



Jacksonville-Duval County

COUNCIL ON ELDER AFFAIRS

150 E. First Street – Jacksonville, FL 32206 – (904) 630-0543

**COUNCIL ON ELDER AFFAIRS (COEA)
ANNUAL REPORT
2016/17**

Mission

The Council on Elder Affairs mission is to plan, evaluate, advocate and promote programs and policies that encourage accessible, responsible and comprehensive services maximizing opportunities for self-sufficiency and personal independence for the seniors of Jacksonville-Duval County.

Purpose/Accomplishments

The past year was filled with challenges and opportunities to make a difference in the lives of seniors in Jacksonville. The position of Executive Director was filled in April after several months of posting the position, forming the interview Ad hoc committee and interviewing candidates, The potential candidate chosen by the Selection Committee turned the job down and it was then offered to the second candidate. The Executive Director position was filled in mid-April.

The Council was excited about the opportunity to get back to the business of advocating for seniors in Jacksonville. Work continued through the committees including Legislative, Health, Senior Services and the Executive Committee (made up of the Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Chairs).

One of the main obstacles was the lack of members appointed by the City Council and the Mayor. Currently 10- out of 19 positions are filled. The Executive Director plays a key part in obtaining new members, tracking attendance and effectiveness on Committees.

The Executive Director resigned in March and once again, COEA is unable to fulfill the goals and objectives as set forth in the Ordinance and By-Laws.

Another issue is the growing number of agencies that advocates for seniors in Jacksonville, e.g. ElderSource, Aging True and many others.

One of our main functions is to conduct the annual Mayor's Senior Awards. The Executive Director did not facilitate the process during this reporting period, therefore for the first time in more than 15 years; three deserving seniors were not recognized by the Mayor.

Budget

The Council on Elder Affairs does not have a budget, another factor for the inability of the Council to be effective.

Members

Henry Cook, Chair
Vi Shafer, Vice Chair
Phil Schatz
Pat Vail
Carol D'Onofrio
Nancy Reedy
John Roberts
Judith Mantle
Marcelle Bessman
Rosemary Thornton

Volunteers

Don Ingram
Jerry Reynolds
Jackie Nash
Eileen Rodden

Meetings

The Council on Elder Affairs conducts monthly meetings in order to fulfill its mission. In addition to the general meeting in which all members are present, each committee conducts monthly meetings as well.

The Council stands ready to continue our work, if changes are made. Provide COEA with a budget and increase the current salary of the Executive Director to attract the skills needed to bring COEA back as an effective voice for seniors in Jacksonville.