



Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, September 26th, 2024

10:00 a.m.

City of West Miami Community Center

901 SW 62nd Ave

West Miami, FL 33134

Members Present: Rosa Kasse, Magali Abad, Betty Hermida, Mario Tapia, Lupe Bruneman, Barby Morales, Mario Tapia

Members Absent: Johnnie Mae Kerr, Dionne Polite, Nercy Radcliffe, Becky Herrup

I. Welcome

Attendance was taken and there was no quorum, so the minutes and agenda were moved until more members arrived. The board members then introduced themselves to the seniors attending.

II. Approval of Agenda

When quorum was attained, after the public forum, Magali motioned to approve the agenda from the July meeting. Betty seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the July approved. Barby motioned to approve the September agenda. Betty seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the September agenda was approved.

III. Approval of Minutes

Magali motioned to approve the minutes from June. Betty seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the June minutes were approved. Magali motioned to approve the minutes from July. Betty seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the July minutes were approved.

IV. Public Forum

The forum began with a welcome from City of West Miami Vice-Mayor Natalie Milian Orbis. A representative from Miami-Dade County Commissioner Cabrera's office spoke to the seniors,

followed by a representative from City of Miami Commissioner Reyes' office. The Florida Ombudsman Program and the University of Miami Haussman institute also spoke to the seniors. Brenda arrived and introduced herself to the seniors and quorum was attained. After the commissioner offices and organizations spoke, the forum was turned over to the public.

One of the main concerns from the seniors the board spoke to was transportation. The options they currently have are good, but they would like something more local to run errands or go to the grocery store. They need help because they cannot carry the heavy grocery bags or have expired licenses. The recent redistribution with public transportation has caused issues for seniors and has made some places inaccessible for them. The seniors also brought up STS. They are concerned because there are too many people at once and take very long routes to get places.

Mario asked the seniors what the best option to receive information was. Ten seniors voted for the television, four voted for the radio, and two voted for the internet. He then asked what the best language was to receive information. Fifteen voted for Spanish, two for English, and four voted for both.

The seniors also talked about housing. One senior specifically brought up home insurance. They are retired, unable to pay the insurance, and scared to end up on the street because policies are unaffordable. They are saving but it's not enough for home maintenance and insurance together.

Rosa asked how many of the seniors were retired. Eight seniors were retired. Out of those seniors, 1 received Medicaid and 5 received Medicare.

The seniors then discussed home bound meals. They asked questions about eligibility, timing, and cost coverage. They also had questions about receiving food on the weekends.

Mario explained the Older Americans Act and the Alliance for Aging. The important aspect of the Older Americans Act is that the only qualification is being above the age of 60. All companies serving seniors receive money from the OAA. What seniors need to find out is which program they are enrolled in to receive services. The OAA provides for Meals on Wheels, recreation, transportation, and other services catering to the elderly. Mario discussed all the work he has done trying to learn about the Alliance's plans and the statistics of who they have been helping.

Rosa impressed upon the seniors the importance of using the resources available to them. She then closed the forum and the board turned to board business.

V. Committee Report

The board was given a report on the community outreach committee meeting that took place on September 19th. The committee suggested hosting our November meeting at Senior Planet in Wynwood. Rosa motioned to approve the meeting at Senior Planet on November 21st. Magali seconded the motion. The voice vote passed and the motion was approved.

The committee would like to host a Thanksgiving foodshare. Barby moved to have a Thanksgiving foodshare. Lupe seconded the motion. The voice vote passed and the Thanksgiving foodshare was approved.

The committee also discussed the possible chamber meeting that was suggested at the July meeting. Mario believes we are diversifying too much. The board agreed that we shouldn't do a chamber meeting but should focus on the community meetings first.

The committee also discussed the board participating in the AARP Tallahassee visit this upcoming session. The board would like to know more about what it would involve. Rosa and Mario asked if we could go by ourselves and set up our own meetings with our own agenda. Betty explained that things like Dade Days are very big, and the legislators meet with a lot of people, they have to be very clear and concise with what they want to say because there are time limits. There also wouldn't be room for all the board members to go together. Lupe suggested that we talk more with AARP first before we do anything else. Betty moved to move the AARP discussion to next month so Dionne can talk to us. Mario seconded the motion. The voice vote passed, and the motion was approved.

Betty motioned to move the rest of the agenda to October because the board ran out of time. Magali seconded the motion. The voice vote passed and the motion was approved.

VI. Work Group Updates

The EVA cancelled their September meeting to hold a law enforcement training session. Neither Katherine nor Brenda were able to attend the EIC meeting for September.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Announcements

The Board is co-hosting, along with the Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board, CABA, and Senator Garica, a legal resources event on October 8th. The Latino Center on Aging is hosting a senior resource fair on October 10th.

X. Adjournment

Magali motioned to adjourn.