

## **ElderSource Advisory Council Meeting**

Thursday April 21, 2022

12:30 PM

ElderSource Zoom Room

Jacksonville, Florida

**Call-In Number: 1-929 436-2866**

**Meeting ID #: 842 548 1583**

### **AGENDA**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. Call to Order</b>   | Cheryl Jefferson, Chair                 |
| <b>2. Signatures – In-kind Match &amp; Travel Vouchers</b>        | Cheryl Jefferson, Chair                 |
| <b>3. Roll Call – Sherry Holmes, Administrative Assistant</b>     | Sherry Holmes, Administrative Assistant |
| <b>4. Approval of Council Minutes (Meeting February 17, 2022)</b> | Cheryl Jefferson, Chair                 |
| <b>5. Social Determinants of Health</b>                           | Janet Dickinson, Planner                |
| <b>6. Update on Area Plan Development</b>                         | Janet Dickinson, Planner                |
| <b>7. Progress Update on 2022 Needs Assessment</b>                | Janet Dickinson, Planner                |
| <b>8. County Reports</b>  |   |
| Baker   |   |
| Clay  |   |
| Duval   |   |
| Flagler   |   |
| Nassau  |   |
| St. Johns   |   |
| Volusia   |   |
| <b>9. Old Business</b>  |   |
| <b>10. New Business</b>   |   |
| <b>11. Date of Next Meeting – June 16, 2022 at 12:30 PM</b>       |   |
| <b>12. Adjourn</b>  | Cheryl Jefferson, Chair                 |

Inclusion Statement: ElderSource values all people – including but not limited to all nationalities, socio-economic backgrounds, abilities, races, genders, religious perspectives, sexual orientations and gender identities – in everything we do. We welcome the unique insights and perspectives of all persons in our quest to fulfill our mission.

Mission: To empower individuals to age with independence and dignity by providing leadership, direction, advocacy, and support for a comprehensive coordinated continuum of care.

**Advisory Council Meeting  
10688 Old St Augustine Rd  
Thursday February 17, 2022  
12:30 PM**

**Via Zoom**

**Present**

Pamela Sanders – Baker  
Patricia McDonald – Baker  
Stevie Taylor - Clay  
Ingrid Montgomery – Duval  
Barbara Solomon – Flagler  
Caryn Prather – Flagler  
Lili High – Nassau  
Albert Abbatiello – St. Johns  
Carol DeMarco – St. Johns  
Latonja Best – St. Johns  
Frances Chew – Volusia  
Ashley Jennings – Volusia

**Staff**

Andrea Spencer, VP of Communications  
Janet Dickinson, Planner  
Sherry Holmes, Administrative Assistant  
Abigail Costley, Intern

**Absent**

Leslee Dike – Baker  
Diane Eckert – Clay  
Janet Joiner – Clay  
Cheryl Jefferson – Duval (Excused)  
Earnest Berrian – Duval  
Bernie Fitzgerald – Flagler (Excused)  
Bernadette Ricks – Nassau (Resigned)  
Hortense Geter - Volusia

**Meeting Called To Order**

Stevie Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:31 PM.

**Roll Call**

Sherry Holmes, Administrative Assistant called the roll and a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2021 meeting was made by Lili High and seconded by Al Abbatiello. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee met on January 13, 2022 to discuss the application from Valerie Thomas with a suggested assignment to Duval County. It was the consensus of the Committee that Valerie Thomas would be a good fit to the Advisory Council with her knowledge and expertise. They are recommending that this applicant be accepted for membership.

### **Motion**

A motion to accept Valerie Thomas, Duval County to the Advisory Council was made by Latonja Best and seconded by Albert Abbatiello. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Update on Area Plan Development**

Janet Dickinson, Planner informed the group that we are in the process of creating the Area Plan 2023-2025. The report is due to the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) at the end of September. Staff will involve the Advisory Council, Programs Committee and the Board of Directors on what we are doing and the progress made. The main focus is on public hearings. A hearing is set up in Clay County at the Green Cove Springs Senior Center on Monday March 28 at 9:30 AM. The goal is to have all of the public hearing meetings set up by the end of next week. Members of the Council are welcome to attend any of the hearings. Janet noted that we will hold a joint public hearing for the Area Plan and with the Health Planning Council for the Needs Assessment. There will be a public hearing and also a Needs Assessment survey, interview and a focus group listening session.

### **Update on Needs Assessment Surveys from Planning Council**

Janet Dickinson, Planner noted that ElderSource has contracted with the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida (HPCNEF) to conduct our Needs Assessment. Much of the information from the Needs Assessment will be put into the. The needs assessments are done every 5-7 years. The title of the work is “The 2022 Northeast Florida Aging Population Needs Assessment” and the sub title is “An Analysis of Opportunities to Support Older Adults, Adults with Disabilities and Caregivers”. The main focus of the listening sessions and data reports provided are not just on older adults, but on older adults that are caregivers, caregivers of older adults, adults with disabilities and their caregivers. Staff is finalizing a press release about the survey and interviews. Both the Health Planning Council and ElderSource are distributing flyers regarding the survey and interview questions. Janet described the methods available to access the survey and interview questions: QR code for cell phones and a link that takes you to the survey and interview questions, ElderSource’s website has a popup box that you can click on, and a landing page in all of our social media platforms. The surveys and flyers will be collecting data through the end of March. The focus groups will wrap up by mid-April. There will be 14 focus groups and some of these will be in joint effort with our public hearings. The remainder will be virtual hearings. This will be throughout our seven counties that we serve.

