AREAWIDE COUNCIL ON AGING OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC.
VIRTUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2020

=================================================================================

PRESENT
Arthur Birken
Alan Brass
Anthony Brunson
Timothy Curtin
William Edelstein
Pauline Grant
Representative Evan Jenne
David Lieberman
Malena Mendez-Dorn
Dr. Naushira Pandya
John Primeau
Deborah Rand
Senator Nan Rich
Hon. Ron Rothschild
Kenneth Rubin
Lisa Zucker

EXCUSED ABSENCE
Manuel Synalovski
Theodora Williams

STAFF
Charlotte Mather-Taylor
Cheryl Morrow
Debbie Facchinello

GUEST
John Sharkey

CALL TO ORDER
Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Areawide Council on Aging Board of Directors held a Virtual Board Meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., utilizing Communications Media Technology (CMT), voted and approved by the Board at the May 14 Board Meeting through a Resolution.

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 August 13 Meeting through email to the address indicated. Cheryl Morrow responded no.

President Grant then asked Cheryl to take a roll call vote to acknowledge that each member was present prior to any votes or motions that need approval. Those not present included Manuel Synalovski.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion to approve the minutes for the July 9, 2020 Board Meeting was made by Arthur Birken and seconded by Judge Ron Rothschild. Cheryl then took roll call and called upon each Board member to vote individually. The vote was unanimously approved.

UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF HILLMONT GARDENS – JOHN SHARKEY

President Grant then called upon John Sharkey to give an update on Hillmont Gardens.

John Sharkey stated that since notifying the Executive Director regarding the residents at Hillmont Gardens who tested positive for the COVID-19, he has continued to take steps, as recommended by the CDC and the Department of Health, and has followed all CDC protocols in an effort to be proactive and provide knowledge and information to the residents and staff.

Staff and residents have all been tested again. All visitations have been suspended with the exception of visits related to food and medical. John reviewed all action steps taken, such as removal of furniture from the common
areas, sanitation stations being put into place throughout the building and additional sanitizing seven days per week. An additional sanitation machine has also been ordered and guidelines are posted throughout the facility.

HUD does not provide testing or the cost of testing because they do not want to interfere with personal physician recommendations for patient care. Twenty-four residents tested positive. On Friday, August 7 they were again tested and of the twenty-four, nine remained positive, and two of the residents are hospitalized, unrelated to COVID-19. One 98 year old resident that has been in and out of the hospital with an illness not related to COVID-19 has since passed away.

John stated that Hillmont Gardens is a wonderful facility with a six-year waiting list. Many residents do not want to go to a nursing home or assisted living facility and this facility allows residents to age in place as long as possible in a caring environment. They were recently inspected by HUD and given ninety-nine out of one hundred.

John then covered a list of questions that were submitted by both Charlotte and William Edelstein prior to the Board Meeting on their concerns with social distancing, enforcement of masks, and continuing to follow the CDC guidelines to ensure the safety of the residents and staff. John responded to each question and stated they are committed to following these guidelines on a daily basis and will provide any additional updates as needed.

President Grant asked if there were further questions for Mr. Sharkey.

Senator Rich questioned if any of the residents were homebound. She stated the County has a homebound testing program and are using an Ambulance company with trained staff who provide the testing at a resident’s home and will forward the information to John.

The Executive Director mentioned that the Health Department has been working closely with John Sharkey and Hillmont Gardens as well as other facilities and they are actively sending out teams to assist.

President Grant thanked Mr. Sharkey for the detailed report on Hillmont Gardens.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Charlotte reinforced that John Sharkey has done a good job managing the COVID-19 outbreak at Hillmont Gardens.

Charlotte provided an update on Tender Loving Care, one of our providers that has remained open. One of the seniors tested positive for the virus. It was reported by a family member and not contracted at the facility. The Pompano Beach Fire Department came out and tested all attendees as well as the staff. Charlotte contacted the Health Department and connected them to the DOH Epidemiologist. The facility is now shutdown. They have since had a company come in to disinfect the facility and are planning to reopen once everyone has tested negative.

The Executive Director thanked Bill Edelstein who recommended a sanitation machine that can be used on a daily basis, for both our office and Hillmont Gardens. Charlotte has forwarded the information to all of our projects, and specifically to Tender Loving Care.

Charlotte gave an update on COVID-19 procedures for the office. She reported that we had an employee who tested positive. Because of our strict COVID-19 procedures in place, we were able to keep it contained. Charlotte also contacted the DOH Epidemiologist to ensure we were following the proper procedures.

Charlotte has been working with Julie Klhar, from the Law Offices of Goren, Cherof, Doody and Ezrol, to
implement a policy that requires any employee who has outside employment be approved by the Executive Director first to ensure staff are not engaged in other positions that would bring risk to the rest of the ADRC employees.

The meal delivery program is going very well. Charlotte again thanked Senator Rich who helped expedite our contract with the County to receive a portion of funds from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) effective the end of July. Charlotte also shared that due to the success of the meals program, the Department of Elder Affairs has asked Charlotte and Andrea Busada, Director of Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services, to present at the Florida Council on Aging (FCOA) conference on partnerships in the communities relating to the meal delivery program. They are using Broward County as a best practice for the rest of the Area Agencies in the state. The conference will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 25 and 26.

