

Meeting Minutes

Commission for the Aging Town of Easton, CT

Monthly Meeting – Monday, October 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 PM. Present were Karen Martin, Phyllis Machledt, Anne Hughes, Lisa Tasi and Alison Witherbee / Municipal Agent for the Aging and Social Services Director. Linda Dollard was not present.

1. Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the September 3, 2019 monthly meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the members present on a motion by Anne Hughes and Karen Martin.

2. Ongoing Business

A. MCS Report

No update at this meeting.

B. Project 2019

Lisa is in contact with business school for assistance in the redux of the responses from the 2019 Survey.

3. New Business

A. Municipal Agent Update

During the month of September, there was a presentation on Sepsis given by the Center for Patient Safety, which was well received as it is an interesting topic pertaining to health and illness. Alison is planning future events to address timely topics with regards to seniors and their safety. She will coordinate along with the EMS department and first responders. Recently, Alison has been in contact with her counterpart in Redding, CT – to share information and learning. She has also met with the Easton Lions Club and is reestablishing network with local groups to discuss senior and social needs and outreach. The "Library To Go" program, aligned with the Easton Library, was just launched. It will provide library service to Alison's segment of population that cannot get to the library. Seasonal planning for upcoming holidays and outreach is underway for those who are homebound. Alison, with the assistance of State Senator Tony Hwang (R), contacted Collins Medical Equipment to purchase 3 transport chairs to loan out for use by Easton Seniors. The Medicare Open Enrollment is scheduled for October 22nd and another presentation on Medication (safety and proper disposal of unused prescriptions) will take place on October 25th. The CFA will be providing breakfast items for that morning.

B. SWCCA Report

Phyllis Machledt provided on update on SWCCA (<https://www.swcaa.org>)

SWCCA just had a meeting on September 11th. The number of monthly meetings, occurring on Wednesdays, will now be 8 per year. Alison will be attending her SWCCA Advisory Board orientation on October 24th. SWCCA provides news updates for state and federal

D. Other Updates

E. Open Discussion

Discussion took place on the minimum wage for Home Health Aides. The average salary is \$12.60/hr. in Connecticut, based on companies in Connecticut. Connecticut does not require more than the minimum federal training standards to be employed as a home health aide (HHA) by a Medicare-certified home health agency. Skilled Care is provided by Medicare certified home health agencies, and Non-medical care is provided by CT licensed home care agencies. <https://www.carepathways.com/HC-state-CT.cfm> Also noted was a recent study in CT that over the next 20 years there will be an increase in demand for long-term care in the home, while a reduction in the nursing-home care sector. <https://www.ctinsider.com/local/ctpost/article/Study-CT-home-health-care-demand-to-climb-14284735.php>

Discussion continued to the topic of the 2020 census - upcoming next year - and how the data collected from respondents provide the basis for federal funding formulas for a variety of programs that support local government operations including education, but also important, programs that are for the senior population. <https://portal.ct.gov/census>

4. Next Meeting

The Commission's next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, November 4, 2019 at the ESC from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Agenda will be forwarded to the Town Clerk for proper posting.

5. Adjourn

Ann Hughes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phyllis Machledt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:25 PM.

Submitted by,
Commission for the Aging
L. Tasi