Stevie asked for flyers for his social workers and Care Team. Janet will send the flyer to Sherry Holmes, Administrative Assistant to provide to the Advisory Council members.

Andrea told the Council that she will be sending out an e-Blast and encouraged the members to forward it to any of their networks and anyone in their community.

### **Unmet Service Needs Presentation**

Janet Dickinson, Planner presented information on unmet service needs to the Advisory Council. This information was provided per the Eldercare Locator's National Call Center. Janet discussed issues facing older adults on two levels.

#### **National Level:**

Transportation, Home and Community-Based Services, Medical Services and Supplies, Home Repair and Modification and Elder Abuse

#### **PSA4:**

Availability and affordability of housing, availability and affordability of transportation, limited finances, and medical care cost, disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Janet displayed slides representing each of our counties demonstrating that county's specific unmet needs. The smaller counties Nassau and Baker appear to contact their Council on Aging directly for inquiries and information as they are comfortable with doing that.

Carol DeMarco commented that she was surprised with the adoptive caretaking of grandchildren being so high in counties other than Duval.

Pamela Sanders noted that Baker County has a lot more unmet needs than what the slides show: no social service contact at Meridian, no wash and fold service, Meals on Wheels has a waiting list of a year or more and housing has a waitlist of 2-4 years. Janet strongly encouraged Pamela to attend one of the public hearings either virtually or in person to express these concerns.

### **Zip Code Statistics**

Janet briefly reviewed requested population information reports on Counties 65 and plus by zip code. The Council members had requested this in the last meeting. The data was from the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA). Janet suggested that the group look at the percentages more than the numbers, because the numbers change on a daily basis. Janet offered to have a follow up session on this topic and answer any questions via email, or at the next meeting.

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

Janet shared information with the group from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: number of people 65 and older vaccinated, percentage and county. Janet noted that all of our counties show a higher rate of vaccinations than the general population. These numbers change on a daily basis. Once a week Janet provides this information to our Leadership Team.

### **COVID-19 Info Outreach**

Andrea Spencer, VP of Communications noted that she was using much of Janet's data to gauge how we are reaching communities to encourage them to continue to get fully vaccinated. Andrea invited and encouraged the group to work with her to continue this outreach effort for COVID-19 vaccine, booster information and education. Andrea is in the process of creating flyers in various languages that will be distributed to churches, communities, health fairs, and health centers. Some of those languages are Spanish, Filipino, Korean, Chinese, and Haitian Creole. One side of the flyer will be in English and the other side would be another language. Churches have been identified that have masses or services in another language. The flyers would be sent out along with a letter encouraging them to call the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to do a presentation in their church community.

Andrea shared an idea that one of her colleagues' is currently doing. They purchased at home test kits and placed a Helpline sticker on the box along with the flyer and distributed to targeted areas in their communities encouraging them to stay healthy and well. Andrea has secured a radio spot in English and Spanish to do a media buy in various communities. Andrea provided her contact information in the chat box of the meeting and asked the group to inform her of any organization or church community that they were involved in that would benefit from getting this information. Andrea is talking with her colleagues across the State who are doing a lot of great things and borrowing each other's ideas. She has offered to speak with anyone on an individual basis if needed.

Stevie Taylor noted that this information would be great especially for churches as a lot of them are not open yet. They are doing virtual or telephone services. These opportunities are needed to dispel the myths and rumors concerning COVID. Stevie and Latonja asked for flyers. Andrea ask that they let her know how many flyers are needed and their preference of delivery as she can either mail or deliver directly. Andrea will email the flyer to each member of the Advisory Council.

### **County Reports**

*Volusia*

Ashley Jennings

- Ashley has been in contact with a couple of organizations to provide some cheer by delivering Valentine goodies within the community. The students are very passionate

about having as much contact and visibility, to provide as much service as they can during this time.

Frances Chew

- Frances reported that the Care Plus Agency is opening up an office in the Volusia Mall and has invited all seniors 55 and plus to attend their grand opening.
- New Smyrna Beach will be holding a Senior Summit and Health Fair on March 26 from 12:30-4:00 PM at the Babe James Community Center.
- Frances will send in flyers about these and other events to share with the group.

