



COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Meeting Summary – May 2023

- I. **Attendance:** Board Members Present (8); Board Members Absent (4)
Senior Services Staff (5), Visitors (1)
- II. **Officer Updates**
 - No Officer Reports
- III. **Senior Services Update**

Multipurpose Centers, Andre Gregory, Program Manager

- **LIHEAP Sign-up for Cooling Systems and Water** start this month at the following three Senior Multipurpose Facilities.
 - Friday, May 12th at the Bowden Facility from 10am to 3pm
 - Friday, May 19th at the Mills Facility from 10am to 3pm
 - Friday, May 26th at the Darnell Facility from 10am to 3pm
 - Flyer emailed by Tracie Grant, LIHEAP, Program Mgr., to Ms. Walker to distribute to COEA Board
 - Ms. Walker will look into placing flyer on Senior Services webpage

The Required LIHEAP Documents are as follows:

- Current gas bill and electric bill (must show your name, full address, account number, and amount due)
- Proof of Income for the last 30 days for all occupants over 18
- Social Security cards for all household members
- Valid photo id (driver's license, Permanent resident card, passport, etc.)
- Twenty-four (24) Older American's celebration events for the last two weeks of May
- Check the County's website for more information on any events near you.
- Healthy Aging Assessments are still ongoing
- Still providing virtual programming via Zoom Mon-Fri, hybrid (onsite/virtual) workshops,
- Life Enrichment programming, breakfast and lunch are ongoing Mon-Fri.

- The next facility class registration week for the Summer Session will begin on Monday, June 19th at all four senior multipurpose facilities.

Hair salon vendors will be published by Fulton County's Purchasing department. Recommendations will be submitted to the BOC once proposals are approved. **Fulton County Vendor Self Service Portal:**

- The public access link will take visitors to the open solicitations page.

<https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/inside-fulton-county/fulton-county-departments/purchasing-and-contract-compliance/bid-opportunities>

Administrative

- COEA now has 5 votes with the Georgia Council on Aging
- The Quality Assurance team sent the most recent survey results to the senior centers. If seniors would like copies, they can retrieve them their respective center
 - Survey reports will be emailed to Ms. Walker to distribute to COEA Board

Neighborhood Senior Centers

- The Fulton County Board of Commissioners has agreed to additional funding to support the Department of Senior Services Uber/Lyft Access to Mobility Program. This additional funding will allow the department to onboard new seniors while keeping existing program parameters the same.
- During Older American's Month there will be a multitude of activities that seniors can participate in at their local centers. The OAA calendar was provided to COEA previously.

Lyft Services trips are 16 1-way trips or eight (8) roundtrips per month. \$15 registration fee. One dollar per ride. Riders need I.D. and should call Lyft to facilitate ride. There is a temporary hold on new riders. There is a waitlist. Staff is calling those on waitlist. New participation will be open soon. Program will continue as it was in the past.

Adult Day Health Programs

- Adult Day Health Program hours -Mon-Fri, 7:00am-6:00pm
- Program Admission assessments are ongoing

- The Adult Day program continues to provide virtual classes, home delivered meals, and weekly wellness calls to check in on registered participants.
- Caregiver Support Meeting-Every 3rd Wednesday 3:00pm-4:00pm
- Adult Day Health Program applications are available upon request. For more information, please call 404-613-6000

IV. Committee Reports

- **Advocacy-** Update by Marsetta Ray
 - The Advocacy committee met on May 4 to discuss priorities for the year. Discussed many topics related to senior problems.
 - Our primary channel for advocacy work is through the Georgia Council on Aging with additional efforts as determined through local and federal agencies in collaboration with non-profit and citizens groups. The GCOA Annual Meeting - July 13, 2023. Perennial legislative issue is Home and Community Based Services.
 - The COEA Advocacy Committee determined the following as key concerns for advocacy efforts.
 - **Long-term Care:** Support for the GCOA's efforts to push legislation for the removal of restrictions on allowing funding through Medicaid for and (Community Care Services Program (CCSP)/Source in Assisted Living and large Personal Care Homes for eligible older adults.
 - Help to identify and expose deficiencies in Nursing Home Care including inadequate quality measures, workforce inadequacies, (tangled financing, and political gridlock when addressing legislation. Bob Casey of PA has been instrumental in shining a light on these issues.
 - **Elder Financial Abuse:** Our goal is to enhance safeguards against the exploitation of seniors through fraudulent schemes and spam activity. Provide a more robust effort to track and prosecute perpetrators of frauds against seniors as an extension of elder abuse legislation. (Distribute the GA Consumer Protection Guide for Older Adults.) Securing Older Adults Zoom Webinar through the Attorney General's Office tomorrow at 11 am. **(Passcode Friends)**
 - Encourage seniors to report all.

- Make aware of the most pervasive of scams such as tech support.
- Ensure resolution of Dementia-Friendly status for Fulton County
- Raise awareness of critical shortage of geriatricians across the country
- Raise awareness and report age discrimination.
- Raise awareness of Older Americans Month

Addendum regarding GCOA

The GCOA legislative results for 2022 are below:

FY 2023 Budget Wins: \$4 Million in funding for Home & Community Based Services

- HB 911, the State's FY2023 budget, was approved and now awaits the Governor's signature. Both the House and Senate allotted a generous \$4 Million for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). This will remove thousands of older Georgians off the waiting list, helping them to continue aging in place and out of long-term care prematurely. The budget also includes a cost-of-living salary increase for state employees, benefitting workers in the Division of Aging Services and other departments that provide HCBS.
- In addition to the HCBS funding for FY 2023, the Legislature also approved a CO-AGE budget priority for \$4.2 million in state matching funds to draw \$38 million in American Rescue Plan Act grants for Older Americans Act services through the remainder of the current fiscal year. As part of its commitment to expanding innovative Alzheimer's services through the Georgia Memory Net, the Department of Human Services received an additional \$7,120,000.
- **Elder Abuse** – Update by Ruth Lyles-Bailey Germany
 - Contact Cathy Mendelsohn with the Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr to obtain information on financial abuse for seniors. They had a booklet specifically designed for seniors. Ms. Germany suggested I also contact Jill Hollander with the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. Under safety, please be aware that you should be careful putting mail in the mailboxes at the post office. It is better that you take your mail inside the building. People are stealing from the outside boxes.

- **Dementia Education, Awareness, Training and Support –**
Update by Beth Cayce
 - Over the month of May Beth Cayce as committee chair began to solicit membership in the Dementia Committee for making Fulton County Dementia Friendly. Ms. Cayce secured the following members: Dana Hickman- Northside Hospital, Pk Beville Second Wind Dreams founder, Whitney Oeltmann of Dementia Spotlight Foundation, Julie Wright PRUMC/Atlanta Respite and Nancy Pitra or Alzheimer’s Association in addition to our COEA members Sarah Hilton and Dr. Collings-Wright. Our first meeting will be May 24 from 1-2 via Zoom. Will provide updates after meeting.
- **Health and Well-being – Update by Sarah Hilton**
- Communications/Logistics – No report

V. Unfinished Business

- No unfinished business

VI. New Business

- No new business

VII. **Speaker:** Presentation provided by Justin Cutler, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, City of Atlanta. Mr. Cutler shared information about COA Parks and Rec. Will email calendar of Older American’s event to Ms. Walker for distribution to COEA Board

VIII. Public Comments

- Public comments were provided by Mr. Ben Howard