



# COEA MEETING MINUTES



**Date:** November 12, 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 | Mary Blake, At-Large | District 1 (Vacant) | Beth Cayce, District 2 | Rosalind Elliott, District 3 (**absent**) | Linda Adams, District 4 | Barbara Brown, Council on Aging South | Teri Walker, District 5 (**absent**) | Jill Lindsey, District 6 | Council on Aging East (**Vacant**) | Joan Lee, Council on Aging North (**absent**) | La Tanya D. Walker, Senior Services Representative (non-voting)

## Additional Attendees

Erica Flack, Ladisa Onyiliogwu, Senior Services | Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Gale Starks, Fulton County Citizen

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m., with Chairperson Ray, Chair Pro-Tem Mary Blake, Beth Cayce, Linda Adams, Rosalind Elliott, Jill Lindsay and Barbara Brown, present to constitute a quorum.

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was called to approve meeting minutes by Chairperson Ray. Beth Cayce, made the motion, and Chair Pro-Tem, Mary Blake seconded the motion. The vote to approve the meeting minutes was taken with all present approving.

A motion to move guest speaker up on the agenda was made by Beth Cayce, and, Mary Blake seconded the motion. The vote to approve the changes to the agenda was taken with all present approving.

## Speaker: Jamille Bradfield, Community Outreach Manager, Fulton County Sherriff's Department and Investigator Karima Harris

- A new initiative in the Sherriff's office, the Scorpion Unit. Deputies have partnered with law enforcement agencies in 15 cities throughout Fulton County to arrest and track down and arrest violent criminals throughout the county. A reminder about the "Think Twice and Save a Life" campaign recently launched. Urging citizens young and old to stop and think before using weapons to solve a disagreement. Campaign messaging can be found on social media and it is also distributed when they are out in the community. Seniors can stay up to date on new initiatives on Fulton County's Sherriff's Department page on social media.
- The community Chaplain's program has been relaunched. Nearly 100 chaplains from different churches around the county will participate in this and they support our Community events as well, so that we've got that back up and running. In addition, a new LGBTQ plus advisory committee is on our staff. They are also getting prisons up and running, to make sure that inmates at Fulton county jail, are treated humanely. Finally, County deputies are always willing and able to have important conversations about public safety with residents, especially our seniors to better able them to protect themselves.
- Increased awareness on fraud has been put in place to make sure the seniors in community are totally aware of what's going on with scam calls. People over 60, are reported as highest number of victims to receive calls. The State of Georgia is fourth on the list of call victims. You will find it most in email scams, text messages and credit cards. Seniors are urged to pay attention to the phone numbers because scammers have a way of changing the area code to look local. If you do not know the number, it is okay not to answer. If you answer, you'll recognize poor grammar, lots of noise in the background like they are calling from a call center. Also look to see if the website is secure. You will know this if the website has a lock on the upper left-hand corner by the address. Sweepstakes saying you've won millions is another way seniors are being scammed, so recognize the flags. Something that may say you have a Fed-Ex package to arrive, when you know you haven't ordered anything from Fed-Ex, don't click the link. Report all suspicious activities to the Georgia Adult Protective Services and Law Enforcement at (866) 552-4464 or by calling 911. A copy of the presentation will be provided by speakers for distribution.

## Officers and Standing Committee Reports

- **Health (Beth Cayce, Chair)** – No report given, but indicated she will be working with a committee to have different health topics and start recruiting people to speak during meetings.

- **Senior Services (Linda Adams, Chair):** Reported she participated in a women's health focus group at Legacy of Vine City. The focus was breast cancer. There were medical providers throughout the city available to share information to seniors. If seniors need dental care, they were encouraged to call 1-800-232-1310. Information about hospice care was provided where seniors could obtain those services. Darrell Stevenson (833) 625-5543, is the point of contact. It was also mentioned to have someone share on mental illness if possible.
- **Safety/Security (Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey, Chair):** (No report given)
- **Technology:** (No new report given)
- **Civic Life:** Voter Information session took place, Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11a.m. Attendance was low, but the feedback was very positive. Advised of the run-off election November 30<sup>th</sup> for the mayoral candidate and other positions including S. Fulton. Cost of living is increasing with inflation at 6.2%. The goal is to identify strategies and tactical things to share with seniors on how to deal with inflation. Information can be included on the website, community churches, etc.
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- **Programs/Features: (Mary Blake, Linda Adams & Chairperson Ray):** The December meeting will be focused on loneliness and life changes for seniors during the holidays. The January 2022 meeting will feature an estate planning attorney.
- Questions were raised about LIHEAP, and advised that all seniors do not have access to internet. Forms were distributed to board members to print and distribute in their communities.
- **Transportation (Open):** No report given

