

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

CORRECTED MINUTES – AMENDMENTED COA INITIATIVES

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino; Alice Egan, Howard Florian, Marlene Hoginski, Priscilla Linehan, Tim Slade and Will St. George.

Absent (Excused): Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison; Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison; David Goyette; Mary Ann Harris, Mary Keller, Senior Center Manager and Kay Tallarita.

Guest: Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Belle Cyr, Prevention Coordinator and Bill Kiner.

I. Welcome

In David Goyette's absence, Tim Slade opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Tim thanked Cindy Guerreri for arranging for the use of the DSS conference room for our meeting today. He introduced guest, Bill Kiner who will be assisting with the Symposium preparations. Cindy Guerreri commented that this conference room is being outfitted with a kitchen for the convenience of meetings and introduced guest Belle Cyr, Prevention Coordinator in the Suicide/Drug Office of DSS. Belle explained her role at DSS.

II. Secretary's Report:

Tim Slade asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; with none noted, Will St. George made a motion to accept them as presented and Marlene Hoginski seconded the motion. Through a show of hands, all were in favor and the motion passed (08,03,0).

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade commented that the numbers from the FY2021-2022 Financial Report for February 2022 look good. The document does not reflect the Verizon phone charges for the month which have been delayed. With no corrections needed Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept the report as presented and Howard Florian seconded the motion. The motion passed (08,00,0) through a show of hands.

IV. Committee Reports

A. SMHR - Senior Minor Home Repair Program

Tim Slade said that he wished to thank all those involved in announcing the resumption of the SMHR program on April 5th including Mary Keller, Cindy Guerreri and Melissa Torres-Newman of DSS and Heather McCarthy at Town Hall. Program information has been published on the Town and DSS websites and in the Journal Inquirer. He stated that the growth of this program has increased immensely and that it appears to be the only program of its kind in the entire state. Two new volunteers have been added to the program to bring the total to 8 volunteers. Tim reported that Dave Goyette would like to see Tim discontinue helping with repairs and assume a more coordination role, Tim said that he will do so, but is also available to help if needed. Appointments will begin to be scheduled on March 14th. Tim also wished to extend appreciation to Cindy Guerreri and her team for their assistance in scheduling appointments and tracking for this program and to the Town Council for their support with a budget.

B. Symposium

Pat Linehan reported that volunteers just met today for the first organizational meeting and she welcomed Bill Kiner who will be joining the volunteers in planning for the symposium. She announced that she will continue to try to expand to members of the community. The next meeting will be held on April 13th at 1:00 p.m.

C. Senior Living TV Program

Tim Slade reported that Mary Ann Harris, the AARP Tax-Aide/Vita site coordinator, will be the recorded guest at the end of March, who will discuss the free tax preparation programs for seniors. There had been a possibility of interviewing Dr. Meaghan McCusker about the dermatology needs of seniors for April, however, Dr. McCusker cannot participate at this time. Tim indicated that the COX studios will be reopening soon and in preparation, he has polled all previous volunteers regarding their interest in continuing to participate. He will contact the volunteers again for their continued interest in returning and for retraining.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

In Kay Tallarita's absence, Cindy Guerreri reported that resource playgroups and meetings have resumed again in person.

E. Triad

Marlene Hoginski explained that the Triad group has been contacted by UCONN Health regarding their interest in reestablishing on-site presentations concerning the Connecticut Poison Control Center (see Attachment). She mentioned that she will be working with Mary Keller to arrange for a future evening presentation on a Wednesday or Thursday evening at the Senior Center. This program may be able to be coordinated with the Unplugged Enfield DSS initiative being planned for May. Marlene also reported that a Fireman Picnic is being planned for September and that a fire prevention and pancake breakfast is being planned for October. She noted that no information has been received from the Police Department concerning a picnic in June. Marlene mentioned that additional File of Life magnets will need to be ordered for these upcoming events.

F. Choices

Will St. George thanked the Commission for its purchase of a new monitor and lease of a phone for the Choices program. He said both are working out well and are beneficial to the clients. Will explained that he has been counseling clients who are turning 65, are over 65 and still working, and those who may lose coverage on Access because of Medicare. He noted that he has been meeting with those ready to retire on Monday evenings and others on Friday mornings at the Senior Center. Cindy Guerreri thanked Will for his willingness to continue providing Choices counseling for some cases with complicated issues in the absence of the Elderly Services Care Coordinator.

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

Cindy Guerreri reported that the Elderly Services Care Coordinator position has been filled by Justin Lopez who starts on March 21st. Justin, who is well qualified, will be a great addition to DSS and will attend these meetings, resume Choices counseling, monitor the NCAA grant and will become a gatekeeper with community members to raise awareness and identify seniors who are struggling or are isolated, and provide education across the community.

B. Senior Groups

- Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that this group has not met since November, but will hold a meeting tomorrow. The group will discuss funding for the following initiatives: Bocce Ball Court build and a Senior Center Volunteer Recognition dinner. The Friends will also be providing refreshments for the UCONN Poison Center event.

C. Senior Center Focus

In Mary Keller's absence, Tim reported that there are more fun activities such as trips being added in an effort to get back to a more normal. Also, attendance counts have increased to about 300 per day.

VI. New Business

Unplugged Enfield

Guest, Belle Cyr spoke about events for National Prevention Week which focuses on mental health and substance abuse using an intergenerational approach. A marketing firm will be monitoring the events across the town for two weeks in May (May 8-14). Each day an event will be planned that focuses on matters relating to these issues and the approach will be away from negativity. The program will be called Unplugged Enfield. Kite will be holding events for a family-based night. The Commission is invited to sponsor an event perhaps like Misuse of Medications which would also coordinate to the UCONN Poison Center event being sponsored by Triad. Cindy Guerreri noted that she will be reaching out to the Library to promote this week. Howard commented that this could perhaps be related to the Fall symposium. Belle, who is a coordinator for the Enfield Together Coalition, offered to partner for the symposium since she oversees youth programs which may offer an opportunity to build connection between generations. Belle offered her phone number – 860-253-6382 and email gcyr@enfield.gov. She also mentioned that maybe a grandparent/child event can be planned to include the Grandparents Raising Children group. Tim asked how will the success of Unplugged Enfield be measured. Cindy replied that the marketing firm has a data driven approach of utilizing social media to collect data that can be filtered. At a minimum what can be achieved is awareness of the ability to connect to services in town.

COA Initiatives for 2022 Community Builder

In Dave Goyette's absence, Tim Slade recommended that the initiatives listed below be discussed at the April meeting. Listed below are some of the suggestions:

- a) **Inventory of Technology for Seniors – Will St. George**
- b) Expansion of the Grandparents Program – Mike Arnone
- c) Help in the Winter Months with Snow Removal – Dave Goyette
- d) Research Dementia Friendly Community – Mike Arnone
- e) Care Givers Program – Mike Arnone
- f) Build Community at Large: more than 1 on 1 with more eyes and ears on the ground – Cindy Guerreri
- g) **Show what COA and Community Partners do – Will St. George.**

VII. Announcements

None

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Will St. George and seconded by Alice Egan. It passed unanimously. Tim Slade adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the DSS Alcorn School.

Respectfully Submitted by Pauline Devino, Secretary

Cc:

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Town Manager

Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison

Cindy Guerreri, Staff Liaison & Director of Social Services

Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager

Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison

Addendum

