



# COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** January 7, 2022

**Time:** 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Live via Zoom** <https://zoom.us/j/92154181214>

**Facilitator:** Marsetta Ray, Chair

### Board Members

Marsetta Ray, Chair, South Fulton Senior Services) | Ruth Lyles-Bailey, Vice Chair, Council on Aging West | Mary Blake, At-Large | Stephanie Fiber-Sutton, District 1 | Beth Cayce, District 2 | Rosalind Elliott, District 3 (**absent**) | Linda Adams, District 4 | Barbara Brown, Council on Aging South | Teri Walker, District 5 (**absent**) | Jill Lindsey, District 6 | Council on Aging East (**vacant**) | Council on Aging North (**vacant**) | La Tanya D. Walker, Senior Services Representative (non-voting)

### Additional Attendees

Erica Flack, Ladisa Onyilogwu, Senior Services | Ben Howard, Senior Advocate

The meeting was called to order at 12:33 p.m., with Chairperson Ray, Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey, Chair Pro-Tem Blake, Linda Adams, Barbara Brown, Beth Cayce, and Stephanie Fiber-Sutton, present to constitute a quorum. The meeting opened with all members present reading the Commission on Elder Affairs (COEA) mission.

### Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Ray requested a reading of the minutes. Minutes were read by Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey. An update was made to the minutes to reflect the correct spelling of the January speaker, Katrina Collins, Attorney at Law. A motion was called to approve meeting minutes by Chairperson Ray. Beth Cayce made the motion, and Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey seconded the motion. The vote to approve the meeting minutes was taken with all present approving.

### Speaker: Katrenia Collins, Attorney at Law

- Prior to starting her discussion, Attorney Collins advised that her presentation was for informational purposes only and in no way establishes a legal relationship with those listening. Chairperson Ray previously submitted questions for Attorney Collins, of which she addressed as a part of the presentation.

- **Questions and Responses:**

- o **Question:** What is the importance of estate planning, and why is it so important?

- o **Response:** Estate plan at the time of incapacity or at the time in which you make a transition it typically saves a lot of time and saves a lot of money. She further advised that as with any type of planning, if done early, there is a huge likelihood of it getting done. It also outlines what you want to be done with your things, who you'd like to receive it or the charities you'd like to donate to.

- o **Question:** What's the minimum number of documents that you should have?

- o **Response:** The minimum number of documents you should have is your will and a durable power of attorney (POA). Mainly because we don't think about what will happen in the case of capacity. A durable power of attorney is a power attorney that continues to stay in force, even after you reach incapacity. These documents (health care directive and POA) should already be in place. Note that POA's can't be done if a person is in a coma.

- o **Question:** What is the minimum number of documents needed in case there are disagreements among family members as to what should happen if a family member is in the hospital?

- o **Response:** If the family dynamic is one where all agree, then there is no need for documentation. However, if you feel there will be contention between members then it is important to have a healthcare directive in order.

Probate court is the first step – a process of validating if the will is valid. Even with a will you can't afford court totally. You are nominating the person, but the court appoints them to be over the estate. So it's important to have a valid will and filed with the court with correct information.

Periodically check your deed at the court, making sure the deed is still in your name due filings of false deeds.

The price of an estate plan - \$500 – 2500 for estate planning depending on attorney

There were questions on the floor:

Member Cayce wants to know if someone dies, and all his money How does that work on probate.

**Response from Attorney Collins:** You're still an obligation to pay off the debts of the State so just because a person passes doesn't mean you're dead go away.

Based on questions posed by Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey, Attorney Collins advised again that executors need to be named if family members don't get along. It was also advised to include trusted family members on their bank accounts to prevent accounts being frozen and going into probate, or prohibiting the use of funds if needed. In terms of property with multiple members, of which one or more may be deceased who has rights if a living party is paying taxes? It was advised that it doesn't matter who pays the taxes, that all members or their living family members have rights. It was also advised that the party paying the taxes should work now to rectify the problem.

A motion was to move Senior Services report after speaker on an on-going basis. Beth Cayce made a motion to approve, Barbara Brown second. All in attendance approved.

