

## **Commission on Aging, Brookfield CT**

Regular Monthly Meeting: October 5, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Betsy McIlvaine, Chairman at 12:00 pm.

In attendance were: Commissioners Carol Howe and Peg Kaswer.

Others: Director of Senior and Social Services, Ellen Melville; and Municipal Agent & Social Services Coordinator, Jeanette Holliday.

September 7th minutes were accepted as written.

### **Regular Reports**

#### **Senior Center**

Ms. Melville reported due to economic conditions we may have a difficult time helping families in need. A Food Drive, including monetary contributions, will be held by the Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department November 12<sup>th</sup>. The Food Pantry supported 62 households in September. One hundred and twenty households are income eligible. The Brookfield Food Bank welcomes contributions.

The Senior Center will hold two Flu Shot Clinics: Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> last names beginning with A-L and Monday October 24<sup>th</sup> last names beginning with M-Z. Each Flu Shot Clinic will be held from 1-3 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Ms. Melville indicated that the Medicare Part D program schedule has been changed. Registration begins October 15 and ends December 7.

#### **Social Service**

Ms. Holliday reported total awards for the Rent Rebate Program for the elderly and disabled are still undecided.

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program for 2011-2012 will result in a 24% decrease in the maximum benefit available for a vulnerable household at 100% of poverty level. A non-vulnerable household at 200% of poverty level (no elderly or disabled) will have a 41% decrease.

Donations to Brookfield Social Services have decreased 15% over the past year making it more difficult to fill any gap created by the state/federal funding cuts. Efforts are being made to search for available GRANTS.

CL&P/Gas heat customers: 71% cut in basic benefit for a vulnerable household at 100% poverty level and 83% cut in basic benefit for a non-vulnerable household at 200% poverty level.

Holiday Programs are in process for Thanksgiving Baskets and Holiday Gift Giving. Contact Beth at the Senior Center to volunteer.

#### **Old Business**

##### **FISH Program:**

September requests were fewer in number for Wednesdays and Thursdays. Articles have been printed

in several papers. The Parks & Recreation Booklet printed information on FISH. To promote the program, Ms. Melville suggested a flyer be designed and posted locally. She will prepare the flyer for distribution by Ms. Howe and Ms. Kaswer. Ms. Kaswer presented a letter indicating Fish of Brookfield is currently seeking additional volunteer drivers as well as an Administrator to manage records. The committee reviewed the letter which will be e-mailed by Ms. Melville to possible candidates. The goal is to expand the program.

The FISH scheduler, Ms. Efrece, distributed the October calendar on the fifteenth of September as scheduled.

With regard to publicity and communication, Ms. Howe and Ms. Kaswer continue to distribute brochures and the client letter to numerous medical offices and churches.

The FISH interview taped for the Brookfield Public Advocate cable program on Channel 21 has yet to air. Mr. Siennick indicated he would inform Ms. Kaswer when it would air.

With regard to RSVP, sponsored by CACD, Ms. McIlvaine reported difficulty contacting them. Ms. Melville indicated administrative changes are in process. She will follow-up and keep the committee informed.

A contribution was received from a FISH client. Ms. McIlvaine will design the cover for a thank you card. Ms. Kaswer will send a thank you to the client.

#### **Facilities Planning Committee**

Ms. Howe has not been contacted. Ms. McIlvaine will forward what information she has to Ms. Howe.

#### **New Business:**

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peg Kaswer, Secretary