# SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
## *AGENDA MEMORANDUM*

**SUBJECT:**  Communities for a Lifetime

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services     **DIVISION:** Administration

**AUTHORIZED BY:** David Medley     **CONTACT:** David Medley     **EXT.** 3363

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**Agenda Date** 9/12/06   **Regular** ☒   **Consent** ☐   **Work Session** ☐   **Briefing** ☐
**Public Hearing – 1:30** ☐      **Public Hearing – 7:00** ☐

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## MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution to enact the Communities for a Lifetime initiative and authorize the Community Services Department to develop, organize and support an independent Task Force on Aging to create an inventory of services and opportunities and report findings to the Board of County Commissioners.   County-wide

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## BACKGROUND:

On May 23, 2006, the Board gave directions to bring back a Resolution as the initial step to move forward with Communities for a Lifetime initiative that encourages independence and quality of life for older adults in our community.  Also requested, was a plan to establish a start up committee or Task Force of volunteers to begin the self assessment process.

The attached, "Getting Started" plan provides the initial foundation to assemble our local Task Force on the aging and develop a process to inventory, assess, and evaluate the seven Areas of Discovery; physical spaces, transportation, land use, community development, health, education, cultural and social opportunities.   The Community Services Department working in partnership with others will identify and assemble those required to provide the leadership for the project. The Department will also act as liaison and staff support and will provide resources as needed.

The State of Florida, Department of Elder Affairs will work in partnership with the County and Task Force to provide consultative support and review the completed inventory.  Results and findings will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

Reviewed by: 8-22-06
Co Atty: D. Dietrich
DFS:
Other:
DCM:
CM:

File No.   RCS04

**Attachment:** Getting Started Plan

**RESOLUTION NO. 06_____**                    **SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**A RESOLUTION OF SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS'** *COMMUNITIES FOR A LIFETIME* **INITIATIVE AND ESTABLISHING A COUNTY-WIDE TASK FORCE ON AGING**

**WHEREAS,** the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida supports the State of Florida Department of Elder Affairs' *Communities for a Lifetime* initiative to make Florida a friendlier place to live for people of all ages so that people may be independent as long as possible and remain in their homes and the communities they love; and

**WHEREAS,** the State of Florida has the highest percentage of elders of any state in the nation and growth projections reveal that Florida's elder population will continue to increase, reaching numbers without precedent in the first part of the 21st Century; and

**WHEREAS,** to allow all residents to maintain their dignity, security and independence, communities must evaluate, assess and modify local infrastructure to become a *Community for a Lifetime*; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida and the State of Florida Department of Elder Affairs share a vision and responsibility to improve the life of all citizens by enabling preparation for and enjoyment of aging in place throughout the citizens' lives; and

**WHEREAS,** to achieve our mutual goals, cities and counties should begin to build together a place free of physical, emotional, and social barriers; and

**WHEREAS,** to accomplish the aforestated goals, Seminole County, Florida intends to establish, organize and support an independent Task Force on Aging as identified in the Attachment incorporated herein, to create an inventory of services and opportunities available to our elder population and subsequently report such findings to the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida, will make every effort to first evaluate and later remove all barriers to become *Community for a Lifetime* and in pursuit thereof hereby establishes a Task Force on Aging.

**ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA,** this _____ day of_____, 2006.

ATTEST:                                        **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
                                               **SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

_____            By:_____
MARYANNE MORSE                          CARLTON D. HENLEY, Chairman
Clerk to the Board of
County Commissioners of              Date:_____
Seminole County, Florida.


SED/sb
08/21/06

Attachment:
    *"Communities for a Lifetime"*

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# COMMUNITIES OF A LIFETIME
## TASK FORCE COMPOSITION

The Communities of a Lifetime Taskforce would be comprised of representatives from (but not necessarily limited to) the following agencies, organizations and community representatives.

