**Elder Issues Committee / Mayor’s Initiative on Aging**  
Minutes  
Tuesday, May 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>DISCUSSION</th>
<th>ACTION NEEDED</th>
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| Members Present | 1. Alina Becker, Alliance for Aging  
2. Allan Tavss, Miami-Dade Parks and Open Spaces*  
3. Alyssa Falise, UM  
4. Anjana Morris, Health Council of South Florida*  
5. Carmen Centeno, MDPLS*  
6. Carolina Hoires, Brain Center NSCFF  
7. David Saltman, FIU  
8. Diana Rodriguez, MDC  
9. Dorothy Vazquez, MDC  
10. Joan Schaeffer, JCS  
11. Linda Schottthoefer, United Way  
12. Luis Mejer, 24/7 Nursing Care  
13. Marjorie York, Community Action Agency  
14. Mary Anne Sherman, FDOH  
15. Michael Pearson, Alzheimers Association  
16. Natalie Lopez, City of Miami Beach  
17. Ricardo Mualin, Financial 1  
18. Tamara Robinet, Brain Center NSCFF  
19. Teri Arvesu, MDC Office of the Mayor  
20. Valerie Turner, FDOH |  |  |

*Indicates member participated via conference call

| Welcome and Introductions | Chair, David Saltman, welcomed everyone and started the meeting at 2:15 PM.  
Everyone introduced themselves. The meeting was held at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW 1 Street, Suite 29A, Miami, FL 33128. |  |  |
**Review and Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for April 25, 2017 were reviewed by the committee members. A motion was made to approve the minutes by all present and seconded by all present. All members who were present agreed to approve the minutes.

**Executive Board Report**

Dr. Valerie Turner reported that the Executive Board is currently devising a strategic plan and each of the 7 committees of the Consortium will be presenting at each Executive Board meeting. The Worksite wellness committee presented at the last Executive Board meeting. David Saltman will present at the next Executive Board meeting on what the Elder Issues Committee is currently working on.

**Committee Updates**

**Miami-Dade County Events:** There will be several events exploring Elder Abuse in June. Also, the Age Friendly Initiative has been very active in Miami-Dade County. The Health Foundation will be invited to present at a future meeting. Affordable Housing for seniors is an important issue. Our members were invited to the next meeting for the Age Friendly Initiative. The Conversation Project was discussed. The goal is for families to speak with older relatives about what they want at end of life.

**Legislative:** David stated that the Governor had not announced the vetoed items. There was still major funding for Elder needs.

**Old Business:** We have a subcommittee working on a survey to help us with improving the consistency of attendance at our meetings. We plan to complete it at the next meeting.

**Presentation by Detective Lisa Morales, MDPD Special Victims**

Detective Lisa Morales gave an important presentation on Elder Abuse. She has 30 years experience as a police officer, 20 years with the Vulnerable Victims Unit. She described the challenges that she and her fellow officers face because of the shrinking size of her unit. The Unit handles exploitation, physical and emotional abuse. Thank you Detective Morales for an excellent presentation.
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Bureau Vulnerable Victims Unit

- Mental as well as financial cases under $50,000. The Vulnerable Victims unit works closely with DCF. Although the Vulnerable Victims Unit receives calls regarding abandonment and self-neglect of elders is not considered a crime. DCF is called and the elder may be Baker Acted for care.
- Psychological Abuse can be charged if there is a credible witness. Sexual Abuse is handled by the sex abuse unit. When a case is reported the MDPD Vulnerable Victims Unit, they have 72 hours to contact the victim. One major social issue that contributes to elder abuse is that adult children are caring for their children and their elderly parents and leaving them home unsupervised. These are people who need education they don’t need to be arrested. Some need a referral to 24 hour care for their elderly parent. Many times, the only resource for the elder in question is 24 hour care. 3-1-1 as a referral and DCF are good resources. Another social factor are elders who live alone and their adult children live far away from them. Also, elderly care givers get overwhelmed caring for their aging spouses. Dealing with dementia puts much hardship on families because they aren’t able to find appropriate resources to give them support. Care of our growing elder population is becoming a huge social issue. We need more DCF staff, more Elder Guardians and more law enforcement staff to meet our ever increasing needs. Detective Morales closed the presentation with the following: “Do not treat and control elders as children. Treat elders with dignity and respect.” These are important first steps toward ending elder abuse.

Member Announcements

1. Natalie Lopez announced there will be an Elder Abuse event at the Botanical Gardens at Miami Beach on June 15, 2017. To honor World Elder Abuse Day from 10:00 am-1:00 pm sponsored by City of Miami Beach.
2. Dr. Valerie Turner explained how organizations can request FDOH to table at their events by using a CHOP form on the Consortium Website.
3. Marjorie York announced summer art classes are beginning at the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens on June 14, 2017.
4. Carolina Hoires and Tamara Robinet of the Brain Center announced will have a hands on course for the caregivers of patients with Alzheimer’s disease on June 10, 2017 at MDC Wolfson Campus. Free respite care is available.
5. There will be a Focus Group to establish a Senior Trust at United Way on June 2, 2017 at 10:00 am.

Next Meeting

| The next Elder Issues Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 25, 2017 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW 1 Street, Suite 29A, Miami, Fl. 33128. |  |  |