

Meeting Minutes

Commission for the Aging Town of Easton, CT

Monthly Meeting – Monday, April 1, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM. Present were Linda Dollard, Phyllis Machledt, Karen Martin, Melinda O'Brien, Lisa Tasi and new Alternate Member Nanette Dewester. Member Anne Hughes was not present at the business portion of the meeting but attended at its conclusion.

A welcome was made to new Alternate Member and introductions were made. There was no meeting in March due to the wintry weather and cancellations.

1. Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the February 4, 2019 monthly meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the members present on a motion by Phyllis Machledt and Karen Martin.

2. Ongoing Business

A. MCS Report

No update at this meeting.

B. Budget and CFA information

The 2019 Budget was reviewed and signed off by Chair and Town Hall. There is a newer budget in process with regards to the combining of the part time positions (see below) and final information will be forwarded. The 2019 CFA and MA Reports were submitted for inclusion in the 2019 Town Report.

3. New Business

A. Municipal Agent Update

During February, the CFA members discussed the potential of re-aligning the current part time positions of Municipal Agent / Social Services Director and Outreach Worker. This information was then presented to the Board of Selectmen for their review and final approval. At the March 7th Board of Selectmen meeting, it was determined to combine all positions and create full time position. The employment opportunity was posted on March 12, 2019 by the Human Resources Compensation Coordinator / Town of Easton, CT.

Phyllis Machledt is participating in the interview process of the candidates with final selection per position qualifications and HR employment protocol.

B. Discussion on Programs

Lisa Tasi updated members on the 2019 Project. It is awaiting on a line item in the updated budget to allow for expenditures for printing and mailing.

C. SWCCA Report

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

There is a plan to have a conference devoted to "Elder Abuse". This would involve caregivers, providers and other guest speakers. The 2018 Grant recipients are being evaluated. The 2019 Grant application process will start soon. CHOICES 2019 New Counselor Training is in progress. The orientation was on March 21st, with training being held on April 2, 4, 9 and 11 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

<https://www.swcaa.org/event/choices-2019-new-counselor-training/> CHOICES volunteers become certified to assist Medicare beneficiaries with education and information.

D. Other Updates

Medicare Savings Program / Connecticut

The 2019 State of CT Budget is still in flux. The Medicare Savings program gives qualified low-income and disabled Medicare recipients some of the benefits of the Medicaid program, a joint federal-state health plan for the poor. Currently, those 65 and older who earn \$2,196 or less a month are eligible for the program, as are couples who earn \$2,973 a month or less.

Governor Ned Lamont proposes to implement an asset test for the Medicare Savings program, which assists approximately 180,000 other older, low-income seniors in Connecticut pay for services Medicare doesn't. The Lamont administration believes implementing the asset test on these seniors, effective July 2020, will take about 18,000 of them off the Medicare Savings rolls and save the state about \$25.6 million.

<https://www.ctpost.com/local/article/CT-seniors-health-program-again-a-target-of-13705681.php>

E. Open Discussion

CFA members discussed how information is shared and provided from the State of Connecticut to the local towns (such as financial departments, Tax Relief), with respect to resident seniors and the potential cut to Medicare Savings Program. State Representative and CFA member Anne Hughes is keeping CFA updated.

CFA members discussed outgoing MA/SS and OW personnel. Any elderly situations that require attention are currently being directed to the ESC.

4. Next Meeting

The Commission's next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, May 6, 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

Melinda O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen Martin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:05 PM.

Submitted by,

Commission for the Aging

L. Tasi