



Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, January 25th, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Stephen P. Clark Government Center

Westchester Library

9445 Coral Way

Miami, FL 33165

Members Present: Magali Abad, Betty Hermida, Paul Hunt, Rosa Kasse, Dionne Polite, Nercy Radcliffe, Mario Tapia

Members Absent: Susan Holtzman, Johnnie Mae Kerr

I. Welcome

The meeting began at 10:03 a.m. Betty, our newest member, introduced herself. The board took attendance.

II. Approval of January Agenda

Magali moved to approve the agenda. Nercy seconded the motion. The motion passed and the agenda was approved.

III. Approval of November Minutes

Magali moved to approve the minutes. Betty seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

IV. Reasonable Opportunity

Lupe Bruneman introduced herself to the board.

V. Current Business

First Class Hearing gave a presentation to the board about their services. They provide phones which assist hard of hearing individuals with phone communication. Funding comes from people's phone bills. For residents of Florida, you must be at least 3 years old and have either a hearing issue or

speech impediment in order to benefit from the service. The service is completely free to qualified individuals. In order to receive a phone, you must visit their office.

Katherine would like to attend the On Aging Conference in San Francisco in March but it takes place during the same time that the March meeting is scheduled. The board voted to move the meeting so that Katherine may attend, since it will be a valuable experience and provide information and education that the board will find useful. Paul made the motion. Rosa seconded the motion. The motion passed. The March Elder Affairs Advisory Board will be on March 14th, 2024.

The board then discussed changing the membership structure to include four at-large members and to lower the minimum age for membership to 50 so that it matches the AARP standard. Magali made a motion to approve the changes. Karen seconded the motion. The motion passed. Katherine will initiate the process of changing the ordinance to reflect the requested changes.

VI. Old Business

Katherine is providing the board with a sponsorship letter template for the board to use when requesting sponsorships. It was suggested that Katherine change the letter to have information on how to fill out the check and where to send it. Katherine will make those changes. Betty made the motion to approve the sponsorship letter with those changes. Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed and the letter with changes was approved.

It was requested that the flyers for the meetings be translated in Spanish and Creole as well. Katherine will do that from now on.

The board then discussed age discrimination in Miami-Dade Community, especially in the job market. The board asked for a letter to be sent to the commissioners asking them to ensure that all ages, including those above 55, are well-represented in the job market and in standard hiring practices. The board also requested a gaps and needs report. Magali motioned to approve both letters. Mario seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Katherine will send the letters to the commissioners.

Mario requested that we invite the Alliance on Aging to come speak to the board again. Katherine will reach out to them to schedule a visit. Mario also had questions about the Alliance's plan for the older adult community's future population growth and their methods for collecting data about the current population. He would like his concerns about population growth, specifically the Hispanic older adult future population growth, included in the report to the commissioners.

There were specific concerns about using technology to reach out to the older adult community. Lupe mentioned the report requested by Senator Garcia. Katherine will send it to the board so they can read it.

Dionne spoke to the board about Senior Planet, a new AARP sponsored community center that provides technological training to older adults in the community. She also suggested reaching out to the Florida Department on Elder Affairs for information on surveys they've done.

VII. Announcements

The board will not be going to Dade Days until next year, once they've been able to receive training from AARP.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.