- Health Care interest (examples)
  - Local Hospitals
  - East Central Florida Health Planning Council
  - Health Department
- Representatives of the housing industry
- Local Area Agency on Aging
- Local Law Enforcement
- State Attorney's Office
- Local Senior Initiatives (examples)
  - Seminole Volunteers
  - Visiting Nurses
  - Meals on Wheels
  - Community Services Network (2-1-1)
- Local Planning and Development Staff
  - County
  - Municipalities
- Faith Based Organizations
- Community Services Staff

# GETTING STARTED

## WELCOME

Congratulations on your commitment to creating a *Community for a Lifetime*. Your community leaders are to be commended for the desire and ambition to benefit all residents by assessing the need for improvements in areas such as housing, transportation, healthcare, recreation, education and accessibility. As you begin this project, keep in mind that it is a continuous process of self-assessment and improvement to help the community achieve the following goals:

- To create an inventory of services and opportunities that encourages independence and quality of life for older adults in your community. This inventory can be used to market the community to current residents as well as potential newcomers.

- To initiate partnerships with a wide variety of sectors in the community (government, business, not-for-profit and education) in order to promote the development of senior friendly community amenities.

## IDENTIFYING TEAM MEMBERS

Now that the leaders in your community have committed to this initiative, the next important step is to form a committee to begin inventorying existing services and opportunities and identifying needed elements in your community to create a "livable" community – a community that recognizes the diverse needs of the residents and the unique contributions older individuals make to the community.

As the formulation of the committee begins, it is important to remember that strategic alliances and collaboration from all sectors of the community is crucial. Individuals to be considered for project leadership may include individuals from the following groups of local government and aging network professionals or partners:

- City and/or county employees;
- Local citizens/senior volunteer organizations;
- Area Agencies on Aging;
- Health care organizations and the medical community;
- Senior centers; and
- Faith-based organizations.

This group of people can help identify other team members and leaders.

For more information, contact the Florida Department of Elder Affairs
4040 Esplanade Way — Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-7000
Phone 850.414.2000 — Fax 850.414.2004 — TDD 850.414.2001
*http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us*
Visit *Communities for a Lifetime* on the Web at http://www.communitiesforalifetime.org.
E-mail: communities@elderaffairs.org

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### Community Profile

Your community is unique because of its people, its character and its cultural offerings. Residents of your community have chosen to live in your community for as many different reasons as there are residents. Additionally, new residents are attracted to your community because of its unique features. As you begin the self-assessment process, it may be helpful to begin with a broad overview by taking a look at some general informational issues pertaining to the community.

- Describe your community's geography, economy and population trends.

- Describe a few of the community's unique features that provide a high quality of life for residents.

- Find out what organizations produce a directory of services for older adults? How is it made available to residents?

- Find out what ways the community is made aware of the Elder Helpline (1-800-96-ELDER or 1-800-963-5337).

*Notes*

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## SEVEN AREAS OF DISCOVERY

This section includes the seven Areas of Discovery that area identified by the *Communities for a Lifetime* initiative. Each Area of Discovery includes a list of individuals and organizations that may serve as potential committee members or as helpful partners or stakeholders in this very important collaborative effort. A list of questions has also been provided to assist the committee in beginning the assessment process.

The seven Areas of Discovery will help to guide you into a more in-depth review of your community in terms of what opportunities already exist in the community to allow seniors to remain independent, and what areas are in need of improvement. For more detailed information pertaining to the seven Areas of Discovery, please visit the Web site at **http://www.communitiesforalifetime.org**.

### Physical Spaces

*Suggested Partners/Stakeholders*

- City and Regional Planners
- Growth Management
- Public Works
- Chamber of Commerce
- Community Leadership Programs
- Economic Development Council
- Apartment Complex Representative

- Assisted Living Facilities
- Board of Realtors Representative
- Builders Association
- City and County Housing
- Housing Authority and/or Foundation
- Major Development Representative

*Questions*

1. To what extent are architects and developers aware of the benefits of universal design?

2. What organizations provide home modification services?

3. What senior friendly housing options are available within your community? Be sure to include all naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs) apartment complexes, independent living communities, assisted living facilities, adult family care homes, continuing care retirement communities and nursing homes.

4. What means are available for securing appropriate living arrangements after a person can no longer access needed goods and services, prepare meals, or do household chores?

5. In what ways do tax structures and zoning laws accommodate the needs of senior homeowners and caregivers of frail elders?

