

**AREAWIDE COUNCIL ON AGING OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC.**  
**VIRTUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**  
**September 10, 2020**

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**PRESENT**

Arthur Birken  
Alan Brass  
Anthony Brunson  
Timothy Curtin  
William Edelstein  
Pauline Grant  
Malena Mendez-Dorn  
John Primeau  
Hon. Ron Rothschild  
Kenneth Rubin  
Manuel Synalovski  
Lisa Zucker

**EXCUSED ABSENCE**

Representative Evan Jenne  
David Lieberman  
Dr. Naushira Pandya  
Deborah Rand  
Senator Nan Rich  
Theodora Williams

**STAFF**

Charlotte Mather-Taylor  
Natasha Elfarghali  
Debbie Facchinello

**CALL TO ORDER**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Areawide Council on Aging Board of Directors held a Virtual Board Meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2020, utilizing Communications Media Technology (CMT), voted and approved by the Board at the May 14 Board Meeting through a Resolution. The meeting began at 9:50 a.m. due to a Housing Board Meeting prior to the regular Board Meeting.

The meetings are made available to the public, as noted in the Resolution Requirements, so the public has the opportunity to submit comments to the email address referenced. President Grant asked if anyone had submitted any public record comments for the September 10 Meeting through email to the address indicated. Debbie Facchinello responded, no.

President Grant then asked Ms. Facchinello to take a roll call vote to acknowledge that each member was present prior to any votes or motions requiring approval. Those not present included Representative Evan Jenne, David Lieberman, Dr. Naushira Pandya, Deborah Rand, Senator Nan Rich, and Theodora Williams.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes for the August 13, 2020 Board Meeting was made by Arthur Birken and seconded by Alan Brass. Debbie then took roll call and called upon each Board member to vote individually. The vote was unanimously approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Finance Committee Report***

President Grant called upon Alan Brass, who gave the following report:

The Finance Committee on September 3, 2020, via Zoom.

Those in attendance included: Alan Brass, Chair; William Edelstein; John Primeau; Judge Ron Rothschild; Manny Synalovski; Executive Director Charlotte Mather-Taylor; and Finance Director, Natasha Elfarghali.

Copies of the Statements of Activities from January through June 2020 were reviewed, and Alan indicated everything looked good considering the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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Alan informed the Board that the next Financial Committee meeting would occur sometime in November to review the third quarter, which will be presented to the Board in December.

President Grant asked if the Members had any questions for either Ms. Elfarghali or Alan Brass and thanked them both.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Executive Director provided an update on the office and staff. Two temporary contract employees working on the emergency meals program applied for two open full-time positions: one in the program department as a Quality Assurance/Contract Specialist and the other as a Medicaid Screener. Both have been hired. We have also employed an additional bilingual staff to assist with the Helpline since there has been an increase in Spanish speaking callers due to the meal program.

The Executive Director stated during May; the Helpline received 8,617 calls (about 400 a day) and about 6,927 calls (about 315 per day) during June. During July, we received 6,369 (about 277 per day), and in August, we received 4,918 (about 234 per day). The majority of the calls are still related to emergency meals and continue to trend down. They have also received approximately 20-25 referrals per day for long-term care and have also seen an increase in calls for assistance in utility bills for our Energy Assistance Program.

The meal delivery program continues to be going well. As previously reported, we have received two grants from the County for our emergency meals program; the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the CARES Grant. We have increased our notices and advertising on our website, reaching out to all the cities relating to the emergency meal program.

The Executive Director noted our Area Plan would have typically been presented at the September Board Meeting, but due to COVID-19, the DOEA modified what needs to be submitted this year and extended the deadline for submission. We will present the update at the October Board Meeting.

Charlotte provided an update on the 2021 Fair Share. The staff has recently submitted applications to the Coral Springs Community Chest and Pompano Beach. We have been informed the Cities of Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale, and Hallandale Beach have included us in their budget proposals. Request letters, along with invoices, have been sent to all the cities for our current year. Natasha was late submitting the invoices this year, but they are now all current and have been mailed. The Executive Director stated that COVID-19 has impacted local governments and caused decreased revenues, which is a concern. However, with our emergency meals program, we are showing that we are providing services during COVID-19 to their constituents even though many other services and programs we typically provide have been shut down or are being provided on a smaller scale.

Charlotte reported a subcommittee was created last year with our Projects on a Disaster Preparedness Plan, and due to the success of the plan, the Department of Elder Affairs has incorporated some of our suggestions and revised their point database to assist the projects statewide

As previously stated, Charlotte has been involved in several technology projects with the Department of Elder Affairs. She has introduced the IN2L tablet pilot program to the projects and formed a subcommittee to review the technological options. IN2L connects seniors together to share conversations, experiences, and common interests and provides numerous programs they can work with. The tablet has been extensively used

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used in the nursing home and ALF setting and with Alzheimer's and dementia patients. Uniper, the second program, uses the TV's familiarity to allow older adults to socialize through either a TV, computer, smartphone, or tablet. Charlotte announced Secretary Prudum had selected our Planning and Service Area (PSA) to test these technologies as pilot programs and was honored to represent the Area Agency and Broward County. The goal is to provide these services to seniors in their homes and test the effectiveness of delivering services and support through technology. We will be administering pre, mid, and post assessments to test the technologies' effectiveness on impacting loneliness, depression, and isolation. The Department has given us approval and will be providing the funding for the projects.

We are still working on getting the word out for the new COVID-19 support group, which began on August 27. Phil Solomon, one of the licensed therapists and Advisory Council Member, has offered his services free of charge. This program is offered every two weeks, and registration will be available on our website.

A caregiver support program is also being launched. Chris McClellan, who has written a book on caregiving and the loss of a loved one, will provide these sessions and be available to access our website.

Charlotte acknowledged that we had received additional donations. Commissioner Placko, from the City of Tamarac, donated \$1,000 from her campaign fund. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has donated the amount of \$150, and we have received donations from several of our meal recipients toward the meal program.

Charlotte stated some projects are beginning to reopen. Southwest Focal Point's staff is working in-house and is looking at allowing seniors to attend but has not set a date. Northwest Focal Point plans to open up their Day Care Center in the next month, and Tender Loving Care is reopening again.

Charlotte also received information on the eviction status from our project Coast to Coast Legal Aide. They have seen a reduction in the number of evictions. The cases have 92 Landlord/Tenant files, including private, public, and subsidized housing cases – only 34 are COVID-related. Thirty-two other housing-related issues such as repairs, non-renewal of leases, and 20 estimated eviction threats, which is a total of 144 landlord/tenant housing-related cases. However, due to the moratorium, there had only been six filed eviction cases since COVID-19. They do anticipate these will pick up once the moratorium is lifted.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Grant extended birthday wishes to Representative Evan Jenne, who celebrated his birthday on September 4, and Malena Mendez-Dorn on September 20.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Since there was no further business, by the motion of John Primeau, seconded by Tim Curtin, President Grant adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Senator Nan Rich, Secretary

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_