

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF PASCO-PINELLAS
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MEETING HELD**

January 12, 2026 IN PERSON

MEMBERS PRESENT:

City of Seminole Councilor Thomas Barnhorn (Chair)
Beth Aker (Vice Chair)
Eric Gerard
Lisa Schwartz
Miriam Benitez-Nixon
Barbara Epstein
Michael Estigo
Lisa Moore
Karen Karinja
Valerie Anderson-Stallworth

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Savannah Smith

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kristina Jalazo, Chief Financial Officer, AAAPP
Kerry Marsalek, Director, Healthcare and Community Innovation, AAAPP
Christine Didion, Director, Programs, AAAPP
McKenna O'Neill, Director, Strategic Advancement, AAAPP
Francisco Alvarado, IT Manager, AAAPP
Melissa Lawrence, Executive Assistant, AAAPP
Danielle Carman, Pasco County Housing Authority, Public attendee
Douglas Steiger, Interim Assistant Director

Agenda Item #1 - Welcome and Introduction

Chair Thomas Barnhorn called the meeting of January 12, 2026, to order at 1:30 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda Item #2 - Roll Call

Ms. Kristina Jalazo, Chief Financial Officer, called the roll. A quorum of Advisory Council members was present.

Agenda Item #3 - Consent Agenda

Chair Thomas Barnhorn presented the Consent Agenda which included the Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2025, and the AAAPP Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2025. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Mike Estigo made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Eric Gerald seconded. None opposed, motion carried.

Agenda Item #4 - Items for Discussion from the Consent Agenda

None

Agenda Item #5 –Pasco County Board of County Commissioners, GoPasco Transportation program presentation.

Douglas Steiger, Interim Assistant Director Pasco County Public Transportation offered a presentation about the Transportation Services provided to seniors in Pasco County utilizing Older Americans Act funds. There were questions from several Advisory Council Members which Mr. Steiger answered. Questions included transportation services in Zephyrhills area and the State Road 54 express route. Chair Thomas Barnhorn thanked Mr. Steiger for the presentation.

Agenda Item #6 – Election of New Members

Chair Thomas Barnhorn

Chair Thomas Barnhorn presented that there was one (1) open seat in Pinellas County. The application for Marci Neal was reviewed.

Beth Acker made a motion to approve Marci Neal’s application for Pinellas County, Mr. Estigo seconded the motion. None opposed; motion carried.

Agenda Item #7 – Lisa Schwartz, New AAAPP Advisory Council Member

Chair Thomas Barnhorn welcomed Ms. Schwartz who was elected to the AAAPP Advisory Council at the November 2025 meeting. Ms. Schwartz term is from January 2026 through December 31, 2027. Ms. Schwartz introduced herself and the council members welcomed her.

Agenda Item #8 Affordable Housing Project – Pasco County

Kerry Marsalek, Director, Healthcare & Community Innovation, provided an update on the Pasco senior housing project. Many properties were reviewed and one property was recommended to conduct the required Environmental Review which will take three months to complete. Eric Gerard asked if the closing date has been identified. Ms. Marsalek answered that there will be several steps in the process in order to close on the property, including but not limited to the environmental ninety-day review (90) process and approval by the AAAPP Board of Directors. Eric Gerald asked if the council would be included in the process of obtaining the Certificate of Occupancy (CO). Ms. Marsalek assured Mr. Gerard the Advisory Council will continue to be informed of the project’s updates. She further explained

that the entire process will take some time before we receive a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) which would occur once construction is complete. Ms. Benitoz-Nixon and Ms. Anderson-Stallworth indicated they were pleased with the Agency's progress.

Agenda Item #9 – Development Update

McKenna O'Neal, Director, Strategic Advancement, presented an update on the funds raised through the AAAPP Luncheon and how the funds will be used to support family caregivers currently served through the the Older Americans

Act Title IIIIE Caregiver Program to reduce the risk of caregiver burnout and keep seniors in a home setting for as long as is safely possible. The Honor and Home initiative, a donor-funded project designed to reduce caregiver burden for Veterans enrolled in the Veterans Directed Care (VDC) Program Funds will be used to provide one-time support through Chore Services, minor home modifications and safety improvements as well as caregiver participation in Honor Flight Experiences.

Ms. O'Neal shared details regarding the next Volunteer Card Writing event - Project Heartfelt; the event is scheduled for February 2026.

Ms. O'Neal also provided an update on the new CRM system AAAAPP acquired in January 2026. Ms. O'Neal explained that the new CRM Bloomerang would streamline and assist in the donation process.

There were several questions asked of Ms. O'Neal regarding the new Fundraising Platform and its usefulness to the Agency, Ms. O'Neal and Ms. Jalazo explained that all relevant staff was involved in choosing the best platform to fit AAAPPs needs and Bloomerang appears to have the best value of services provided and cost. Mr. Estigo asked Ms. Didion about the difference between respite workers hired by clients and Home Health Agency Aids. Ms. Didion answered his questions. Ms. Anderson-Stallworth donated \$0.74 in change to Ms. Jalazo at this meeting to round up the net revenue received from the Annual Luncheon from \$128,829.26 to \$128,830. Ms. Jalazo to record the transaction.

Agenda Item #10– Executive Director's Report

None

Agenda Item #11 - Council Member Comments

None

Agenda Item #12 - Announcements

Mr. Barnhorn went through all the meetings scheduled for the upcoming months.

Agenda Item #13 - Adjourn

There being no further business for discussion, Chair Thomas Barnhorn made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.