



# COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** May 13, 2022

**Time:** 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Live via Zoom** <https://zoom.us/j/92154181214>

**Facilitator:** Marsetta Ray, Chair

### Board Members

Marsetta Ray, Chair, South Fulton Senior Services | Beth Cayce, District 2, Vice Chair | Mary Blake, At-Large | Ruth Lyles-Bailey, Parliamentarian, Council on Aging, West | Stephanie Fiber-Sutton, District 1 | Rosalind Elliott, District 3 | Linda Adams, District 4 (**absent**) | Barbara Brown, Council on Aging South (**absent**) | District 5 (**vacant**) | Jill Lindsey, District 6 (**absent**) | Council on Aging East (**vacant**) | Ann Germany, Senior Services North Fulton | La Tanya D. Walker, Senior Services Representative (non-voting)

### Additional Attendees

Kweli Rashied-Henry, Erica Flack, Christy Dumas, Senior Services | Visitors: Ben Howard, Senior Advocate

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m., with Chairperson Ray, Vice Chair Cayce, Parliamentarian, Lyles-Bailey, Chair Pro-Tem Blake, Linda Adams, Rosalind Elliott, Barbara Brown, Stephanie Fiber-Sutton, and Ann Germany present to constitute a quorum. COEA mission statement was read by Chairperson Ray.

### Approval of Minutes

A motion was called by Chairperson Ray to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Cayce made the motion and Rosalind Elliott seconded the motion. The vote to approve the meeting minutes was taken with all present approving.

### Speaker: Topic: “Managing Costs in the time of Inflation.” Marsetta Ray, Facilitator

- Inflation is an increase in prices and a fall in the purchasing power. It affects seniors more severely. Overall, 8.5% from February 2021 to February 2022.

- To manage costs, begin with a budget. Review and adjust it often for changes.
- Cut housing costs – Strategies: relocate, downsize, get a housemate, reduce property taxes, bundle services for best prices.
- Cut food costs – Strategies: Use store loyalty programs, coupons; comparison shop; use bulk buying; never shop hungry; buy frozen veggies and fruit to avoid spoilage.
- Trim gasoline expense – Strategies: limit trips; carpool; use fuel rewards and store fuel points; use Uber/Lyft senior car benefit.
- Miscellaneous – Review and eliminate underused subscription services; negotiate lower prices whenever possible on purchases; eliminate all unnecessary spending; use free services (e.g., hair/nails); use beauty/barber school services; borrow books from the library instead of purchasing; buy used items.

## Senior Services Report

Adult Day program hours are Monday through Friday 7am to 6pm program admission assessments are still ongoing. Some transportation problems with getting some participants late; working to resolve. The program continues to provide virtual classes home delivered meals in home respite care and weekly wellness calls to check in on register participants. Adult day health program applications are available, upon request, and for more information, as most of what goes on and senior services participants or prospective participants can call our star line at 404-613-6000 older America's month is ongoing and the calendar is posted on the senior services web page and terms of our facilities.

Incontinence supplies are available via StarLine. Older Americans' Month activities ongoing. Kweli Rashied-Henry advised the board that a visit was made to New Horizon NSC and additional information and support would be provided as it becomes available.

## Officers and Standing Committee Reports

Chairperson Ray advised that the COEA needs a Communication Committee for getting information out to the public. She reported no feedback has been received from the Board of Commissioners on the White Paper. Requesting assistance from Senior Services to get Board to communicate.

- **Health (Beth Cayce, Chair)** – Investigating a Veterans' homecare assistance.

- **Senior Services (Linda Adams, Chair):** Chair Ray advised Ms. Adams has raised concerns about staff and participant problems at New Horizon. Senior Services is investigating
- **Safety/Security (Lyles-Bailey, Chair):** Advised paying attention to surroundings and looking out for seniors with dementia who often get lost while driving.
- **Technology:** No report. Delays experienced with IT in posting to site. Zoom is a part of technology. Those logging in should notice that the meeting is being recorded. All meetings are transcribed and placed into the meeting minutes for posting as per bylaws.
- **Civic Life:** Caregiver bill was passed and signed. Primary election on May 24; verify if district and polling location changes due to redistricting.
- **Programs/Features: (Mary Blake, Linda Adams & Chairperson Ray):** Reported having a speaker to answer questions on long term care planning. July will be diabetes control. August transportation. September, differentiating from Medicaid and Medicare, October is senior safety concerns, November is managing mental health and December no meeting. Member, Fiber-Sutton will spearhead workshop

### Unfinished Business

- Member profiles should be emailed to Chairperson Ray and a copy to Ms. Walker
- Ms. Walker provided an update on letterhead that COEA was clear to use Fulton County logo in their communication. Chairperson Ray asked for additional clarity on printing costs to which Ms. Walker stated she'd gain clarity and provide an update.

### New Business

- Service Project, eyeglasses collection at Lens Crafters. Members will report numbers donated for tracking. A motion was opened to approve the service project. Rosalind Elliott carried the motion forward. Mary Blake seconded the motion. All in attendance approved. Confirmed date and time for June public presentation on Senior Housing Options. Ms. Fiber-Sutton gave overview of proposed topics.

Action Items:

- 1) Attempt to get resources from previous month's speaker, Nancy Meck on organization resources. Send to members. - Ray
- 2) Get additional information on Veterans' homecare benefit - Cayce
- 3) Inquire about COEA stationary, - Ray
- 4) Develop flyer for Senior Housing Workshop by May 31 – Ray & Fiber-Sutton

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Ben Howard inquired about the agenda posting timeframe on Senior Services webpage. He further raised concern about vacant positions and why attendees are in the zoom waiting room prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Announcements:**

Motion was placed on the floor to adjourn meeting. Vice Chair Cayce moved, Ann Germany seconded with all present approving.

### **Next Meeting**

June 9, 2022 | 12:30 p.m., virtually via Zoom