



COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Meeting Summary – September 19, 2024

I. Roll Call

- a. Meeting called to order at 11:45 am
- b. Quorum – Board Members Present (9), Absent (3), Vacant (1)
- c. One member from the public was present. Three (3) Senior Services staff present.

II. Motivational comment

- a. Given by Chair - Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much; exemplifies what the Commission can do

III. Review/Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes were emailed to COEA members August 22, 2024; motion taken to accept the minutes and seconded. The minutes were approved.

IV. Agenda amended - Committee Updates added before Senior Services update

- a. Advocacy
 - i. COEA member Marsetta Ray highlighted GA Council on Aging recent newsletter and established priorities, i.e. 1) Multidisciplinary team coordinator for elder abuse and exploitation, 2) Supportive decision-making documents and 3) study on medical aid in dying
 - ii. Next CoAGE meeting November 13, 2024 - 135 Point street, Athens GA; Cost - \$25 for members
 - iii. Advance voting begins October 15, 2024, through 11/1/24; emphasized awareness regarding voting and factors that could impact seniors
 1. Comment from Beth Cayce – Be alert re: scams asking seniors to register
 2. Question from Chair Ann Germany – What is the website where people can get information?

a. <https://sos.ga.gov/elections-division-georgia-secretary-states-office>

b. Elder Abuse committee

- i. Ruth Lyles Bailey emphasized the importance of being aware of surroundings, not answering unfamiliar numbers especially alleged physician calls

c. Dementia Education and Awareness

- i. No meeting was held in September. Beth Cayce participated in a Fulton County Senior Services podcast September 19, 2024, and encouraged COEA members to become dementia friendly champions. Ms. Cayce shared a story from Australia and how sensory is greatly involved and affects individual diagnosed with some form of dementia.
 1. Question from Stephanie Fiber Sutton – is there an opportunity to provide champion training at a future COEA meeting?
 - a. Beth Cayce response – Dementia friends can be offered to COEA; Deena McDonald from the State will need to facilitate Champion training
 2. Question from Ann Germany – can we offer the Champion training at each Multipurpose facility in FY25
 - a. COEA Secretary will explore this and provide a response

d. Health and Wellness Committee

- i. Stephanie Fiber Sutton - No meeting held since Atlanta Housing Authority COEA position became vacant; requested thoughts on how to move forward
 1. Chair encouraged COEA members to look at bylaws and determine how to fine tune subcommittee focus

V. No Guest Speaker

VI. Senior Services Updates

- a. Senior Services informed COEA of early voting information and locations.
- b. Senior Medicare Wellness Days appointments are available every Wednesday and Thursday at select senior centers. Senior Services requested COEA member assistance in sharing information with their network and community members.

- c. The Fulton County Government FY25 Budget season is underway. The Department of Senior Services participated and submitted its budget proposal. The Board of Commissioners will approve the FY25 budget during the regular or recess meeting in January 2025.
- d. Fall registration at Multipurpose facilities is in progress. Fall classes begin September 30, 2024. Adult Day Health has availability to serve eligible seniors.
- e. Traditional transportation is available for eligible seniors. Alternative transportation (Uber/Lyft) program changes begin October 1st. Seniors below 250% FPGL pay \$1 cost share; seniors > 250% FPGL pay \$4 cost share per trip; total maximum trips – 8 total trips (4 round trips) per month.
 - i. Question from COEA member Linda Adams – The BOC decision was made before letters issued. Ms. Adams attempted to share changes with riders. Now, seniors will have reduced rides and believes the seniors are being forgotten. Seniors do not always have family members to transport. Trips costs are going up; how many letters were sent?
 - 1. Senior Services response – 2,400 clients called; 960 clients reached, and self-attestation information recorded
 - ii. Question from COEA member Marsetta Ray regarding medical appointments exceeding mileage allotment, i.e. specialist are sometimes further away from a senior’s home
 - a. DSS response - The BOC did not make changes to the mileage allotment; DSS will investigate more with Program Manager
 - iii. Additional questions - Will the BOC give more money to the program; Should COEA send letters to the BOC requesting approval of funding; COEA previously developed a white paper; Should the COEA consider developing a new white paper; Is it possible to identify other resources within Fulton County area that provide medical transportation; Can the contract be modified to 8 rides @ 10 miles or total of 50 miles
 - 1. DSS Response – Senior Services Department provides traditional bus service which supports dialysis clients; Senior Services team assesses the needs of the client and at times will connect seniors to MARTA mobility; Referrals are also available to programs outside DSS
 - 2. Contract modification permitting rides outside Fulton County requires County Attorney’s and Purchasing

Guidance

- iv. Question from COEA Chair Ann Germany – Can Senior Services provide the Budget schedule to COEA members? Chair requested a review of the program budget due to increased utilization. What is the true need and how is the program marketed? Chair believes the changes are challenging and terms should be revisited.
- v. Zoom Chat - HERide is a rideshare company like Uber/Lyft with all women drivers and interested in offering our rideshare services for seniors in Fulton County under the transportation program.
 - 1. Senior Services will follow up with organization and refer to vendor services.

VII. Committee Working Session

- a. COEA members answered and discussed Prewrite Questionnaire in support of Countywide Senior Survey; to be administered in 2025

VIII. Unfinished Business

- a. Bylaw and COEA vacancies review
- b. Chair requested motion to place unfinished business items on October meeting agenda; motion taken and seconded; approved

IX. New Business

- a. Marsetta Ray – [Comment inadvertently missed by Secretary; will recommend Minute amendment during October meeting]

X. Public Comments

- a. Guest (Ben Howard) shared comments regarding past COEA meetings and distribution of document that provided updated attendance record of each COEA member; referenced situation that warrants attention regarding havoc in housing arena, expedited eviction notice and resources for redress are scarce

XI. Announcements

- a. Linda Adams – Health enrollment starts November; [New Horizon] senior facility is offering health fair November 9, 2024, invited Fulton County Departments (Board of Health and Behavioral Health) to participate

- i. COEA Secretary will connect Departments with Linda Adams
- b. Chair, Ann Germany – [According to the bylaws, These officers shall be elected for a two-year term in November and assume office in January.]
 - i. The Chair reminded members of the one meeting remaining before elections and encouraged COEA members to consider serving in any position (elections for 4 officers: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Chair Pro-tem, and Parliamentarian)

XII. Adjournment

- a. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Stephanie Fiber-Sutton; seconded by Mary Blake. The meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm.