

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS  
Minutes of September 28, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom; Meg Coffin; Tom Cullinane; Matthew Fonseca; Chris Evans; Ursula Hanus; Paul Johnson; Elizabeth Nguyen; Gail Schuyler; Steven Smajkiewicz

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Sandra Bisson; Victor Ortiz; Robin Bahr Casey, Chair; Elaine Wrubel

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek-Moore; Lauren St. Pierre, intern

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Theresa Eckstrom. She reported that Robin's term on the Commission is over in October and the City Manager will appoint a new Chairperson. Also she reported that Steve's term is over in October. A moment of silence was held for Gail Smith who recently passed away. The Commission minutes of June 22, 2015 were approved. m/s/a unanimous. The Reports of the Senior Center Committee held on July 14 and Sept. 8, 2015 were approved. m/s/a unanimous. After discussion, and explanations by Theresa and Meg, the Commission voted to sign onto the attached letter being sent to Governor Baker and others, concerning Conflict Free Case Managers. m/s/a unanimous

Amy introduced Lauren St. Pierre, an MSW intern from Boston College who will be with Elder Affairs for two semesters. Amy then highlighted the goals and objectives update including: a slight increase in FY 16 tax levy; the State COA budget has been increased from \$8/per elder to \$9/per elder; the CMAA Title IIID funding for osteoporosis prevention program has also been increased over last year; work continues on the Prevention Wellness Trust Fund implementation; in FY 15 there was a more than 3% expansion in different programs provided; the Senior Center has a new security system in place; and the parking lot lease has been extended. Amy also announced that today is the first day of work for the new Commissioner of Health & Human Services, Dr. Mattie Castile, and divisions that will report to her are Elder Affairs, DPH, Veterans Services, Human Rights, Disabilities and the Status of Women. Tom suggested she be invited to a future Commission meeting. Paul requested and received clarification on funding contingency plans. Tom noted that we may want to consider increasing staff and hours of operations when feasible.

Patty reported on programs held over the summer, visits from City Council & School Committee candidates, a successful Walking Club trip to Broadmeadow Brook which had many collaborators; the many upcoming health programs to be held at the Center, as well as the November programs planned. She also reported on the Worcester State University nursing students holding blood pressure and informational clinics at the Center. There was discussion on the various interns who worked over the summer, from high school age to graduate school students. Patty discussed grounds and building issues and noted that new furniture is being purchased for the lobby using the donation from Rep. Binienda's estate.

Linda reported on the new Matter of Balance program for Vietnamese speakers, as well as other ongoing Prevention Wellness Trust Fund and evidence based programs. She also noted that nursing students will staff the Healthy Living Support Group which will be starting this fall; Approx. 30 Buhtanese elders have expressed interest in meeting regularly at the Senior Center and we are working with them and Ascentria on this; and we are helping seniors prepare for the Health Insurance Open Enrollment for Medicare recipients starts in October.

Amy announced that the Friends will be having their Annual Meeting this week. The next meeting was confirmed for Oct. 26, 2015 at 4:00.m. The meeting adjourned. m/s/a

September \_\_\_, 2015

Governor Charlie Baker  
State House, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Speaker Robert DeLeo  
State House, Room 356  
Boston, MA 02133

President Stan Rosenberg  
State House, Room 332  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker, Speaker DeLeo, and President Rosenberg,

MassHealth is currently engaged in an important effort to design a managed care model that will result in a plan that could ultimately integrate health care with behavioral health and long term services and supports (LTSS), controlled by large provider networks called Accountable Care Organizations.

The LTSS goal of this reform should be to guarantee that all MassHealth members are able to live at their highest level of functioning possible, in the least restrictive setting possible. We believe an integrated, person-centered care plan must balance medical care with non-medical functional supports for the elderly, and individuals with disabilities.

Massachusetts is currently running two major managed care initiatives for 55,000 individuals on Medicare and Medicaid. The Senior Care Organizations and the One Care plans both have one feature in common when it comes to LTSS: the statutory inclusion of an independent, conflict-free care coordinator on the member's care team. This "agent" for the member serves several key functions:

- Determine the necessary level of LTSS to be provided
- Prevent the provision of unnecessary or inappropriate care
- Establish a written individualized care plan

(CFR Title 42, Chapter IV, Subchapter C, Part 441, Subpart M, s.441.720)

This important consumer protection is defined in the Affordable Care Act, and is part of the regulatory framework that CMS has created for home and community based services. It builds a firewall between the person who helps assess your needs, and the person who provides your care. The Commonwealth has already agreed to accept independent, conflict-free care coordination in return for \$135 million in federal Balancing Incentive Payments funding.

Whatever plan emerges from the MassHealth reform discussions, we urge you to guarantee that all managed care organizations covering LTSS provide as a standard benefit for their members access to independent conflict-free care coordination.

Signed

Dan O'Leary  
Mass Home Care &  
Mystic Valley Elder Services

Michael E. Festa  
AARP Massachusetts

Dennis G. Heaphy, Bill Henning  
Disability Advocates Advancing  
Our Healthcare Rights (DAAHR)

Barbara Mann  
Mass Senior Action Council

Chet Jakubiak  
Mass. Association of Older Americans

David P. Stevens  
Mass Councils on Aging

Larry Spencer  
Cerebral Palsy of Massachusetts, Inc.

Lisa Gurgone  
Home Care Aide Council

Linda Andrade  
Massachusetts Council for Adult Foster Care

Diana DiGiorgi  
Old Colony Elder Services

Lou Swan  
Elder Services of Worcester Area

Gregory Giuliano  
Montachusett Home Care Corporation

John O'Neill  
Somerville Cambridge  
Elder Services

Irene M. O'Brien  
North Andover Senior Center

Paula Shiner  
Coastline Elder Services

Jennifer Claro  
Westfield Council On Aging

John Lutz  
Elder Services of Berkshire County

Roseann Robillard  
Newburyport Council On Aging

Priscilla Chalmers  
WestMass ElderCare

Roseann Martoccia  
Franklin County Home Care

Vin Marinaro  
Pittsfield Council on Aging

Lynne Stanton  
Groveland Council On Aging

Leslie Scheer  
Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands

Robert Schaeffer  
Multicultural Home Care

Scott M. Trenti  
SeniorCare Inc

Dale Mitchell  
Ethos

Jennifer Goewey,  
Sheffield Senior Center & Council on Aging

Rosaleen Doherty  
Right at Home Boston and North

Nancy Munson  
Bristol Elder Services

Annmary Connor  
Amesbury Council on Aging

Rosanne DiStefano  
Elder Services of Merrimack Valley

Donna M. Bys  
Professional Medical Services, Inc.

Foluso Olubanjo  
Seraphic Springs Health Care

Jonathan Morin  
Intercity Home Care

Lorna Gayle  
Lanesborough Council on Aging

Joan Butler  
Minuteman Senior Services

Mary Jean McDermott  
HESSCO

Ruth Beckerman-Rodau  
Springwell

David Hedison  
Chelmsford Housing Authority

Sharon Lally  
Rochester Council on Aging

Susan Schwager  
Marion Council on Aging

Anne Sylvia  
Fairhaven Council on Aging

Janice Long  
Hudson Council on Aging

Marilyn L. Travinski  
Tri Valley, Inc.

Elaine Massery  
Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc.

Sandra Lindsey  
South Shore Elder Services

Joanne Walsh  
Home Staff

Trish Pope  
Marlborough Council on Aging

Nancy Fillers  
Montachusett Opportunity Council/Nutrition

Sandra Lamb  
North Adams Council on Aging

Raphael Bibiu  
Ace Medical Services

Christine Alessandro  
Baypath Elder Services

Catherine Hardaway  
Central Boston Elder Services

Susan Doherty  
Lunenburg Council on Aging

Dianna Morrison  
Baldwinville Council on Aging

Tim Riley  
Action, Inc.

Harriet Klayman  
The Highlands Adult Day Health

Margaret M. Hogan  
Boston Senior Home Care

Marge McDonald  
Burlington Council on Aging

Deborah Thompson  
Harvard Council on Aging

Rev Robert Stetson  
Littleton Council on Aging

Report to the Commission on Elder Affairs  
Senior Center Committee July 14, 2015

Present: Robin Bahr Casey, Gail Schuyler, Chris Evans, Amy Waters  
Absent: Theresa Eckstrom, Tom Cullinane, Patty Hainsworth

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The minutes of the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. (m/s/a). It was decided that there would be no regular meeting in August and that the next Committee meeting would be Tuesday September 8, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Finances: Amy reported on the following- The legislature has recommended the increase in state COA funding, but it still must be approved by the Governor; The year 2 budget process for the DPH Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund falls prevention grant has begun; CMAA has awarded \$11,017 in Title IID funding for the osteoporosis prevention program==this is an increase of \$3,280; and FY'16 tax levy/coa allocations are in the contracting process per the June Commission vote.