*St. Johns*

Albert Abbatiello

- Al reported that St. Johns has grown rapidly over the years and now the residents are reacting to the rapid growth and congestion. The County recognized some of these concerns at a recent workshop on growth in a four hour session of comments from angry citizens attending. Concerns were about transportation issues and lack of proper roads. Development has not kept up with the expansion of roads. The County has noted that it is about \$500,000 behind in terms of infrastructure and development. They are now working to try and mediate the short falls. The County has suggested a 1% sales tax increase and a mobility tax is being considered for new houses. All of this has created concerns for seniors in the area.

Latonja Best

- Latonja agreed with Al about the lack of available transportation for seniors in St. Johns County.

She shared information from an article in the monthly Creek Line paper about transportation services for seniors. The company is called “Strictly Senior Services” where they offer transportation, door to door for medical appointments and special occasions. They also help with housing issues. The owner has connected with the Council on Aging and they are aware of her services. A roundtrip door to door for a doctor appointment would be around \$100.

- There is a Senior Fall Prevention Program through St. Johns County where they partner with several agencies: St. Johns Sheriff Office, St. Johns Human Health Services, and Area Agency on Aging (ElderSource) and Brooks Rehab Center, to mention a few. They will come out to the home and assess it for safety and assist seniors in making the home a little safer by installing needed devices such as grab bars to help the seniors remain safe in their homes. Latonja has requested brochures about the program and will share that information with Andrea.

Andrea Spencer noted that she had met the owner of “Strictly Senior Services” and has information about the service. They are finding it a little hard to find clients at their price point.

Stevie Taylor informed the group that there are insurance plans that do transportation outside of the doctor's office. Some plans give a credit card to help purchase groceries every month. Some will provide telephones for those who do not have a cell phone. Stevie suggested if possible, coming together with Leadership and or Andrea to create a workshop or cheat sheet to let seniors know what is available and what they can do. Water and electric bills are being paid outside of what ElderSource is doing. Care Plus and Florida Blue have these care plans and can assist with these services. Stevie noted that this would be a blessing for those who cannot afford the \$100 charge for transportation.

*Nassau*

Lili High

- Nothing to report.

*Flagler*

Barbara Solomon

- Nothing to report.

Caryn Prather

- Nothing to report.

*Duval*

Ingrid Montgomery

- Ingrid reported that the Council of Elder Affairs (COEA) has a new President, Eldrige Groomes. They are still looking for more seniors to come on board. There is an opportunity for up to 14 seniors to participate.
- The Hip Hop Festival will be held this weekend at the James Weldon Johnson Park and there are more 50 and older people at these events. There will be food trucks, music and dancing and tabling. Ingrid noted that this might be an event for us to participate in.
- Ingrid stated that next Saturday is the World of Nations and this may be a good time to have a table there. Information can be located at [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

Stevie will be participating at the World of Nations and asked Andrea for a stack of ElderSource information to hand out. Stevie suggested that he and Andrea meet next week. He has a lot of information on those churches that will be open and receptive to this information.

There was conversation regarding how closely staff was working with AARP, how information was being delivered to seniors in Duval County and if staff were going into the centers. Andrea noted that Jeff Backfisch or Gloria Crawford were her contacts for the senior centers and staff was not going into the centers. Andrea explained that she would email her counterparts at the various Councils on Aging, asking if they wanted the information before sending it out or she would figure out a way to hand deliver to her contacts and let them distribute. Andrea expressed that she is open for suggestions. Andrea noted that she does not have a directory of churches but has a list of some churches and she is not aware of who is open and who is not. She is making the best effort to communicate with the churches that she knows of that would be receptive to

receiving this information. Andrea asked Ingrid if she is aware of a master list of churches and if so, she is open to looking at that list.

### *Clay*

Stevie Taylor

- Stevie stated that Clay is having a Strawberry Festival on March 5-6 and Dedicated will have a booth there.
- There is a need for more food at the Food Banks due to food greed where people are showing up daily at the various banks. Some as early as 5 AM in the morning. The people who don't really know about the banks finally show up and there is no food. Stevie is hopeful that the system of distribution will be worked out where there is a need versus greed.

### *Baker*

Pamela Sanders

- Pamela agreed with Stevie on the Food Bank situation because she is seeing it in Baker. Her concern is that a lot of the seniors in the rural areas are not mobile and are unable to go to these banks as a lot of our distribution centers are no-contact. The food is placed in your car. But these seniors do not have a car or no transportation to get there.
- There is a real issue with social services. This service dwindle down from five to one and now there are none.
- Pamela noted that in Baker every church has a senior fellowship. Pamela will gather the names of the churches along with the contacts and send to Andrea Spencer.
- Pamela warned everyone about sharing information on the needs of seniors. Make sure that you have providers to fill that need as you are educating seniors. Once educated they will want it.

Stevie suggested that the Advisory Council members collect church, nonprofit and contact names in their communities and pass that information to Andrea Spencer to help her in having current information and not pulling from a data base that is not up to date.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:58 PM**

**Minutes prepared by Sherry Holmes, Administrative Assistant**

**These minutes were adopted by vote of this Advisory Council on \_\_\_\_\_.**

**(Date)**

**Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Stevie Taylor**