

## LEE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

The Enrichment Center Conference Room, 1615 S. Third Street, Sanford, NC 27330

**Board Members Present:** Mary Ann Gaster, Henry Merritt, Jim Payne, Joyce Smith, Mary Upchurch  
**Board Members Absent:** Cleo Bryant, Trudy Forrest, Commissioner Robert Reives  
**Staff Present:** Debbie Davidson, Melanie Rodgers, Debbie Williams  
**Guests Present:**

1. 8:31 a.m. Jim Payne called the meeting to order, welcomed the group and introductions were made. Due to a quorum not currently present, the group moved to item #4.
4. No one signed in for public comments.
5. Debbie Williams stated the recent Candlelight Reflections, a program dedicated to family caregivers and their care recipients, went well. Guest speaker Vivian McRae told the group, "Find joy through the day." The November 8 Veterans Appreciation Breakfast held at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center had 140 in attendance. In November 2019, the EC staff are considering a Veterans Appreciation Luncheon rather than breakfast. The annual EC Angel Tree is up and Angels are available for adoption. Angels are clients and participants served by the EC. Return Angel goods the week of December 3. EC staff and volunteers deliver the Angel gift totes. There are no longer available appointments for Medicare Part D open enrollment. Medicare beneficiaries should call the NC SHIP office in Raleigh, NC for assistance. A Social Security educational program will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 15. The Caregiver Christmas Celebration will be 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 6.

8:39 a.m. Henry Merritt arrives. Jim Payne announces a quorum is present.

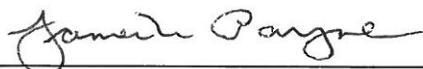
2. Jim Payne asked if there were additional items for the agenda. With no further items, Mary Upchurch made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Joyce Smith and all in favor.
3. Jim Payne asked the board if they had read the minutes from the October 16, 2018 meeting and if there were any questions or corrections. With no questions or corrections, Mary Upchurch made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Joyce Smith and all in favor.
6. Melanie Rodgers presented the October 2018 Finance and MySeniorCenter reports. Mary Ann Gaster asked if the EC accepts used equipment, such as from First Health fitness program. Melanie advised we do not due to liability and possible repairs. We purchase equipment with grant funding, which has worked well over the years.
7. Debbie Davidson provided Senior Services and COLTS department updates. Harriett Norris with Lee County Schools is in need of volunteers for the DECA (Distributive Clubs of America) annual competition on November 29. DECA is a club available to students with career interests in marketing, entrepreneurship, finance, hospitality and management in grades nine through twelve. Volunteers will judge the students with a score sheet provided in their interview and other professional skills. Mary Ann Gaster volunteered to participate with the Nov. 29 DECA competition. Debbie advised with newly elected Board of County Commissioners, the next budget year could warrant a budget presentation by departments. She will keep the advisory board informed. Fiscal year 2020 budget training will take place January 2019. Debbie reminded the advisory board that by the year 2035, Americans age 65 and older would outnumber kids for the first time. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the population of older adults will surpass children by almost two million. Mary Ann Gaster asked if presenting the senior services budget was difficult in the past. Debbie advised no, and normally a presentation by department directors does not take place, but if required in the upcoming year Senior Services would appreciate the advisory board's presence and backing. The County Manager and Board of County

Commissioners support Senior Services and the budget requests submitted over the years. We submit budgets as instructed, which could mean no new programs or positions.

8. Jim Payne provided information the recent Triangle J Area Agency on Aging Board meeting. A. The group received an update about Medicaid regionalization managed care. B. The group also discussed emergency preparedness in rest homes. State (legislature) requirements are decreasing. C. Senior Tar Heel Legislature celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The state (legislature) is reducing STHL's budget, which provides funds to reserve rooms for STHL sessions. Due to this reduction, STHL is seeking lower budget options for meeting space. D. A review of the Regional Ombudsman program survey results regarding home care, general care, autonomy, administration, discharge, dietary and many others. There is a mix of at home seniors and nursing homes included in the results. E. Overnight respite service added to the Home and Community Care Block Grant of services. No additional dollars added, just the option of the service. F. A disaster recovery fund for seniors, which includes living expenses, is available through NC Area Agency on Aging. Contributions should go to NC AAA.
9. Mary Upchurch distributed and reviewed the STHL 2019 priorities. Support and talk to your elected officials about their importance. Additional copies of the priorities are available at The Enrichment Center.
10. Old/New Business. Mary Ann Gaster asked if the board and seniors in general have concerns about Central Carolina Hospital not accepting insurance plans. Debbie Davidson advised that The Enrichment Center's contact at CCH, Wendy O'Quinn, advised the hospital is continuing to negotiate their contract regarding insurances CCH will accept.
11. Debbie Davidson advised the next meeting date is Wednesday, January 16, 2019 and the board's preference as to a regular or special guest speaker. After some discussion, Mary Upchurch made a motion the board have a regular meeting and a special speaker secured if found. Mary Ann Gaster seconded and all members in favor.
12. With no further business, Joyce Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Henry Merritt and all members in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Melanie Rodgers on behalf of Debbie Davidson, Secretary

  
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Jim Payne, Chair   
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