The committee, which was given the authority to make these allocation decisions on behalf of the full Commission on Elder Affairs (6/22/15 meeting), carefully reviewed and discussed proposals for increased funding from Centro and Ascentria. The increases would be in addition to what was approved by the Committee and Commission at their meetings in June 2015.

It was decided that contingent upon availability, funding would be awarded to the Centro Latino Elder Program for their proposed transportation line item, however the costly food and entertainment proposed would not be supported. Regarding the proposal from Ascentria for the New American Elder Outreach Program, it was decided that there is a clear need for increased support, especially to assist the Bhutanese elder refugees, and that an allocation would be made urging Ascentria to add hours to a Nepali (Bhutanese) speaking staff person instead of relying upon an interpreter.

The following increased allocations were approved contingent upon the final approval of the \$9/elder coa formula allocation from the state:

Centro \$ 1,600 increase for a total of \$14,410  
Ascentria \$10,000 increase for a total of \$15,460

It was decided that should the formula grant remain at \$8/elder, the increased allocations would be reduced to:

Centro \$ 800 increase for a total of \$13,610  
Ascentria \$ 5,000 increase for a total of \$10,460 (m/s/a)

Amy reported that the rental fee for Quinsigamond Community College has been increased within the committee's recommended range, and that the Alzheimer's Association has given notice that they intend to leave for larger quarters by the end of October 2015. The Committee discussed options for utilizing the space which will be coming available including the possibility of using it for program space expansion and perhaps re-locating the clinic to be more accessible to the main elevator. The Committee agreed that Amy seek the City Administration's input regarding moving the clinic. A current tenant has also expressed interest in expansion and will be offered space.

Operations: Amy reported that we expect the grant funded part-time PWTF falls prevention assistant to start on July 20<sup>th</sup>. She also noted that the "Friends" will be replacing the 10 foot screen in the lunchroom as the motor no longer works.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. (m/s/a)

Report to Commission on Elder Affairs  
Senior Center Committee Meeting September 8, 2015

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Theresa Eckstrom, Tom Cullinane, Gail Gail Schuyler, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters  
Absent: Chris Evans

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The minutes of July 14, 2015 were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday Oct. 13, 4:00 pm.

Finances: Amy reported on and the committee discussed the following: FY'15 accounting is wrapped up; FY'16 tax levy is stable; State approved \$9/elder for COA Formula Grant so the Ascentria and Centro contract increases were awarded as planned; As there still remains over \$30,000 in contingency, the Committee entertained a request from the Elder Services Nutrition Program and approved a one-time allocation of \$4,815 (m/s/a); The PWTF WDPH Year 2 contract is expected to be awarded to the Senior Center for 4 months retroactive to 9/1/15; CDBG funding is being explored for the clinic and computer lab as well as an upgraded stove and black-out blinds which were already approved; The Binienda donation is being utilized to purchase new lobby furniture and volunteer recognition-an acknowledgement program will be scheduled for November; the Alzheimer's Association is planning to move to larger quarters but the date is not finalized; Seniors Helping Seniors has requested a move to a larger office and the Committee voted to recommend this at the same rate per square footage (m/s/a); The City Manager has received assurances that the parking lot will remain in use for the Senior Center and it is likely to be renovated in the Spring.

Operations: Amy reported that a 19 hour/week temporary program assistant has been hired and is working under the PWTF falls prevention grant; she also reported that an MSW intern from Boston College will be working at the Senior Center 2 days/week for 2 semesters.

Patty reported on the many other students assisting at the Center, including 150 Assumption College students who cleaned up our grounds; Patty also reported on: the new security system; the paving of Spurr Street; the Patio installation; the summer concert series; the book discussions; the innovative collaboration for the walking club trip; candidate's visits; evidence based programs; a new caregiver's program; and the change in the Senior Scoop format to be implemented.

Theresa confirmed she will fill in for Robin who cannot attend/chair the September Commission meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.