



COEA MEETING MINUTES



Date: August 13, 2021

Time: 12:30 p.m., Virtually via Zoom

Facilitator: Marsetta Ray, Chair

Board Members

Marsetta Ray, Chair - South Fulton Senior Services | Ruth Lyles-Bailey, Vice Chair – Council on Aging West | Linda Adams – District 4 | Mary Blake, At-Large | Barbara Brown, Council on Aging South | Beth Cayce, District 1 (**Absent**) | Rosalind Elliott, District 3 (**Absent**) | Jill Lindsey, District 6 (**absent**) | Ernestine Mitchell, Council on Aging East (**Absent**) | Joan Lee, Council on Aging North (**Absent**), Teri Walker, District 5 (**Absent**)

Additional Attendees

Erica Flack, Senior Services | La Tanya D. Walker, Senior Services | Ben Howard, Senior Advocate |

The meeting called to order at 12:31 p.m., with Chairwoman Ray, Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey, Mary Blake, Linda Adams and Barbara Brown, present to constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

July 9, 2021, meeting minutes were emailed to COEA Board Members prior to the August 25, 2021, for review. All members were asked to review and send any additional comments via email or state them during the August meeting. Chairperson Ray, asked if there were any changes to the June meeting minutes. There were no corrections. A motion was called by Chairperson Ray to approve the minutes; the motion was made by Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey (1st) and Mary Blake (2nd). The vote to approve the meeting minutes was taken with all present approving.

Officers and Standing Committee Reports

- **Health (Beth Cayce)** – Committee chair, was not present, but emailed a question:
 - “**Can non-board members serve as committee members?**”

- **Senior Services:** Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey, reported that she visited the Darnell Multipurpose Center. She was very impressed with the level of safety protocols put in place for visiting seniors. She observed there was no waiting in the lobby areas, with social distancing in the cafeteria.
- **Safety/Security:** Vice Chair Bailey reported officer safety reports may be added to next month's report out. Also advised to schedule safety officers to attend COEA meeting to share any pertinent information and to give a high-level overview of any safety precautions. Request was made to have someone come in and speak with seniors about fraud prevention.
- **Technology:** La Tanya Walker advised there will be a new Tech Liaison who will support website. COEA website is expected to be complete by September general meeting. It was also advised all meetings will be recorded. Recordings will be placed on Senior Services YouTube Page and meeting minutes posted on COEA webpage through the DSS Webpage. All advised to provide any useful information wanted on COEA webpage.
- **Civic Life:** Chairperson Ray provided information on upcoming tax exemptions. Advised all to share appeal dates with those in their communities and to give Ms. Brooks a call at 404.612.9184, if they have any questions. A newsletter was mentioned, but decided she couldn't be the point of contact to create it. It would be something members could share in their communities. Ms. Adams advised she could also share with Westside Seniors on the Rise – with all others being accountable to their respective groups.
- **Programs/Features: (Mary Blake, Linda Adams & Chairperson Ray):** No report given.
- **Transportation (Open)**

Senior Services Report

Erica Flack, Program Manager – Adult Day Health Program (ADH), reported the following:

- An overview of the STARline was provided

- Transportation: 4046 are registered in Uber/Lyft program – approximately 9,000 rides as of July. Rides to various services were given, with buses clothed for safety.
- Multipurpose is going well. Lunch is based on building. Limited access is still in place for building use and in-person programming. Facilities are booked by appointment and take into consideration any cancellations. Virtual programming is still in place across all Fulton County senior centers.
- ADH remains closed due to rise in Delta variant

Speaker: Dr. Carolyn Bridges, MD – Consultant to CDC on Vaccine Implementation

The speaker gave an overview of vaccine doses for ages 65+. Fulton County, according to Georgia Public Health is lower than national average on vaccines, but seniors are at 99% with at least one dose. All were encouraged to vax up and to share in their communities. She also dispelled myths about vaccine; and shared that there were some breakthrough infections, but that's common for viruses and infections.

Delta variant is 2 ½ time more infectious, infecting about six (6) people to every one infected person. It causes more severe illness than previous virus. Unvaccinated are at greatest risk for spreading. Focus is still on vaccinating the unvaccinated. Vaccinated individuals can spread to unvaccinated and that has increased. There is a shorter period of sickness if vaccinated. Fully vaccinated people should remain isolated 3-5 days if in close contact with exposed and watch for symptoms, get tested and stay home. Isolate for 10 days if positive test.

Same symptoms among non-vaccinated. Vaccinated may experience upper respiratory impacts.

Unfinished Business

- **Mission Statement review**

A proposed mission statement was worked on by Chairperson Ray and Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey prior to the July 9th session. The proposed mission was presented, reviewed and later voted on by all active members. The new mission statement will be updated in the current COEA bylaws for final approval by County Board of Commissioners

New Business

- **Public Comment Section**

Effective the September general meeting, there will be time allotted for public comments. Five (5) people maximum at 2 minutes per person. A mechanism is needed to ensure people don't go over time. Committee members who are non-board members are subject to the same. Walker will confirm with legal if comments should be added to section.

Meeting Takeaways

- Chairperson Ray will send out reminders to Board regarding meetings. Members were also advised to set priorities for the remainder of the year. All were asked to survey community to determine the needs.
- Walker will send letters to Council on Aging and Commissioners of absent board members to advise that their appointed member has missed three or more meetings.
- Farmer's market will take place August 24th, August 26th, September 1st, and September 2nd at Palmetto, New Horizons, Benson and Mills facilities respectively. All were asked to call the STARline at 404.613.6000 if they need to register.
- Chairperson Ray and Ms. Adams inquired about Uber/Lyft program: Distance, scheduling and places they are able to go when using the service. Walker advised she would find out and send any information to members.

Motion to adjourn was made at 2:17 p.m., and was passed unanimously

Next Meeting

September 10, 2021 | 12:30 p.m., virtually via Zoom