

**West Boylston Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 11, 2010**

**Call to Order:** Maureen Osthues called meeting to order at 6:00PM

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written; vote to accept was unanimous.

**Director's Report:** Marcia reports that Chairperson, Joanne Vaudreuil resigned from the Board on February 1, 2010 due to health problems. The Board wishes her well. Marcia reported on Managing for Results; transportation trips were down, due to weather cancellations from 407 scheduled to 376 actual trips. Marcia stated seniors cancel in bad weather, afraid of falls. Family assistance cases remain high at 14 this month. 450 seniors were served this month with a total of 1580 units of service. Meals served remain high at 770 in January.

Marcia passed out a report from Kopelman & Page, Town Counsel, which outlined Regionalization of Municipal Services, and laws that pertain to the same. Marcia asked for the Board to review the document and forward any questions, which she will forward to the Town Administrator.

Marcia reported there will be a H1N1 clinic held at the Senior Center on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by the Board of Health. This is open to everyone, regardless of age or place of residence. It will run from 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Marcia passed out email she received from Holden COA, outlining a new program called "House Call"; the program offers a catered lunch and a doctor who speaks on his area of expertise, followed by a question and answered session. Marcia will research this further, to see if we could accommodate this type of program here at the Senior Center.

Marcia discussed the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2011; this includes level funding for local aid. She also reviewed the Town Administrator expected revenue for FY2011. At this point, Marcia is hoping for level funding in FY2011 for the Senior Center. The Town is looking for a senior to be a part of the Cable Advisory Comm., who will be a part of upcoming negotiations for a new contract with Charter.

Marcia proposed an idea of asking the Town Administrator and Selectmen to use money from the WRTA to hire a part time dispatcher. This person would be responsible for making appointments for the van, as well as telephone answering, and other duties. Marcia will discuss this with Leon and get back to the Board next month.

**New Business:** Marcia brought up email for the Town Administrator, Mr. Gaumond, asking the Board to review and make changes to the current Master Plan and update as needed. Suggestion was made to change write to read The COA is located at 127 Hartwell St., along with the other Town Offices, and provides a variety of programs for citizen's 59 or older. These programs include van transportation, daily congregate program, Meals on Wheels program, educational and wellness programs, many instructional programs, and other social and recreational programs. The Senior Center also provides assistance with applications for Food Stamps, Fuel Assistance, Prescription Advantage, Social Security Extra Help, Safelink Telephones, as well as assistance through the SHINE program to help with insurance issues. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept this for the updated master Plan. A motion was made and seconded to update the COA Goals as follows;

**Continue to expand services to meet the needs of the growing senior population.**

**Increase educational and wellness programs**

**Continue to expand the outreach program**

**Bring seniors together as one to create and plan a new Senior Center**

**Educate seniors on benefits and programs available to them**

**Increase participation in the congregate meal program**

**Increase senior awareness of local programs and services available**

**Continue to explore shared services within the community and beyond.**

**The motion was passed unanimously.**

Janice Ash brought up complaints of the smell of body odor in the area of the Senior Center in the afternoons while and after seniors are playing cards and Bingo. Marcia reported she has notice the odor as well, and had purchase Febreze/ air to try and combat the odor. Janice wondered if letter should be sent to all participants; after much discussion, it was decided letters could offend people, so they will not be sent. Marcia suggested she contact the MCOA web site, and put the question out to other COA's, who may have come upon poor hygiene in the past and ask how they handled it. Also, if this is not successful, Marcia will speak to the family members of the participants.

**Old Business:** The draft of the goals was discussed, with one change made on #4B. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2010 goals with the suggested change, approved unanimously.

The by-laws were passed out at last month's meeting and Board was asked to review them.

The only suggested change was to change to address of the COA/Senior Center. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the By-laws with the address change.

Next Meeting will be on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00PM

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM

