

Minutes: CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON AGING

Friday, March 13, 2009

Masonic Healthcare Center
Wallingford, CT

In Attendance: Voting Members: Don Dimenstein, Bill Eddy, Sharon Gesek, Ray Guenter, Judy Jencks, Jerry Kerins, Waldo Klein, Mary Ellen Klinck, Chris Lewis, Dick Memmott, Jim Pellegrino, Penny Young, Gerd Weindling. **Ex Officios:** Pam Giannini, Jennifer Glick, Debra Landry, Siobhan Morgan, Kathy Walsh, Barbara Yard **Staff:** Julie Evans Starr, Deb Migneault, Rob Norton, Deb Polun.

Absent: Voting Members: Nancy Sullivan Hodksoski, Pat Mayfield, Carol Tillman Parrish, Carolyn Thornberry **Ex Officios:** Susan Deschamplain, Dennis King

I. Call the Meeting to Order

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

II. Approval of January 6, 2009 Minutes

Gerd Weindling made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Bill Eddy. Motion carried.

III. Subcommittee Reports

Legislative Subcommittee: Chris Lewis reported that the legislative subcommittee has met several times over the past few months to discuss strategies moving forward with regards to the Governor's budget proposal. Most recently the full membership of the CoA was invited to an open legislative subcommittee meeting on February 25th.

Redefining Retirement Years: Waldo reported that a workplace flexibility bill language submitted to GAE was raised by the committee. Deb reported that there will be a bill number in the next week which will likely be heard on March 23rd.

IV. Legislative Update

Deb Polun gave an update on the CoA's work. The CoA has testified on 35 bills in many different committees. Deb also reported that the CoA had its appropriations public hearing on February 11th and there will be a hearing on the Governor's bill to eliminate the Commission on March 15th. Deb also reported on the February deficit mitigation session and the federal stimulus package. There was a lengthy discussion among members about the session activities. Members asked questions and shared their thoughts and insight.

V. Executive Director's Report

Julie Evans Starr briefly reviewed the Executive Director's report that was included with the board meeting materials. Highlights of the report include:

- **Earth's Elders:** Rob Norton continues to do outreach and presentations to school systems across the state encouraging adoption of the EE curriculum. There will be a presentation on May 5th with the State Department of Education, the Capitol Region Education Council and their after-school programs regarding possible adoption of the curriculum.

- Elder Economic Security Initiative: Deb P reported that the CoA and PCSW released the EESI report and recommendations at three events over three days, a legislative breakfast (March 5), a stakeholder briefing (March 6) and a press conference in Norwalk (March 9).
- Media Outreach: Rob reported on media coverage over the last month. Most notably: Julie Evans Starr and Julie Robison from UConn Center on Aging appeared on NBC 30's Connecticut Newsmakers show with Tom Monahan on March 1st. Additionally, there was substantial coverage of the EESI event in Norwalk.
- The Commission had a display in the concourse February 16-27. The display highlighted the Commission's work and included 25 of the Earth's Elders images.

VI. **Old and New Business**

Pam Giannini reported that DSS is working on understanding the details of the various components of the economic stimulus package.

VII. **Adjourn**

Ray Guenter moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Penny Young. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.