

Commission on Aging: Staff Briefing – January 11, 2023

Good afternoon and thank you for having me.

I would like to start by wishing each and everyone a very Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Safe New Year.

1. Halana did a good job by drafting the survey, gathering feedbacks, and making changes to capture the needs and wants of older adults. We also want to make the survey available to most older adults by contacting outreach and providing support to those who may need help. For instance, Nicole and others will be going to some Senior Centers with tablets people have a choice between the traditional paper copies and online survey. We continue to introduce and connect Nicole to some very important persons and various organizations, including our meeting with AustinUp Board of Directors yesterday.
2. **Staff Recruitment:**
 - a. Community Engagement Specialist (CES), the newly created position and the issue with the approval process. As mentioned before, the position is still not been approved by the Chief Public Information Officer (CPIO) for posting because they own this title. The CPIO reviewed our job description with HR and made some recommendations. I had a conversation with HR supervisor yesterday evening during which we discussed the changes that need to be made. We also scheduled a meeting with Jessica King who is the Director of Public Information Office, next week on January 19th. We hope to be able to finalize everything during that meeting and hopefully get her approval.
 - b. Recruitment of Social Work graduate student intern
Our graduate student in Social Work Program at UT, Chelsea Pfeifer is here with us today. She started this week, will be working about 24 hours per week through end of May. With that, I would like to invite Chelsea to introduce herself.
 - c. Age Friendly Coordinator – AmeriCorps VISTA; on Monday out of nowhere, I received a referral email for VISTA candidate. I immediately contacted her by phone and scheduled a virtual interview. Nicole and I interviewed her yesterday; we found her to be a good fit for the Age Friendly Program and she is still interested in the position. She currently lives in New York and is planning to relocate to Austin area. Her name is Emily Jackson. If everything goes well, including her background check investigation, the start date set by the VISTA Program will be

Fingers crossed! Very soon, this program will become bigger, more active, more productive, and more efficient. Thanks to you all for your patience.