

Social Services Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

9/5/2023



Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Social Services Advisory Board was called to order at approximately 4:05pm on 9/5/2023 at the Sunrise Senior Center.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Sharon Baron- Present
Abdul Basit- Present
Olivia Coleman- Present
Patricia Louis-Mills- Present

Harvey Soufrine- Absent Unexcused
Gisel Suarez- Present
Justin Wells- Absent Unexcused

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from meeting were approved.

Open Discussion

No open discussion.

Presentation by Barbara Epes - Aging Program and Community Outreach Director from the Area Agency on Aging Broward County. Barbara and her colleague Krizia came to speak about the senior technology program that they offer at the AAABC. This program is fantastic for seniors who are living alone or who are unable to leave their homes. This program was especially helpful during COVID-19 due to seniors being isolated. Isolation can lead to very dire consequences both health wise and mentally. So the CEO Charlotte Taylor Mather's decided to find solutions to find ways to keep seniors connected to family and friends and to keep their minds in an active state. Taylor started two different types of technologies for seniors. Krizia talked about a few programs that are great and very user friendly for seniors. The first one is called "Uniper Care". Uniper is a device that connects to your TV or can be utilized as an app on a smartphone or tablet. It includes an easy-to-use remote control with an embedded microphone, a small box, and a camera. The second technology product that they talked about was the Robotic Pet's! An interactive robotic pet is able to bring joy, comfort, and companionship to its owner while at the same time helping the individual relax and feel calm. Robotic pets have also been shown to help prevent loneliness, reduce depression, and improve socialization abilities. These are just a few programs that they offer along with a few more! Check out their website for more information at Adrcbroward.org/senior-technology-programs.

New Business

Kathy Osborn reported Social Services numbers for the month of August:

Fee waivers: 7

Medical Transportation: 5 approved

Food Pantry: 6 visits

Total Contacts: 126

EAF: 2 (FPL Bills)

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:38pm. Next meeting will take place on November 7, 2023 at 4:00pm.

Minutes prepared by: Christy Martino