

Meeting Minutes
Town of Easton, Connecticut
Commission for the Aging
Monthly Meeting
Monday, May 7, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM. Present were: Linda Dollard, Anne Hughes, Phyllis Machledt, Karen Martin, Melinda O'Brien, Lisa Tasi and Eileen Zimmerman / Municipal Agent – Senior Services.

A welcome was given to Melinda O'Brien, new CFA member.

1. Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the April 2, 2018 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the members on a motion by Karen Martin and Phyllis Machledt.

2. Unfinished Business

A. MCF Fund

No updated activities were noted. The monthly report is generated by the Town Finance Director, Christine Calvert.

B. Other

No other updates

3. New Business:

A. Municipal Agent's Report – Eileen Zimmerman

The bereavement endeavor, "Healing The Heart Workshop", has been nicely received over the past several weeks. Information was shared with local groups to promote the activity. Eileen is considering having another session in the fall. Eileen is working with Salvation Army on efforts to find out more about funds that can assist those in need. She has attended talks on counterfeit drugs, hoarding disorders and preplanning funeral preparations. She is working with Pam Healy as well as Kay Oestreicher with senior outreach. Eileen will be attending a Municipal Agent Meeting as well as a CHOICES meeting and training; and a meeting with the Veterans' assistance group.

B. Discussion & Planning on Proposed Projects Programs Presentations for 2018

With CFA member discussion, Eileen is planning to reconfigure a panel presentation in early fall. The topics need to be timely and important for senior safety and information. The important subject matter should address safety, elder care, hoarding, Rx Prescriptions, and have participation from local law enforcement (police and fire). Information from other recent CFA meetings and events which Eileen has attended will be reviewed for the format. Members will discuss to formulate event for organizing and setting an early fall date.

C. SWCCA Report

Phyllis Machledt, SWCCA representative, updated members that the SWCCA is monitoring the status of the MSP. The effective date of any Medicare Savings Program eligibility changes has been extended to July 1, 2018 in Connecticut.

<http://portal.ct.gov/dss/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicare-Savings-Program/Medicare-Savings-Program>

Bridgeport Manor, a specialized living community in Bridgeport, is closing and will be displacing its residents. Some may not be able to find housing due to their financial limitations.

Phyllis has asked that Eileen Zimmermann attend the monthly SWCCA meetings when she cannot attend. Meetings are held monthly at 9:30 AM on Wednesdays.

The General Assembly voted Wednesday to approve a contract that will raise wages, provide workers' compensation and increase holiday pay for thousands of private-sector, personal-care assistants who are directly employed by their elderly and disabled clients, but paid through state and federal programs. The House voted 127 to 16 for final passage of the contract negotiated on behalf of the workers by the New England Health Care Employees Union, District 1199, with a PCA Workforce Council created under legislation passed in 2012 with the support of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy. The Senate vote was 32-0.
<https://ctmirror.org/2018/03/21/general-assembly-approves-raises-home-care-workers/>

Phyllis mentioned there is another scam aimed at vulnerable seniors.

Phyllis also advised that SWCCA has a "Senior Housing Assistant Fund" which allows up to \$1K Loan (without interest) in emergency funding to address issues.

D. Other new items

Lisa shared two information pieces on Signs of Stroke and the CMS information on the Transition for the new Medicare numbers and cards. Eileen will use this information to share with seniors.

Stroke Education is important and the quick signs to remember is the word FAST – "Face is uneven, Arm is weak, Speech is Strange (slurred), and Time is urgent to call for help".

Social Security numbers will be removed from all Medicare cards by April 2019. The "MBI" (Medicare Beneficiary Identifier) rollout is currently in progress. Connecticut residents who are Medicare eligible will receive their new cards in the mail on a random rollout after June 2018.

E. Other Updates

None

F. Open Discussion

Currently there are no emergency situations with any seniors. Eileen is continuing with outreach and education.

4. Next Meeting

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, June 4th, 2018 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the ESC. The agenda will be forwarded to the Town Clerk for Proper Posting.

5. Adjourn

Melinda O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen Martin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:35 PM.

Submitted by,
Commission for the Aging
L Tasi