## Senior Services Report

Ladisa Onyiliogwu, Director of Senior Services, reported the following:

### LIHEAP

- 250 applications have been processed for the low-income home Energy Assistance program, the acronym for LIHEAP. The remaining dates are November 16 through the 18<sup>th</sup> at the Bowden multipurpose facility and Helene S. Mills, senior facility so I believe Mills, will be the last two days. Messaging was provided through external affairs, a press release was issued, and we also posted the information on our web page. The department wasn't aware of seniors not having access to technology, so we will make a note for consideration. Any mailers that we could do

for next year and then relying on word-of-mouth and the understanding that seniors may have and sharing that with their peers within the Community.

- The second update that I have is just general and the county manager will present the fiscal year 2022 budget proposal to the board of Commissioners during next week's meeting Wednesday November 17. Senior services submitted their budget recommendations for next year, so I just wanted to share that with this permission to be aware of that discussion that will occur, and then the opportunity for public comment as well and meaning. There was a question about booster shots today, we do not have any additional information or direction from county leadership. Our department provides call check ins to seniors to see how they're doing as well, so, if anyone that you know is interested in receiving more information about just a daily check from a team Member who can refer them to other resources, please let miss Walker know. We also have services coordinators who support that effort.
- The neighborhood senior centers have been open since July we've been very cautious in how we schedule registered participants daily to support the mask mandate, social distancing requirements and still providing programming I did take note about the length of time on a bus and will follow up with our transportation coordinator, one that our program manager for Adult day health is on today's meeting zoom Erica Flack; she and her team are testing ideas about the expansion of adult day health to bring participants back safely and the Multipurpose program is also exploring bringing more seniors back into the facility. We do want to keep the customers voice in mind so we're conducting surveys at school or at the level of interest comfort for program and of course virtual programming will still continue with that.
  - Question: Where do the names for the One-Call-Now come from?
  - Response: We keep a list of seniors who are registered with facility-based programming and, and so I think we send it out to multipurpose.
    - Also provide a way for those who call the STARline to ask if seniors want to be included in One Call Now to receive updates.
    - Latrina Foster's name was provided as a resource to contact for behavioral health inquiries.
    - Information was also provided where to find the FY22 budget update on the Board agenda.

## Unfinished Business

### Parliamentarian Position

Chairperson Ray: "I just really want to make a point of saying this. The group decided that we're going to deviate from the Robert's rules of order in terms of how we're handling the parliamentarian position that it will be a voted and elected position. With that in mind, as well as we need to get viable candidates that would like to run for that position for parliamentarian." Chairperson Ray further advised that it would be in order for us to have an election in January, this is what our bylaws tell us that we need to do.

Election was completed mid-year to fill vacant seats and establish a working board, but in order for us to get back on track, because the bylaws has that we have elections in January, it says that the fiscal year runs to December, so I think that it would be in order for us to get back on schedule so that we have that election in January of 2022. So the parliamentarian, as well as we will have election for the other offices and will be filled at that time. January is the proposed time we move forward with standard elections.

If members would like to nominate someone to run for the office of parliamentarian or other offices, start thinking about that for the election in January.

Vacant seats are still a concern. Let's work to get those filled.

Let December be a month we starting thinking about how we will start in 2022.

### Public Comments

**Gale Starks:** I just want to make a comment, I just want to thank you guys for all the work that you're doing, and it is very resourceful and exciting to me to be on these calls. To be involved as a listener, and the conduct the proposal that you just made about the White Paper. I think it's fantastic, because when you can get all this information in one place, I think that's you know that's more effective than piece-mealing it so and that that document can go to the Commissioners or whatever they can pick that up and they can see all the things that you're doing.

**Ben Howard:** Mention of a number for Carl (Last name muffled) from the voter outreach and education department Fulton county and I would appreciate of senior citizens would avail themselves of that telephone number and their services (no number found). Second, item is on the agenda there's confusion and I think for transparency and integrity and accuracy, we need to clear something up. Now, under district one in parenthesis that says Beth Cayce. Council on aging Eastern Council on aging North there's nothing and no indication that the position is vacant. So what is actually going on there does anyone know?

**Secretary Walker** confirmed there was a typo for district one that Beth Cayce was not appointed to that district, but District 2.

Motion to adjourn was made at 2:33 p.m., and was passed unanimously.

### **Next Meeting**

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