## Senior Services Report

### Multipurpose Centers

- **New Manager at the HJC Senior Multipurpose Facility – Mrs. Sheila Usry- Sayles**
  - Mrs. Sayles started at Bowden over 20 years ago as an Administrative Specialist and after years of dedication and completion of the County's Interview process, she was promoted to the Bowden Manager on January 5, 2022.
- **The Four Multipurpose Facilities (Benson, Bowden, Darnell and Mills) remain temporarily closed for onsite program until the end of the month or until further notice. (Note the driving factor is the infection rate of the COVID-19 Omicron Virus will determine how soon we can open.)**
  - During this temporary closure the following services will be offered to Fulton County Participants, such as:
    - Free Frozen meals are being distributed to participants at each of the four facilities between the hours of 11:30am and 1:30pm. Any senior adult 55 years of age or older is eligible to receive a frozen meal.
    - Virtual Classes are still being offered daily from 8:30am to 4:00pm each weekday
    - Wellness Calls will be made to check up on all registered Multipurpose Facility Participants.

Ms. Walker will confirm if a flyer is available and will email to all members. You do not have to register to receive meals, seniors 55+ can simply drive up and receive meals at any multipurpose facility.

### **Adult Day Health Program-**

The adult day programs are closed due to the recent rise in COVID cases, the Board of Commissioners (BOC) voted to close centers from Dec 28-Jan 21. The BOC will meet on Jan 19<sup>th</sup> and will discuss reopening plans for after Jan 21. The Adult Day Health program will continue to offer Virtual Programming, Respite Care, Home Delivered Meals and make well check calls for registered participants.

Ladisa Onyiliogwu reported through the consolidated appropriations act, Senior Services can provide more home delivered meals. This is different from what was just reported in our update. Members were encouraged to share this information with seniors in their community who are not currently receiving a home delivery meal.

There is funding through Atlanta Regional Commission to provide respite up to two hours, especially with those diagnosed with Dementia or Alzheimer's. Members were advised to share this information with those in their community.

Residents can also contact the STARline (404) 613-6000 or [seniorservices@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:seniorservices@fultoncountyga.gov), to be placed on the list.

### **Neighborhood Senior Centers-**

Neighborhood Senior Centers are closed until January 21, 2022 pending Board of Commissioners actions, but centers are offering virtual classes and providing meals to participants. Senior Services will be receiving another allocation of grant dollars for the innovative transportation (Uber/Lyft). No update on dollar amount.

General information regarding mileage for Uber/Lyft was provided verbally. Will look to provide in writing.

Residents can also contact the STARline (404) 613-6000 or [seniorservices@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:seniorservices@fultoncountyga.gov), to be placed on the list.

### **Officers and Standing Committee Reports**

- **Health (Beth Cayce, Chair)** – A detailed report was provided to all members that highlighted COVID percentages and updates on the new vaccine kits that available to all. There is a four-count maximum per household. Per Ladisa, the

county is also procuring home test kits for distribution with additional information provided after the next BOC meeting.

- **Senior Services (Linda Adams, Chair):** No report
- **Safety/Security (Vice Chair Lyles-Bailey, Chair):** No report given, but emphasized staying safe during the holiday; and aware of your surroundings
- **Technology:** No report given.
- **Civic Life:** Made recommendations on how to deal with inflation; reminded members of scammers, and to contact Attorney General's office for support.
- **Programs/Features: (Mary Blake, Linda Adams & Chairperson Ray):** No report given.
- **Transportation (Open):** No report given

## Unfinished Business

N/A

## New Business

A vote was taken with a slate of new officers. No new nominations were given from the floor. 2022 Elected Officers: Marsetta Ray, Chair, Beth Cayce, Vice Chair, Mary Blake, Chair Pro-Tem, Ruth Lyles Bailey, Parliamentarian

## Public Comments

**Ben Howard:** Advised to continue to list the progress on board membership. Also mentioned posting meeting information on webpage.

## Next Meeting

February 11, 2022 | 12:30 p.m., virtually via Zoom