarah's idea to the basics, including a section on healthy eating.
- e. Share Keith Knab's bio and contact information with board members and encourage them to share it with their networks.

- f. Consider inviting Keith Knab to speak again in the future to provide more information on Medicare.
- g. Educate seniors about potential scams and misinformation surrounding Medicare and provide resources to protect themselves.
- h. Inform seniors about the upcoming changes in drug plan costs due to the Inflation Reduction Act and help them understand their options.
- i. Establish trust with seniors and serve as a reliable source of information and support in navigating the Medicare system.
- j. Provide clear and comprehensive communication to seniors about the upcoming changes in the Medicare drug program, especially the annual out-of-pocket maximum reduction in 2025.
- k. Educate seniors about the red flags and warning signs of Medicare scams.
- l. Promote the use of reliable sources of information, such as the Medicare website, to make informed choices about Medicare plans and benefits.
- m. Encourage seniors to seek guidance from trustworthy advocates or consultants who have a thorough understanding of Medicare.
- n. Advocate for reforms in retirement systems to provide retirees with a wider range of choices and options in Medicare plans.
- o. Larisa to connect with Kathy and request hard copies of the information for distribution at the centers.
- p. Sarah and Ruth to review the resource guide and share relevant information with the board.
- q. Board members to prioritize attendance at the November meeting for a full quorum.
- r. Executive council to prepare for the December meeting to discuss business for 2024.

XII. Announcements

- a. No COEA General Board Meeting

XIII. Adjournment

- a. Action: Motion made, seconded, and carried.
- b. Meeting adjourned 12:00 noon