

Minutes: CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON AGING

Friday, October 10, 2008

Masonic Health Care Center
Wallingford, CT

In Attendance: Voting Members: Don Dimenstein, Bill Eddy, Sharon Gesek, Nancy Sullivan Hodkoski, Judy Jencks, Jerry Kerins, Mary Ellen Klinck, Chris Lewis, Dick Memmott, Carol Tillman Parrish, Jim Pellegrino, Penny Young, Gerd Weindling.

Ex Officios: Pam Giannini, Dennis King, Siobhan Morgan, Kathy Walsh. **Staff:** Julie Evans Starr, Deb Migneault, Rob Norton, Deb Polun.

Absent: Voting Members: Ray Guenter, Waldo Klein, Pat Mayfield, Carolyn Thornberry. **Ex Officios:** Susan Deschamplain, Jennifer Glick, Debra Landry, Barbara Yard.

I. Call the Meeting to Order

Chair, Chris Lewis, called the meeting to order at 10:40.

II. Approval of September 2008 Minutes

Penny Young made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Nancy Sullivan Hodkoski. Motion carried.

III. Subcommittee Reports

- Executive Committee: Chris Lewis reported that the Executive Committee held a joint meeting with the legislative subcommittee prior to the full board meeting.
- Legislative Subcommittee: The committee has met three times since August to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. As in the past, the committee is asking for input from the full board. Based on this feedback and being mindful of past priorities, the CoA's collaborative relationships and the current economic conditions, the committee will put together a priority list to be reviewed by the full board at the next meeting. Chris encouraged members to fill-out the form "The CoA Legislative Subcommittee Wants to Hear from You" and return it to the CoA office by October 31st.
- Municipal Outreach Committee: Penny asked members to please email Deb M. comments and feedback about their outreach. Deb M. will put together a brief report for the next meeting.

IV. Report by the Executive Director

Julie Evans Starr provided an extensive written report covering the period from August 2008 – October 6, 2008. The report was emailed to members and is included in the packet. In the interest of time, Julie asked members to read the report at their convenience.

Deb P. reported on the two forums the CoA is planning: the Post-Election Forum co-sponsored with AARP will be held on November 6th and the 2008 Carson Forum ~ Property Tax Forum for Municipal Leaders co-sponsored with the CT Coalition on Aging will be held on November 20th. Chris encouraged members to help promote these forums with their respective networks.

V. Update on the Long-Term Care Needs Assessment Project

Noreen Shugrue of the UConn Health Center, Center on Aging, presented an update on the multi-faceted Long-Term Care Needs Assessment project. In addition, Noreen provided an overview of the LTC Needs Assessment findings and recommendations as they relate to state structure. A copy of the presentation was included with the meeting materials.

VI. Discussion on State Structure Issues

Julie Evans Starr and Noreen Shugrue were guests on Channel 30's "CT Newsmakers" show hosted by Tom Monahan which aired September 14th. The brief video segment was shown to the full board. Additionally, a chapter of the 2008 AARP National Policy Book Manual specific to the issue of state structure was shared.

Chair, Chris Lewis led a lengthy discussion on the topic of state structure which included comments from Judy Jencks, Jerry Kerins, Jim Pellegrino, Pam Giannini, Carol Tillman Parrish, Penny Young, Bill Eddy, Nancy Sullivan Hodkoski, Mary Ellen Klinck, and Julie Evans Starr. Chris stated that these comments will be summarized and given to the legislative subcommittee for review. Any additional comments should be emailed to Chris Lewis to be included in the summary.

VII. Old and New Business

Julie Evans Starr reported that colleague and friend Kate McEvoy, Deputy Director of Area Agency on Aging of South Central CT, recently published a book on elder law in CT.

Julie also reported that the State Auditors of Public Accounts conducted an audit for the fiscal year ending June 30th 2006. There were no issues found in their review.

Pam Giannini handed out brochures about energy assistance programs.

VIII. Adjourn

Mary Ellen Klinck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Dick Memmott. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.