



COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Meeting Summary – February 15, 2024

I. Roll Call

- a. Meeting called to order: 11:49 am
- b. Quorum – Board Members Present (8), Absent (5)

II. Motivational comment

III. Review/Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes were emailed February 7, 2024 to COEA members; no reading of the minutes aloud; motion taken, carried and approved

IV. Guest Speaker

- a. Jim Swain; invited to address COEA regarding veterans, benefits, and access
- b. Problem – Georgia has largest veterans' population of all states. Many veterans have no contact with the VA. Very few VA nursing homes exist in Georgia.
- c. Challenge – Identifying veterans is difficult. The challenge is getting the information to veterans and/or their caregivers.
- d. Opportunity - Financial benefits are available to hire care providers (established in 1953) to support long-term care or facility care. Speaker encouraged members to increase awareness of benefits and ensure veterans qualify, money is being used and for the right purposes.
- e. Attending COEA member Sarah Hilton shared resources in the meeting chat:
 - i. <https://www.gatewayctr.org/veterans-program/>
 - ii. <https://blankfoundation.org/hope-atlanta-transforming-lives-of-veterans-at-risk-of-homelessness/>

iii. <https://www.atlantahousing.org/housing-programs/>

V. Senior Services Updates

- a. See Appendix A
- b. COEA member questions – were enhancements allocated to the Senior Home Modification/Repair program?
 - i. No answer available at time of question; to be included under March agenda ‘Unfinished Business’

VI. Committee Updates

- a. Chair gave charge to COEA to join a committee, bring a greater awareness to the public and solicit more involvement on subcommittees; Chair is reaching out externally to bring in more support to aid and extend communication efforts
 - i. Advocacy – No report
 - ii. Elder Abuse – No report
 - iii. Dementia Education and Awareness – No report
 - iv. Health and Wellness (Sarah Hilton)
 - 1. Committee exploring plans for a regional health summit; acknowledge that there are resources available but not enough to support everyone; Subcommittee intends to answer the question ‘how do we help people stay healthy and well throughout the life course’
 - 2. Met with Nonprofit organizations and discussed increase in homeless seniors; Goal – connect the dots of observed existing gap in knowledge regarding resources
 - 3. Summit Goal – shift from partnerships in siloes and create a comprehensive network of individuals and groups working within the aging space
 - 4. COEA response/question (Linda Adams) – suggested hosting forum at Multipurpose facilities and invite the seniors within the area/community; model after Commissioner Abdur-Rahman’s joint event with Fulton County DA; suggestion to hold monthly COEA meetings at Multipurpose meetings tabled for March Agenda ‘unfinished business’

VII. Unfinished Business

- a. Secretary provided Robert's Rules of Order explanation of unfinished business
- b. Status of City of Atlanta Commissioners Parks and Recreation discussion (Linda Adams) – Senior Services intends to follow up with the City of Atlanta and discuss program event sharing opportunities
- c. Elder Fraud booklets delivered to the Darnell Senior Multipurpose facility in 2023; Senior Services to develop plan for mailing books to COEA members

II. New Business

- a. No new business

III. Public Comments

- a. Guest (Ben Howard) – offered greetings; thanked the Chair and guest speaker; appreciated speaker topic; comments included need of STARline number/information placed in chat to be read aloud for the purposes of meeting recording
- b. COEA Secretary stated STARline numbers aloud for the recording

IV. Announcements

- a. Chair spoke at ROSA (Reaching out to our Senior Adults) monthly meeting; organization of 15+ churches; will have an African American Heritage Program 1pm February 17, 2024
- b. Linda Adams – New Horizons held senior luncheon for Valentines on February 14, 2024 sponsored by Westside Seniors on the Rise; seniors had a great time; guests from Clark Atlanta University; recommend COEA members to visit senior centers
- c. Chair – COEA bus tour in consideration

V. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned 1:02pm

Commission on Elder Affairs Meeting

February 2024

DSS Updates



A. Programs

- a. BOC adopted FY24 budget
 - i. Senior Services - \$28,408,575
 - 1. Indigent Burial Contract costs - \$25,125
 - 2. Senior Transportation Increase - \$1,500,000
 - 3. Senior Advocacy (Commissioner sponsored senior summit in May) - \$100,000

- b. DSS, Adult Day Adult Day Health Program hours - 8:00am-5:00pm.
 - i. Program Admission assessments are ongoing
 - ii. The Adult Day program continues to provide virtual classes, home delivered meals, and weekly wellness calls to check in on registered participants.
 - iii. Caregiver Support Meeting-Every 3rd Wednesday 3:00pm-4:00pm
 - iv. Adult Day Health Program applications are available upon request. For more information, please call 404-613-6000
 - v. The Adult Day Health Programs hosts Virtual Programs Mon-Friday. Information can be found under the Department of Senior Services, on the Fulton County Website

- c. DSS, Multipurpose Program Hours – 8:30am – 5:00pm
 - i. Elections Efforts for Upcoming Primary: Early voting for the upcoming primary starts at Benson on Tuesday and ends on March 8th; all meals will be grab-and-go, and sit-down/congregate meals will be temporarily suspended until March 8th. On March 12th, Bowden will be a Poll Site
 - ii. The Four Facilities are mobilizing to begin once again providing hair salon services – dates, times of service hours will be forthcoming

- iii. Reminder: Monthly Defensive Driving one-day workshops are offered at each Multipurpose Facility for senior adults
- iv. AARP Free Tax Preparations for senior adults have started at each of the senior facilities. Call the facilities' front desk for days and times of services
- v. The telephone systems are being brought online. The new temporary multipurpose facilities' front desk numbers are as follows:
 - 1. Benson – 470-765-7588
 - 2. Bowden – 484-942-0470
 - 3. Darnell – 610-816-9527
 - 4. Mills - 470-859-3724

d. DSS, Contracts

- i. The Union City Senior Center will be closed on February 19th for Presidents Day (programming will be virtual). From February 20th to March 12th, the center will be used for early voting. The manager has obtained permission for center participants to continue attending during this period. All fitness classes will be held at the Gathering Spot, located behind the senior center, while arts and craft classes will remain in the center. Participants will have salads available as a lunch option during this time. Outings will still be organized throughout the month.
- ii. The Fulton County Cooperative Extension is proposing to provide produce to 11 Neighborhood Senior Centers that did not receive fresh produce from Fulton Fresh Mobile Market during the 2023 season. These centers will be serviced twice in the month of March and the produce will be distributed only to registered senior participants. More info to come once details have been finalized.
- iii. On March 19th at the New Horizon Senior Center a Lunch and Learn will be hosted and sponsored by City Council Member Byron Amos. The purpose of the lunch and learn is to educate the participants and offer resources in terms of medical, mental, and behavioral health.

B. Information and Referrals

- a. STARline number operational – 404-613-6000