

## **STANDARDS OF INDEPENDENCE AND PARTICIPATION AT THE CENTER**

Our programs are primarily designed to accommodate people aged sixty and older and any disabled adult. Others may participate when the staff has been consulted. *Safety is a priority* and any participant must be able to independently use the Senior Center or be accompanied by an aide.

Please note the following standards of independence and behavior with respect to Senior Center attendance and participation.

Participants at the Senior Center must:

1. Sign a release form with the name and telephone number of a person to contact in case of an emergency *and must use a COA/Senior Center swipe card.*
2. Follow the recommendation of the COA/Senior Center staff to seek appropriate medical attention if an accident should occur.
3. No smoking, drinking alcohol or using illegal substances on the premises. Participants who do not adhere to these rules will be asked to leave immediately.
4. Be responsible for their own personal care, including but not limited to hygiene, toileting, as well as feeding and following any direction in any class or program.
5. Be reasonably well oriented, capable of independent decision-making and planning their own activities, transportation, lunch, financial transactions etc. Seniors with cognitive impairment should be accompanied with an aide.\* Staff reserves the right to restrict participation if necessary.
6. Avoid causing disturbances or disruptions and show respect for fellow participants and staff, the building facilities and personal property of others.
7. Be responsible for their own personal health and medical care, including the taking of medications, monitoring special diets, etc. The COA/Senior Center staff is not responsible for providing assistance with personal health and medical care, or the taking of medication or special diets.
8. Violence or threats of violence are not permitted. Violation will immediately result in the participant being asked to leave and possibly subjected to permanent suspension from the Senior Center privileges.
9. Must be independently mobile without assistance of the Center staff.
10. The COA is a municipal building and must be open to any senior who would like to participate; therefore any group using the Senior Center during regular business hours must apply for approval by the Director and will be required to guarantee that it is open to the public.
11. No campaigning is allowed in the Center during regular work hours.
12. The Center and its staff reserve the right to cancel, deny or restrict senior participation if any of these standards are violated. Reinstatement can occur after a three month waiting period. Reinstatement will only occur after discussion and approval with the Senior Center Director.

Note: \*\*\* Staff is not able to provide supervision and all participants may come and go as they please.