



COEA MEETING MINUTES



Date: July 9, 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 | Rosalind Elliott, District 3 | Jill Lindsey, District 6 | Ernestine Mitchell, Council on Aging East (Absent) | Joan Lee, Council on Aging North (Absent), Teri Walker, District 5 (Absent)

Additional Attendees

Andre Danzy, Senior Services | Erica Flack, Senior Services | Milrinette Nelson, RN – Senior Services | La Tanya D. Walker, Senior Services | Ben Howard, Senior Advocate | Senior Services Adult Day Health Program | H. Jean Gray | Ylanda Aurao

The meeting called to order at 12:32 p.m., with Chairwoman Ray, Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey, Mary Blake, Jill Lindsey, Beth Cayce, Linda Adams and Rosalind Elliott present to constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

June 11, 2021, meeting minutes were emailed to COEA Board Members prior to the July session for review. All members were asked to review and send any additional comments via email or state them during the July meeting. Chairwoman Ray, asked if there were any changes to the June meeting minutes. There were no objections. Minutes were approved by the board.

Officers and Standing Committee Reports

- **Health (Beth Cayce)** – reported that Ladisa Onyiliogwu, Director of Senior Services did a segment on Fulton County's Happening in Fulton show that

highlighted dementia awareness in the county. Ms. Walker will confirm the day and time when the show will air.

- **Senior Services**, (Ruth Lyles-Bailey, Linda Adams, Jill Lindsey) – There was no report provided, but Ms. Adams did voice concern about hours of operation for neighborhood senior centers. She also wanted to know how New Horizon members will get to centers. Ms. Ray, recommended that Ms. Adams contact individual centers, conduct a poll and report back at the next meeting.
- **Safety/Security (Ruth Lyles-Bailey)** – No report was provided. Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey offered to hold her report until she heard the Senior Services report out.
- **Programs/Features (Open)**
- **Transportation (Open)**

Senior Services Report

Mr. Danzy, Program Manager – Department of Senior Services spoke briefly about the upcoming FY22 Budget process and asked COEA members to attend budget meeting

- July 12th reopening will be a pilot run for Neighborhood Senior Centers (NSC)
- Reminded members to sanitize and take other safety precautions to ensure their well-being
- Reminded members that all seniors not feeling well should remain home
- Masks are required for transportation
- Transportation will be from 9:00 a.m. – noon for NSC
- Reported that Senior Services cannot ask participants about vaccination status or masks
- There will be morning in-person activities and virtual programming in the afternoon
- Days and time for transportation depends on each center, with a maximum of 7 people per bus.
- The number of participants will be determined by facility
- Calls were made to participants to determine who wanted to attend centers

- A reminder that contact services will be available for reopening in 2022

Speaker: Milrinette Nelson, RN, Senior Services - (COVID-19 Update)

Nurse Nelson encouraged all seniors to get vaccinated and discussed the risk of breakthrough, even if people are vaccinated. Commission was reminded to stay COVID conscious – and the 2 weeks after vaccination to be considered fully vaccinated. Statistics were provided of the current vaccination rate (see below):

- **49% vaccinated in Fulton County**
- **36.7% - State of Georgia (lowest in the nation)**
- **47.7% vaccinated in the United States**

Nelson spoke about the Delta variant and reminded the Commission that the unvaccinated were more at risk. While Georgia is not on the radar, all, especially high risk populations should remain vigilant as the variant makes its way across the country.

All were reminded of safety requirements and social distancing even if vaccinated. Members were also reminded that certain medications can interfere with vaccine, so again, masking up is important.

If high risk, suggested eating outside when ventilation is low. Encourage washing hands and suggested times to shop. Seniors are at a higher risk in grocery stores during evening hours as opposed to morning.

Nurse Nelson spoke to the audience about stress and the importance of keeping stress levels low. Also encouraged plenty of rest, exercise and eating healthy

Unfinished Business

- **Mission Statement review**

A proposed mission statement was worked on by Chairwoman Ray and Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey prior to the July 9th session. The proposed mission was present, 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

- **Committees**

Technology Committee was appointed to Ms. Walker since she is the point of contact for Senior Services and External Affairs for website updates

- **Civic Life**

Civic Life was added as a committee. Ms. Adams and Ms. Ray will serve as Board co-chairs and Ms. H. Jean Gray will serve as member support

- **Programs**

Mary Blake, Linda Adams and Chairwoman Ray will serve as co-chairs of this committee

New Business

- **COEA Webpage**

Ms. Walker presented information regarding the Commissions new website. A quick glimpse of how the page would look – sharing that it would take on the same look as other Fulton County webpages (i.e. Senior Services and/or Elections and Board of Registration).

It was suggested that space should be included for Information & Resources

Meeting Takeaways

- Ms. Walker to follow up on air date for Happening in Fulton segment on FGTV
- Ms. Walker will contact Ms. H. Jean Gray to speak further about serving on the Commission
- Ms. Walker to follow up with External Affairs on COEA webpage
- Nurse Nelson to follow up on where the 49% shows up for Fulton County neighborhoods, as well as the federal government campaign through Fulton County Board of Health
- Nurse Nelson to provide an update regarding homebound vaccinations, as well as any information she could provide on homeless individuals.
- Chairwoman Ray to contact Nurse Nelson with additional questions to take responses back to public

Next Meeting

August 13, 2021 | 12:30 p.m., virtually via Zoom

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