AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF PASCO-PINELLAS
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THE MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM
July 12, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Miriam Benitez-Nixon,(Chair)
Kerry Kimball Marsalek, (Vice Chair)
Barbara Epstein
Beth Aker
Betty Beeler
Eric Gerard
Janet Hooper
John Prendergast
Lenny Waugh
Mary Haddon Doyle
Michael Estigo
Nancy Giles
Stephanie Doran
Thomas Barnhorn

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Carole Ware
Jodi Vosburgh (excused)
Rebecca Yackel

OTHERS PRESENT:
Ann Marie Winter, AAAPP
Peggy Herlache, AAAPP
Virginia Cruz, AAAPP

Agenda Item #1 - Welcome and Introductions
Chair, Miriam Benitez-Nixon called the meeting of July 12, 2021 to order at 1:30 p.m. via zoom video call.

Agenda Item #2 - Roll Call
Ms. Ann Marie Winter, Executive Director, called the roll. A quorum of Advisory Council members was present.

Agenda Item #3 - Consent Agenda
Chair Miriam Benitez-Nixon presented the Consent Agenda which included, Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2021, and May 17, 2021. Mr. Eric Gerard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Stephanie Doran seconded. None opposed, motion carried.

Agenda Item #4 - Items for Discussion from the Consent Agenda
None.

Agenda Item #5 – AAAPP Unmet Needs Fund
The Executive Director introduced Ms. Peggy Herlache, the AAAPP Senior Community Health Coordinator. Ms. Herlache oversees the AAAPP Senior Community Health Program, a non-DOEA funded program. The program is funded by donations which are specifically donated to help meet the unmet needs of clients who are not covered by any funding source. The aim of the
program is to assist clients who call the HelpLine for assistance but who do not meet the requirements for assistance from other funding sources. The unmet needs fund is a last resort funding. Referrals come from the HelpLine and Victims Advocate Program. Some of the situations which the program has assisted thus far: clients with non-habitual expenses, a client who was a victim of a crime who needed security cameras and required locksmith services to get their locks changed, client with broken water heater, a client who received home delivered meals but did not have microwave to warm the meals. There were questions on the current amount of funding available, whether information on this program was limited to AAAPP clients or open to the public. This was addressed by Ms. Herlache. For information only, no action necessary.

**Agenda Item #6 – N4A Policy Aging and Advocacy Summit**
Chair Miriam Nixon-Benitez informed that she attended the virtual N4A Policy and Aging Advocacy Summit in April 2021, along with Vice Chair, Kerry Marsalek. Ms. Marsalek gave an overview of the summit. She thanked the Agency for the invitation to participate in the event. Ms. Marsalek shared three key insights of the summit (1) why policy matters to older adults to the Area Agencies on Aging and the aging nation. (2) Advocacy 202 from passion to policy, how passion plus advocacy truly equals change and what advocacy can accomplish (3) the importance of using stories to build on advocacy, the importance of sharing good data, advocates must strive to tell stories of the older adults that we serve and their caregivers, to honor them and their journeys.

Ms. Ann Marie Winter stated that the call to action is to explore possible guidelines for primary advocacy efforts and how the Advisory Council can influence policy decisions. There was discussion on advocacy efforts such as poll trust for seniors; vaccine outreach program; services and support for caregivers, a reoccurring agenda item for advocacy efforts, food resources and meals on wheels. Based on these discussions Ms. Kerry Marsalek will present a draft outline on advocacy guidelines to be presented at the next Advisory Council meeting.

**Agenda Item #7 – In Person Meetings**
Chair Miriam Benitez-Nixon presented for discussion the format for future Advisory Council meetings to return to in person meetings. There were questions and concerns about face-to-face meetings considering the current elevated rate of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Mr. Michael Estigo made a motion to continue the next Advisory Council meeting via Zoom. Mr. John Prendergast seconded. None opposed, motion carried.

**Agenda Item #8 – Legislative Update**
Fiscal year ended for general revenue state funded programs on June 30th. The Governor approved increases in the two stated funded programs CCE and ADI. The Agency will be receiving Federal dollars under the American Rescue Plan, the State of Florida is due to receive one hundred and seven million dollars for senior services; new legislative sessions due to start in January 2022, Committee meetings will be held in October and November AAAPP will be presenting at the legislative delegation meetings for Pasco and Pinellas County.

**Agenda Item #9 - Executive Director’s Report**
The Executive Director reported as follows: The AAAPP 2021 Virtual Event was hosted by Board Director Sallie Parks and the Executive Director, thanked everyone who attended, Ms. Mary Haddon Doyle, Advisory Council Member/SHINE Volunteer was recognized and honored for her outstanding work on Covid vaccine outreach, was awarded the 2021 Outstanding Humanitarian Award, thanked Ms. Nancy Giles for the idea of the Advisory Council being a sponsor of the Virtual Event, and Chair Benitez and Vice Chair Marsalek for supporting the idea; $32,000 was raised which will go towards Unmet Needs Fund; Savvy Caregiver, evidence based program starts on Wednesday; the U-Connected program is running and has been extend through December 31st, 2021 and there are currently 170 seniors participants.
**Agenda Item #10 - Announcements**
Chair Nixon announced that the next AAAPP Board of Directors Annual Board meeting will be held on August 16, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. and the next Advisory Council meeting will be held on September 13, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via zoom.

**Agenda Item #11 – Advisory Council Members Comments**
Chair Miriam Nixon congratulated the Executive Director and her staff on the success of the Virtual Event and for honoring Advisory Council member Mary Haddon Doyle on her award.

Mr. Eric Gerard informed that he was very impressed and enlightened by Ms. Celisa Bonner's recent presentation to the Advisory Council in March. He has invited Ms. Bonner to do a presentation at his City Commissioners work session tomorrow.

**Agenda Item #12 - Adjourn**
There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.