

**Northwest Focal Point Senior Center District Board  
Special Meeting**

Commission Chambers, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
City Hall, 5790 Margate Boulevard  
Margate, FL 33063  
January 27, 2021  
6:50 PM

**Board Members Present:**

Arlene Schwartz, Chair  
Antonio Arserio, Vice Chair  
Joanne Simone  
Anthony Caggiano  
Tommy Ruzzano

**Also Present:**

Karin Diaz, Project Director  
Janette M. Smith City Attorney

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The virtual statement was read into the record.

**1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – November 18, 2020**

The following motion was made by Board Member Caggiano, seconded by Board Member Arserio.

**MOTION:** SO MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 18 MEETING.

**ROLL CALL:** Board Member Caggiano, Yes; Board Member Simone, Yes; Board Member Ruzzano, Yes; Board Member Arserio, Yes; Board Member Schwartz, Yes. The motion passed 5-0.

**2. RESOLUTIONS**

**A. RESOLUTION 155:** A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST FOCAL POINT SENIOR CENTER DISTRICT, APPROVING AREAWIDE COUNCIL ON AGING OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC. iN2L – PILOT REFERRAL AGREEMENT, TO PROVIDE AN iN2L TABLET AND CONTENT LIBRARY TO SENIORS; AUTHORIZING THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND PROJECT DIRECTOR RENEW OR EXTEND THIS AGREEMENT UNDER THE SAME TERMS OR TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN FUNDING, WITHOUT FURTHER BOARD ACTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Board Chair Schwartz asked for Ms. Diaz to explain to the Board what the program is.

Ms. Diaz explained that iN2L stands for "It's never too late." This is a pilot program and the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center has been chosen as one of the pilot groups. The Center has 13 members enrolled in the program between the ages of 71 to 89 years old. The members of the program have received computer tablets that have been loaded with diverse activities. They can also communicate with family members and friends on the tablets.

The following motion was made by Board Member Arserio, seconded by Board Member Caggiano.

**MOTION:** SO MOVE TO APPROVE.

**ROLL CALL:** Board Member Caggiano, Yes; Board Member Simone, Yes; Board Member Ruzzano, Yes; Board Member Arserio, Yes; Board Member Schwartz, Yes. The motion passed 5-0.

### **3. PROJECT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Karin Diaz, Project Director of the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center District (NWFPCSD) thanked the Board for approving the agreement. The iN2L participants have received their tablets and participated in the initial set-up training that was held at the Senior Center via zoom. They were overjoyed. The Adult Day Care Program is running smoothly. The Center currently has 11 clients that are attending and three clients that are pending and awaiting funding. Ms. Diaz reported that Senior Center employee Therese Pokryfke has resigned. She started working at the Senior Center in 2003 and has been the Eldercare Advocate since 2009. She has been leading recreational activities for Adult Day Care members and health support sessions for Senior Center members. The Center is looking to fill this position as soon as possible. Northwest Focal Point Staff continues to do reassurance calls, an estimate of 450 to 500 calls a week, 250 meal deliveries and over 15 weekly recreational activities via conference call. Bingo now has up to 40 people per session. Donations are welcome for bingo prizes. During weekly reassurance calls with Senior Center members, popular topics this month are: Have you received the vaccine? We estimate that about 25 of our regular members have been vaccinated so far. Are you willing to come back to the center? Some members say yes, some say maybe and some say later. Ms. Diaz reported to the Board that based on the feedback Center staff has received, we have worked on a Phase II Senior Center re-opening plan and provided the Board with a spreadsheet.

Ms. Diaz asked the Board for permission to allow the Center to begin reopening in phase II.

#### **DISCUSSION FROM THE BOARD:**

Arlene Schwartz: asked if Center members have been vaccinated and if they have received both doses or only one dose. Ms. Diaz reported that we estimate that about 25 members of the Center have been vaccinated so far. Board member Schwartz asked if we are doing grocery shopping trips now and asked if clients could give the drivers a shopping list and the drivers do the shopping for them. Ms. Diaz explained that this would not be a good idea, as this could potentially cause conflict between driver and client. Board member Schwartz asked if Center buses are disinfected regularly. Ms. Diaz explained that the Margate Fire Department disinfects the building and vehicles every Tuesday and the drivers clean their vehicles at the end of each shift. Board Member Schwartz asked what the Center census was before. Ms. Diaz reported that it was approximately 250 – 300 per day and now it is 25 – 30 per day. We will not be offering lunch now and the Adult day Care clients will remain separate from Senior Center clients.

Cale Curtis: stated that the Adult Day Care has successfully been operating so far in Phase I. The Senior Center opening would be phase II and would provide much needed social interaction for the senior population and would also help fund the future of the Senior Center. Chief Villar will be consulted to check on the safety concerns.

**ROLL CALL:** Board Member Caggiano, Yes; Board Member Simone, Yes; Board Member Ruzzano, Yes; Board Member Arserio, Yes; Board Member Schwartz, Yes. The motion passed 5-0.

#### 4. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Anthony Caggiano said as always, thank you for what you do in normal times and n COVID even more. I hope that groups will be together really soon.

Joanne Simone said thank you to you, also to your excellent staff, and for finding ways to provide care to our citizens.

Tommy Ruzzano said thank you Karin and that he feels that the Board should draft a letter to Broward County suggesting that the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center should be used as a vaccination site, as this will not only help Margate residents, it will help the surrounding cities as well.

Antonio Arserio said thank you Karin and I agree with Board member Ruzzano. I believe that a letter has already been sent to Broward County highlighting five potential sites for vaccines and Northwest Focal Point was highlighted. The tablets are great for the seniors to connect with their family

Arlene Schwartz said I echo what everyone else has said. Vaccinations at each homeowners association would be a good idea. Happy New Year to all. The Senior Center is family for its members.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Terry Lieberman

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Arlene Schwartz, Chair