

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
May 4, 2011**

STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on May 4, 2011 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, R.J. Connelly, III, Karen Hawthorn, Betty Henry, Toni Potter, Lisa Ryan and Billie Ward. Also attending: Carol Umphlett Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services. Unable to attend: George Brennan, Stacy Cassata and Robert Elmer.

Guests: June Strunk, President of the PNC Board of Directors.

Late Arrival: Betty Croteau 4:29

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Ryan at 4:08 p.m.

Minutes from the April meeting were presented. Billie Ward requested change for available budget funds for April minutes to reflect \$3,118.17. Motion to accept minutes with change was made by Toni Potter. Seconded by R.J. Connelly. Motion Carried.

Financial Secretary's Report was presented by Billie Ward. There is \$\$2,720.91 available in the budget. Motion to accept report and place on file made by Toni Potter. Seconded by R.J. Connelly. Motion carried.

Carol Umphlett, Agent For the Elderly, Stonington Human Services presented the Department of Human Services programming report. On March 29th the Kids Care community service group of Pawcatuck Middle School went to Edythe K. Richmond for an intergenerational program where they played Bingo and an intergenerational 'get to know you' game. Kids Care will revisit Edythe K. again at the end of the Spring Kids Care session. Senior Lunch and Learn was very successful at Apple Rehab in Mystic. Seniors enjoyed a delicious lunch and listened to a presentation on 'Aging Safely'. The Senior Lunch and Learn Program at Enders Island was also successful. Fr. Frank gave a talk on "I Have Wisdom in My Years: I am No April Fool". The AARP Safe Driver Course was offered on March 16th and April 20th. Future Events: Renters Rebate begins on May 16; June 10th: Day trip to Wrentham Village 9 AM to 4:30 PM; August 12th: Trip to magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory in Deerfield, MA 8 AM to 4:30 PM; September 28th: Trip to GoodSpeed Opera House "City of Angels" 10:15 AM to 5 PM; October 21st: Tour Boston with a bus tour and three drop off locations of Quincy Market, Copely Plaza and the Museum of Fine

Arts; Knitting Group to begin in the Fall; planning a December trip to NYC for a show and lunch; Senior Lunch and a movie will begin in October and will occur on the 3rd Monday of each month from October – January. Participants will be invited to lunch at the Steak Loft and a classical movie will be offered at the Mystic Arts Cinema.

Carol also gave the following for contact report: Senior Programming: 64 Total Participants; Senior Recreation Programs 70 Contacts; ConnPace 16 contacts, Transportation: 25 contacts; Medical 39 contacts; Medicare 59 contacts; Renters Rebate 47 contacts, Energy Assistance 124 contacts; Senior Advocacy 22 contacts. Carol heard at the CHOICES training that ConnPace may be discontinued with the MSP (Medical Savings Plan) taking its place. MSP is a buy in program for those who are low income but not eligible for Title 19. The next open enrollment period for ConnPace is October 1 to December 7. Those already on ConnPace will be “grandfathered” in.

June Strunk gave a report on behalf of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. For the month of March 2011 80 seniors were served for a total of 858 one way rides. 66 riders from Pawcatuck; 5 from Stonington; 3 from Mystic; 4 from North Stonington; 7 from Westerly. 28 seniors had 207 one way trips for medical appointments; 28 seniors went to PNC Lunch and activities each week for 384 trips; 5 people transported for grocery shopping, banking and hair appointments for 90 one way trips and 5 people transported for various social activities for 22 rides.

During the months of February and March, 7 participants were added to the roster. Most will use the program for medical appointments and at least two are being transported regularly to the center for activities and lunch. The additional seniors who began using the transportation for grocery shopping during the snow months have continued to take advantage of the rides. Due to this increase the old bus is being used more than expected since the new bus was acquired.

PNC Activities: Morning Stretch, Line Dancing, Writing, Art, Wii Bowling, Tai Chi, Game Day and Friday Afternoon at The Movies. All activities doing very well.

PNC Congregate Lunch: 282 were served to 51 seniors. The lunch group is growing. Approximately 35 people order lunch on Wednesdays with several more bringing their own lunch and staying to play Bingo.

PNC Foot Clinic is continuing to see 6-7 patients per week.

New at the PNC: The VNA and UCONN School of Nursing Wellness Clinic began in mid February and runs once a month on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. The program is scheduled at the same time seniors are at the PNC for lunch, hoping to encourage them to utilize the health service. The clinic is available by appointment only, however, the only seniors to take advantage of it so far are from the lunch group. It is hoped that the word will spread into the community for other seniors to benefit.

Legislative:

Legislative Liaison Lisa Ryan reported that the CHCPE (Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders) may be raising their co-pay from 6% to 7 or 8%.

Correspondence: Letter from the Town of Stonington First Selectman's Office acknowledging Father Romanowski's resignation from the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Toni Potter to speak to Father Kevin at St. Patrick's about the clergy position open on the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS: Lisa Ryan reported that Edythe K. Richmond is applying for a grant to help with replacing roofs, kitchen cabinets, grab bars, etc. They John Petteplace requested letters of support for a grant which Lisa provided personally.

Betty Henry will inquire with the Town of Stonington to see if they have a grant writer.

Lisa also asked about including an article in the Stonington Human Services mailing of their Fall Programs. The article would cite options for alternative transportation for seniors who are no longer able to drive. Lisa will ask Beth Stewart about the possibility of including the article.

Motion to adjourn at 5:15 pm made by Billie Ward. Seconded by Toni Potter. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Hawthorn
Secretary