Charlotte acknowledged we have received additional donations. She thanked Senator Rich and Representative Jenne. Senator Rich donated $10,000 from her campaign; Representative Jenne donated $1,000 from his campaign; Gail and John Fontaine of Four Corners Bingo donated $250; and SAGE of South Florida donated $500. The United Way contacted Charlotte to see if she knew of any seniors who were in need of Hurricane Disaster Kits that were being donated from a donor. Charlotte contacted John Sharkey for Hillmont Garden residents and Southwest Focal Point. United Way will be distributing kits to both. We also received a donation of fresh sandwiches and Charlotte immediately reached out to some area nonprofits, stressing they needed to be consumed ASAP. One of the organization, Lifenet for Families, was recommended by Senator Rich, and the remainder were distributed to a homeless organization and an organization focused on disabilities. The Fort Lauderdale Chamber reached out to Charlotte with a donation of masks from Bank of America since they were not sure how to distribute the masks. Charlotte has volunteered to work with them on the distribution. The Executive Director also thanked Board Member, Malena Mendez-Dorn, for connecting us to Cleveland Clinic, who also donated masks.

The Executive Director stated during the month of May; the Helpline received 8,617 calls (about 400 a day) and about 6,927 calls (about 315 per day) during the month of June. During July, they received 6,369 (about 277 per day). These do not include the calls that come through the front desk as they are not documented. The majority of the calls are still related to meals. They have also received approximately 20 referrals per day for long-term care in addition to EHEAP assistance, our Energy Assistance Program.

Charlotte provided an update on the Projects: Daniel D. Cantor continues to remain open. They have stringent COVID-19 practices in place and Charlotte has recommended that all other projects visit them and observe what they have put in place for when they reopen. The other Day Care Center that has been open the whole time is Northwest Federated Women’s Club, and they have been COVID free. Other projects have been utilizing creative ways to connect with their seniors in addition to telephone reassurance. The Southwest Focal Point has pre-recorded exercise and dance classes they are showing over the internet. They have full staff but are not having seniors come to the center, but are providing transportation for grocery shopping, doctor’s appointments, etc. They have also engaged in the Feeding South Florida program and delivering Meals on Wheels.

As formerly reported, Charlotte has been involved in several technology projects with the Department of Elder Affairs and other vendors. She is currently reviewing a new program called Uniper, already being used at Jewish Family Services. She is also working with the Department on the IN2L pilot program. The Department has given us preliminary approval to utilize some of the DOEA funding for these projects. She has also been communicating with some of our local funders to see if they might also be interested.

Charlotte has also been working with the Department of Elder affairs on the COVID-19 checkup. Charlotte is one of the three directors out of the 11 Area Agencies who are serving on the committee. There is a checkup
questionnaire that should come out next week relating to risk areas, such as behavior, age, health, etc. and provides a guideline to stay safe and protect yourself from COVID-19.

Charlotte has also been in contact with JD and Board Member, Lisa Zucker, who came up with the idea of an ADRC TV program through YouTube. Lisa shared that some seniors were frustrated with the technology of the on-line classes. ADRC TV is easier for seniors to use and videos are posted on YouTube with a variety of subjects such as cooking classes and a whole variety of classes that seniors can watch whenever they’d like.

Charlotte is also initiating a new program, along with JD and Phil Solomon, one of our licensed therapists and an Advisory Council Member, who has offered to do some COVID-19 support groups. Starting August 27th, the support group will be offered every two weeks at 10am and 3pm. Registration and access will be available on our website.

Chris McClellan will also be providing zoom caregiver support classes that will also be available on our website.

Lastly, we are working closely with AARP and local cities on livable communities.

Charlotte thanked Dr. Pandaya for including Charlotte in a virtual one day conference. The theme is Age-Friendly Healthcare in the COVID-19 era. Charlotte will be on a panel in the afternoon. The seminar covers the four pillars of age-friendly healthcare, which are medication, meditation, mobility, and what matters most to older people. Dr. Pandaya will be providing a registration flyer for distribution.

Dr. Pandaya also mentioned they received an award for a COVID telehealth program. The program will help seniors access health care through phones, tablets, etc.

Regarding the Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI) Committee, the committee will be establishing zoom educational training classes on various topics to assist caregivers and people with dementia. Once finalized, the classes will also be made available on the website. Charlotte thanked Tim Curtin and Dr. Pandaya for their involvement.

Lastly the Advisory Council has formed a small committee to be a pen pal to seniors who are isolated in their homes.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Grant thanked Charlotte, Dr. Pandaya, Lisa, and Tim for their continued efforts on COVID-19 prevention.

Arthur Birken questioned if staff is on top of the Fair Share funding since the cities are starting to put together their budgets for 2021. The Executive Director responded letters, along with invoices, are being mailed to each of the cities requesting the allocations in addition to applying for the grants submitted by various cities. Charlotte said that the ADRC emergency meal program has been appreciated by many of the cities and could potentially help in support of our services.

President Grant requested a virtual Finance Committee Meeting be scheduled in early September, which can then be shared at the next Board Meeting held on September 10.

Senator Rich expressed her concern regarding revenues coming in from the cities as revenues are down.
Senator Rich continues to express her concern about the stagnating number of responses of people responding to their census forms and steps being taken to complete the census. The deadline for the census will be ending September 30, which is sooner than the originally planned date of October 31.

President Grant extended birthday wishes to John Primeau who celebrated his birthday on August 2, and William Edelstein on August 20.

Lastly, President Grant announced that Cheryl Morrow, a long-time employee, will be retiring at the end of August. The team expressed their well-wishes to Cheryl.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Since there was no further business, by the motion of Alan Brass, seconded by Arthur Birken, President Grant adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Senator Nan Rich, Secretary

APPROVED ________________________________