



COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Meeting Summary – July 13, 2023

I. Attendance:

- a. Roll Call (Quorum)
 - i. Board Members Present (5), Absent (7)
- b. One (1) Visitor Present, One (1) Senior Services Staff Present

II. Updates from Officers or Board Members

- a. No updates provided

III. Senior Services Update

- a. Provided updates on AmeriCorps Senior Companion, Senior Farmer Markets and Facility-Based Programs
 - i. (For additional information, call STARline 404-613-6000)
- b. Answered questions regarding Uber/Lyft transportation and markets accessibility (seniors not registered at Multipurpose facilities can participate based on produce bag availability)

IV. COEA Committee Reports

- a. Advocacy - Marsetta Ray, Chair
 - i. GA CO-AGE Annual meeting held in Macon, 7/13/23
 - 1. Will present Legislator of the year award and Award for Senior activists
 - 2. To highlight issues for 2024 Georgia Legislative consideration including medical aid in dying
 - 3. COEA has 7 votes and will vote on issues; voting opens after 7/14/23
 - ii. Social Security Administration (SSA) – call wait times for disability claims may increase; Committee Chair requested for COEA members to call Congress and voice concerns
 - iii. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Lindsey Graham introduced bipartisan legislation Protecting Older

Americans Act. (The legislation would invalidate forced arbitration clauses that prevent age discrimination victims from seeking justice and public accountability.)

1. Prohibits forced arbitration and claims in the workplace; Age discrimination is a reality in the workforce; When someone is hired, they are forced into signing the arbitration agreement
2. Goal – make sure seniors are protected
- iv. Financial exploitation – key COEA priority for the year
- v. HR2593 – bill passed in the House – creation of Security Exchange Commission (SEC) taskforce to identify challenges seniors face while investing and recommended changes to laws; federal study of economic cost of elder abuse – robocalls and voice phishing/swooping
 1. COEA members requested to contact legislators to support HR2593
- vi. AARP and Alzheimer's Association – hosting Family Caregiver Forum on 7/20/23 11am – 1pm
 1. Caregivers to share experience and provide resources available to caregivers in Fulton County
- vii. HR7107 – monitoring the Long-Term Care Affordability Act
 1. Referenced Bob Casey – advocate for long-term care
 2. HCBS services through GCOA – perennial issue
 3. Requesting COEA members to get behind efforts; call legislators to support federal movement of long term care support
 4. Currently no new bill to reference
- viii. Committee Chair requested for new subcommittee member participation
- ix. COEA Chair requested subcommittee chair to compose letter for COEA members to share with network and potential subcommittee members
 1. This item will be placed under the August COEA Agenda 'Old Business'

- b. Dementia Education, Awareness, Training and Support - Beth Cayce, Chair
 - i. Committee met 6/28/23; next meeting 7/27/23
 - ii. Large committee – exciting; members from Finance, GA Public Library System and Service Organization (Rotary)
 - 1. Robust participation
 - iii. Discussions regarding making the journey easier for those caring for loved ones with Dementia
 - iv. Chair comments – how can COEA directly assist Senior Services Department with education and support
- c. Health and Well-being - Sarah Hilton, Chair
 - i. Committee members unable to attend July meeting
 - ii. COEA Chair request – pick 1-2 focus points per subcommittee for FY23; prevents minimized impact of committees’ work
 - 1. This item will be placed under the August COEA Agenda ‘Old Business’

V. Unfinished Business

- a. No unfinished business from June 2023 COEA meeting

VI. New Business

- a. In-person meeting tentatively scheduled for September

VII. Public Comments

- a. Ben Howard – unfinished business should be delineated; “According to Robert’s Rules of Order, the chair or leader of the meeting should never ask the group if there is any unfinished business. This information should already be known and recorded from the most previous meeting and the secretary should have automatically included it on the present agenda.”
- b. Appreciative of great, new information and questions that extract details from the Senior Services update

- c. Will attempt to share with seniors that there are opportunities to serve on COEA committees

VIII. Announcements

- a. COEA Chair asked for members to review COEA emails and respond; supports efficiency
- b. Next meeting – 8/10/23

IX. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn – Stephanie Fiber-Sutton; Seconded – Gary Snyder
- b. Meeting adjourned 12:00 noon