

Meeting Minutes  
Town of Easton, Connecticut  
Commission for the Aging  
Monthly Meeting  
Monday, April 2, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 PM. Present were: Linda Dollard, Anne Hughes, Phyllis Machledt, Karen Martin, Lisa Tasi and Eileen Zimmerman / Municipal Agent – Senior Services.

A welcome was given to Anne Hughes, new CFA member. Another new member is scheduled to join the CFA at its May meeting, pending Board of Selectman approval.

1. Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March 5, 2018 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the members via a motion by Karen Martin and Linda Dollard.

2. Unfinished Business

A. MCF Fund

The monthly report, received from Town Finance Director, Christine Calvert, was reviewed.

B. Other

Medicare Savings Program

The State of Connecticut offers financial assistance to eligible Medicare enrollees through the 'Medicare Savings Programs.' These programs may help pay Medicare Part B premiums, deductibles and co-insurance. Enrollees can qualify for one of three Medicare Savings Programs (depending on income), DSS will pay for Medicare Part B premium each month. In addition, some enrollees will be covered for Medicare deductibles and co-insurance. The State of CT Medicare Savings Programs are funded by Medicaid. As updated in February 2018, the effective date of any Medicare Savings Program eligibility change is extended to at least July 1, 2018, as a result of Governor Malloy's direction to the Department of Social Services; and the General Assembly's passage of Public Act 17-1, January 2018 Special Session. <http://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicare-Savings-Program/Medicare-Savings-Program>

3. New Business

A. Municipal Agent' Report – Eileen Zimmerman

Eileen is working with ABCD, local oil companies and the Salvation Army Fund to help those eligible with assistance in paying their winter heating bills. The recent weather during the month of March has spurred increase for fuel assistance and / or authorization for emergency oil fills. She has been proactively calling some people who may need emergency fills as they are not on an automatic refill list or they wait until the last minute to order. Eileen and Pam Healy, in tandem with the Easton Senior Center, made pre-storm calls to seniors for outreach and preparedness. During March, a Teen Tech event was held at the library to assist seniors with electronic use of computers. A CHOICES counselor was available for individual appointments to discuss Medicare questions. Eileen also attended a Mental Health Network Breakfast at the Fairfield Senior Center with main topic on individuals who have been traumatized.

Eileen will be attending various meetings in the coming months - SWCCA (for Medicare Patrol), Salvation Army, Hoarding Disorders, Narcan training, Behavioral Health Subcommittee and CHOICES

Counselor Training, CAPE conference on Elder Abuse and Opioid Abuse. A panel discussion, originally scheduled for April 29 at the Library, was cancelled as it is being retooled for another format.

#### B. Discussion / Planning of Upcoming Events

Eileen will be holding the "My Healing – The Heart Bereavement Group" along with Margaret McVey for 5 consecutive Thursdays. The session will start on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Eileen plans to hold an event for Seniors in the fall. It would be a new version of the earlier planned April 29<sup>th</sup> event. As there were many topics – elder care law, home care, assisted living, rehab and hospice – she will reshape the presentation to better meet the responses of seniors.

Eileen will use some of the topics from the upcoming meetings she is attending to apply for future events and presentations.

#### C. SWCCA Report

Phyllis Machledt, SWCCA representative, talked about the latest scams being perpetrated on Seniors. Since the Stamford / Norwalk transit line budget has been cut back, suburban transit will be problematic for those relying on this transportation. SWCCA is in process for Grant Applications 2018 as it awards grants and contracts to community agencies to provide supportive services for community adults aged 60 and older through an annual Request for Proposals process. The funded programs provide supportive services to persons aged 60 and older. Priority is given to programs that can assist economically and socially disadvantaged seniors.

#### D. Other New Items

None

#### E. Other updates from CFA Members

New member Anne Hughes spoke about her work in advocacy and education with Jewish Senior Services as a Coordinator, Care Manager / Institute on Aging Center for Elder Abuse Prevention.

#### F. Open Discussion

Members discussed the topic of Advanced Care Directives and how to successfully initiate the planning discussions with senior individuals and their families. Downsizing from a large family home can also be difficult for seniors facing a move to an assisted living environment. The downsizing can be particularly wrenching for the elderly, who may find it overwhelming to think about letting go of the items they've gathered over a lifetime, that create clutter (and possible nature of hoarding).

#### 4. Next Meeting

The Commission next meeting will be held on Monday, May 7, 2018 at 5:00 PM at the ESC. The agenda will be forwarded to the Town Clerk for proper posting.

#### 5. Adjourn

Karen Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda Dollard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:31 PM.

Submitted by ,

L Tasi /Commission for the Aging