6. What discounts are available to seniors for utilities?

7. What supermarkets and pharmacies offer delivery services?

8. What businesses provide adequate parking for seniors?

*Discussion Notes*

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*What recurring ideas or issues are developing as you discuss this Area of Discovery?*

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## Transportation

*Suggested Partners/Stakeholders*

- AARP-55 Alive Program
- Airport Manager
- Local Transportation Providers

- Neighborhood Associations
- Public Mass Transit Providers
- Safety Resource Center

*Questions*

1. What alternative transportation options are available? Provide contact information, hours of operation, routes, service areas, eligibility requirements and costs.
2. What public transportation is available?
3. What routes, service areas and costs are available? How much time is needed for travel?
4. Where can a person receive printed schedules of routes?
5. What are the senior friendly features of private transportation providers?
6. What neighborhoods are within walking distance of appropriate businesses and services?
7. What measures do out-of-town travel centers take to assure accessibility to older residents?
8. What programs are available to assist older adults with assessing their own driving abilities?
9. How can older adults access the services of a mobility counselor?

*Discussion Notes*

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## Land Use

*Suggested Partners/Stakeholders*

- City and Regional Planners
- Growth Management
- Public Works
- Planning Department
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Apartment Complex Representative

- Assisted Living Facilities
- Board of Realtors Representative
- Builders Association
- City and County Housing
- Housing Authority and/or Foundation
- Major Development Representative

*Questions*

1. What areas of the community are NORCs, or naturally occurring retirement communities?

2. What is the awareness level of the regional planning commission about the needs of older adults?

3. In what ways do regional planners take into consideration people with varied needs?

4. What parks, trails, waterways, and greenways are available for recreational use? To what extent are they accessible? What senior friendly features are offered?

5. What residential areas of the community have pedestrian access to shopping areas?

6. What accommodations are included in zoning restrictions for senior housing, including caregiver suites?

7. In what ways are the needs of older adults considered for the design of parking lots, buildings and landscaping?

*Discussion Notes*

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## Community Development

*Suggested Partners/Stakeholders*

- Alzheimer's Program/Centers
- American Red Cross
- Animal Services
- County Sheriff's Office
- Emergency Alert Response Systems
- Fire Department
- Injury Prevention Programs
- Police Department

- Victims Assistance Programs
- Public Information Officers
- Local Media
- Chamber of Commerce
- Community Leadership Programs
- Economic Development Council
- Specific Businesses

*Questions*

1. What agencies distribute Emergency Alert Response Systems at what costs for installation and maintenance?
2. Which businesses are sensitive to the needs and preferences of senior consumers?
3. What employment opportunities are available for older adults who choose to work?
4. Which employers are sensitive to the needs of caregivers?
5. What opportunities are available for meaningful volunteer contributions?
6. What transportation is available for working/volunteering seniors?
7. Many law enforcement and fire departments provide safety seminars and inspections for seniors, as well as distribute and install smoke detectors. How can these be accessed?

*Discussion Notes*

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## Health

*Suggested Partners/Stakeholders*

- AARP
- Accessibility Services
- Adult Day Cares
- Caregiver Services
- Congregate Meal Sites
- Financial Counseling
- Insurance Counseling
- Legal Services
- Low-income Services
- Mental Health Providers

- Non-medical Services
- Social Security
- Support Groups
- Alzheimer's Program/Centers
- County Health Department
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Medical Equipment Businesses
- Nursing Homes
- Private Home Health Businesses

*Questions*

1. What opportunities are available to older adults to maintain physical and mental health?
2. What health care services are available?
3. What non-medical services are available?

*Discussion Notes*

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## Education

*Suggested Partners/Stakeholders*

- Adult Education
- Community College
- Extension Office
- Hospitals
- Library Services
- Universities

*Questions*

1. What opportunities are available to encourage lifelong learning?
2. What universities offer tuition-free classes for seniors?
3. What opportunities do older adults have to learn about how to avoid being victim of fraud and other crimes?
4. What opportunities are available to learn how to maintain health and wellness?

*Discussion Notes*

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## Cultural and Social Opportunities

*Suggested Partners/Stakeholders*

- City Parks and Recreation
- County Parks and Recreation
- Cultural Resources Commission
- Private sports and recreation venues
- State Parks and Recreation Areas
- AmeriCorps
- Experience Works

- Foster Grandparent Program
- Local Volunteer Services
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Senior Companion Program
- VISTA
- Faith Leaders
- Faith-based Organizations

*Questions*

1. What opportunities are available for recreation?
2. What programs are available through faith-based organizations?
3. What programs or opportunities are available for intergenerational connections?

*Discussion Notes*

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