

Minutes: CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON AGING

Friday, September 5, 2008

Greenridge Place

Rocky Hill, CT

In Attendance: Voting Members: Don Dimenstein, Bill Eddy, Sharon Gesek, Ray Guenter, Nancy Sullivan Hodkoski, Jerry Kerins, Mary Ellen Klinck, Waldo Klein, Chris Lewis, Dick Memmott, Jim Pellegrino, Gerd Weindling, Penny Young.

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

Absent: Voting Members: Judy Jencks, Pat Mayfield, Carol Tillman Parrish, Carolyn Thornberry. **Ex Officios:** Susan Deschamplain, Jennifer Glick, Debra Landry. **Staff:** Deb Migneault

I. Call the Meeting to Order

Chair, Chris Lewis, called the meeting to order at 10:15.

II. Approval of June 2008 Minutes

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

III. Subcommittee Reports

- Executive Committee: Chris Lewis reported that the Executive Committee had a joint retreat with the legislative subcommittee a few weeks ago, hosted by Ray Guenter. Chair Lewis also reported that the Executive Committee also conducted the Executive Director's performance evaluation.
- Municipal Outreach Committee: Penny indicated that the committee would appreciate input and requested that all comments from municipalities be sent to Deb M., who will compile and forward to Penny for review.

IV. Vote on Slate of Officers

Dick Memmott, elections officer, declared all CoA offices to be vacant and reminded members of the nominating committee's recommended slate. After no nominations from the floor were presented, he declared the nominations closed. All nominees declared that they would accept the nomination and the officers were elected by acclamation.

The officers are as follows: Christine Lewis - Chair, Waldo Klein - Vice-Chair, Don Dimenstein - Secretary, Bill Eddy - Treasurer, Mary Ellen Klinck - Member-at-Large.

V. Update from the Department of Developmental Services

- Siobhan Morgan provided an update on DDS activities, including Money Follows the Person, a caregiving training program on which DDS is collaborating with the North Central AAA and the Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI) study into aging and DDS.
- Staff will distribute the PRI study to members when it is available.

VI. Report of the Executive Director

The executive director provided an extensive written report covering the period from 6/13/08 - 9/5/08. The report was emailed to members. Some highlights of the discussion about the report:

- Julie recognized Nancy Hodkoski for her 25 years at the Torrington Senior Center and let the members know that Don Dimenstein was recently appointed Interim Director of Elderly Services in New Haven.
- Rob Norton provided an update on the CoA cable show that is being put together in conjunction with Nutmeg TV. Ray Guenter helped locate a producer and contacted a class at CCSU, which will help with the program.
- Rob also provided an update on Earth's Elders. He acknowledged the hard work of Gerard Kerins (Jerry's son) as the CoA intern this past summer. Rob has many meetings scheduled with superintendents across the state.
- A flyer about the Long-Term Care website will be included with state employee and retiree paychecks (approximately 80,000 people) this February.
- Deb P. provided an update on the Property Tax Forum (11/20) and discussed three other forums CoA is working to schedule: a post-election forum for early-mid November; a community forum in Simsbury for October; and a legislative briefing in January. Members are encouraged to generate ideas for another community forum site for April-May.
 - The update on the property tax forum generated a great deal of dialogue among the members.
- Deb P. provided a look ahead to the 2009 session, including a new Speaker of the House and House Majority Leader and many incoming freshmen legislators.
- Deb and Rob attended a press conference hosted by Representative Schofield about her "ConnPACE Plus" initiative. CoA representatives also attended a press conference hosted by Governor Rell and Senator Prague announcing that the State Department on Aging will be re-established on July 1, 2009.
 - Significant discussion followed regarding the status of the Department on Aging and the Commission's continued commitment to fulfill its unique role in helping to shape effective state structure.

VII. Old and New Business

Pam Giannini informed members about the Triad Conference being held 10/15 in Mystic on scams and ID Theft. Also, the Aging is Changing conference is 10/29. The Aging Services Division had a busy summer, applying for 5 federal grants. 109 senior centers and municipal agents applied for DSS grants; 38 contracts have been sent.

VIII. Adjourn

Waldo Klein made a motion to adjourn at 12:10 pm. The motion was seconded by Ray Guenter. Motion carried.