

ORANGE COUNTY  
ADVISORY BOARD ON AGING

Minutes  
August 12, 2014

PRESENT: Virginia Brown, Alex Castro, Peggy Cohn, Ed Flowers, Bonnie Hammersley, Donna Prather

EXCUSED: Heather Altman, Lorenzo Mejia, Jeane Suddarth, Dick White

STAFF: Mary Fraser, Kathie Kearns, Janice Tyler

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Alex Castro at the Seymour Center. Mr. Castro announced that Project EngAGE volunteers have scheduled a transportation presentation as part of this evening's Schley Grange meeting. He distributed a summary of the proposed public transportation service for northern Orange County. Project EngAGE representatives are also visiting the Alamance County Meals On Wheels organization.

In her Director's Report Janice Tyler noted that the August 10 Chapel Hill News contained an article by Jenny Womack on falls prevention as part of the aging issues series. Ms. Womack is the Occupational Therapist for the Aging Transitions team provided by contract with UNC. Ms. Tyler announced that the new County Manager will be visiting both Senior Centers in September. Orange County is sponsoring a Walk4Life Wellness Challenge that will include promotion of the annual Aging In Stride 5k.

Ms. Tyler began her review of the 2014 General Assembly legislation pertaining to adults 50 years and older by announcing that AARP has changed its name to the American Association of Real Possibilities. Other significant actions included:

- 3% statewide cut in Home and Community Care Block Grant funding that may be offset in Orange County by the increase in the 60+ population.
- NC Division of Aging must develop a strategic plan for Alzheimer's disease and a report on the Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly.
- Funding for Veteran's Services county offices was eliminated, although Orange County has assimilated that position into the Department of Social Services budget.
- Medicaid reform will be the topic of a special legislative session.
- Remote renewal of drivers' licenses was authorized although the implementation of that process is unclear.
- A moratorium was established for both home care agency and Alzheimer's special care unit licenses.
- Exemptions for temporary family health care structures from zoning requirements applicable to single family residences.

Concluding her Director's Report Janice Tyler stated that the changes recommended for the Homestead Exemption Act outlined in the Master Aging Plan have been forwarded for inclusion in the Orange County legislative agenda. She distributed the latest edition of the Senior Times and encouraged Advisory Board members to 'like' the Department on Aging on Facebook.

The first item of New Business was review of the Department's FY14-15 approved budget which includes a minimum living wage increase to \$12.76 per hour. Alex Castro raised the issue of the back-up generator funded for the Seymour Center but never delivered. Ms. Tyler will pursue this during her scheduled meeting with the Asset Management Director.

The terms of four Advisory Board members expired effective June 30 2014. Donna Prather and Keith Cook are eligible to serve a second term. Ms. Prather consented to be recommended for reappointment. Both Leo Allison and Thelma Perkins have served the maximum two consecutive terms. Discussion followed on replacement options. Peggy Cohn recommended that the two outgoing Advisory Board members be formally recognized at a future meeting.

Twelve students have been recruited for the next semester of Project EngAGE which begins September 11. Barry Jacob, the BOCC Chair has been invited to address the opening session. Vice-Chair Castro summarized the UNC Capstone Teams' past role in developing the Orange County Master Aging Plan (MAP) and implementing some key initiatives. The County Manager shared her interest in expanding Orange County's collaborative efforts with the University.

Mary Fraser announced that the Advisory Board will meet jointly with the Long Term Care (LTC) task force to receive a report on efforts to promote person-centered care in Orange County facilities. She also reported that this year's LTC incentive program will culminate in awards to be announced at the September 16 Board of County Commissioners meeting. Ed Flowers shared information on the new owners of the facility formerly known as Chapel Hill Rehabilitation. Donna Prather asked who was interviewed in the facility survey. Janice Tyler stated that the Department on Aging had been interested in seeing the University establish a teaching long term care facility for many years. Bonnie Hammersley informed the Advisory Board that both of the counties she had previously served as County Manager operated nursing homes. She added that she also hopes to see the community college utilized as much as possible.

Ms. Fraser continued the MAP update with the announcement that the Aging In Community series will reconvene on September 23 with a presentation on retrofitting communities. A Housing Expo is scheduled for October 25 at the Seymour Center. She also stated that an application has been submitted to the Durham/Chapel Hill/Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization for two-year funding to continue the Mobility Manager position, support a volunteer driver program, and expand community transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities. She extended thanks for the OC Planning Department staff for their collaboration on the grant application.

Committee Progress Reports were made as follows:

- The Friends of the Seymour Center will share the proceeds of the upcoming Goat Parade and November 14 Gala sponsored by Galloway Ridge with the Chatham County Council on Aging.
- The Orange United Transportation Board will soon meet for the first time since April.
- The Project EngAGE graduates recently visited the Meals-On-Wheels program in Forsythe County where 3,000 meals are delivered per month utilizing 14 routes.

- Music In My Mind has now been introduced to staff at all of the long term care facilities in Orange County; a user group meets monthly; an IPOD loan program is slated to begin this fall; volunteers are putting together a lending library

Ms. Tyler announced that the Orange County Director of Public Affairs has arranged for a promotional video on Department on Aging services to be produced. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Tyler, Secretary