



Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting

July 25th, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Westchester Regional Library

9445 Coral Way

Miami, FL 33165

Members Present: Betty Hermida, Barby Morales, Rosa Kasse, Dionne Polite, Nercy Radcliffe

Members Absent: Magali Abad, Johnnie Mae Kerr, Mario Tapia, Becky Herrup

I. Welcome

The meeting began at 10:15 a.m. Attendance was taken. There was no quorum.

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Reasonable Opportunity

There was no reasonable opportunity.

V. Current Business

The Mayor's Initiative did not meet between our June meeting and July meeting so there was no update. Brenda gave the Board an update on the State Attorney's EVA work group and its June and July meeting. Legal aid came to speak, as well as the Miami-Dade Police Department Special Victim's Bureau. Nercy would like to have legal aid speak to the board. Brenda stated the importance of educating ourselves and spreading awareness about elder abuse. Betty brought up the issue of people over-sedating older adults in order to take advantage of them. Rosa mentioned the issue of over-medication, as well. Rosa suggested inviting loved ones of older adults at community centers to the community center meetings. Nercy suggested, based on our conversations, that schools training in elder care can be trained to identify signs of abuse, exploitation, and fraud. Brenda seconded this sentiment. Dionne suggested having each community center meeting be a forum that is issue specific with a different commissioner supporting it. This will be voted on next meeting. Rosa

suggested that we make an agenda for the year outlining the different issues we will discuss. Nercy suggested co-hosting a community forum focused on older adults with one of the local chambers. This will be voted on at the next meeting. There are three voting items for September based on this discussion: community center meetings will be forums based on specific issues, we will reach out to a chamber to co-host an older adult forum, and we will reach out to the local nursing schools to see about an educational event for its graduating class on identifying signs of fraud, exploitation, and abuse.

VI. Old Business

In June, the Community Outreach Committee met to review our May fair and plan for the future. We would like to host two resource fairs, one in April and one in September. We would also like to have one of them be in a central/east location and one in the south. For transportation, we'll reach out to elected officials and cities. We also want to have one medical center or group be the main sponsor. We will send out a letter in October outlining what we expect and then the board will choose a sponsor out of the applicants at the November meeting. The deadline to submit the application is November 15th. We'd like to have the event planned completely before March. There was a short discussion about the resource fair that took place in May and how the board can improve on it. Brenda suggested partnering with Parks & Recreation to help get older adults to the event. Rosa suggested placing the flyers at community areas like the parks and doing in person visits to share information.

The board then discussed the Condominium Special Assessment. Legislation was passed in 2022 which requires structural inspections on specific buildings and condo associations to show a certain amount of money is in their reserve. It has led to many older adults being priced out of their homes due to repairs that are required. Some older adults are paying more than \$400 additional a month. Miami-Dade earmarked \$9 million in assistance for condo owners meeting certain criteria. However, there are not a lot of people taking advantage of the program. The department in charge is receiving a lot phone calls but not a lot of applications. Is the application too difficult? Is it only online? How are they submitted? It is a 10-page application. There was a short discussion about the different issues faced in the community and the struggles of landowners, tenants, and business owners regarding paying their bills due to increased insurance costs and other issues. Miami-Dade recognizes the issue that the bill creates but there needs to be more awareness about the program and the application process. There's not much information available online. There's no deadline available. Can we ask the Commissioners to share the information with the community? It's a very long application that requires a lot of documentation. The board will vote on their next step at the next meeting.

VII. Announcements

The DMV will be back in the Stephen P. Clark Center August 22nd. Brenda had some announcements for the board as well.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.