

DATE: May 14, 2024  
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties  
FROM: Frances Langille, Chair  
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for May 20, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

The Commission on Elder Affairs is meeting on **Monday, May 20, 2024, 4 p.m. at the Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence Street.**

Members who are unable to attend should contact Amy: [watersa@worcesterma.gov](mailto:watersa@worcesterma.gov).

*(Note that this is the 3rd Monday of the month instead of the usual 4<sup>th</sup> Monday)*

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## BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
  - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
  - b. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2024
  - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee meeting report of May 14, 2024
- II. **Presentation: Central MA Housing Alliance-Elder Home Maintenance Program-Leah Bradley, CEO; Keith Durant-Program Manager**
- III. Elder Affairs Staff Reports
  - a. Director Report - Strategic Plan Goal and Objectives
  - b. Senior Center Operations Director Report
    1. Developing and Offered Programs
    2. Facility and Grounds
  - c. Manager of Senior Services & Education Report
    1. Outreach, Information, Referral and Advocacy
    2. Multi-cultural Programs & more
- IV. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair

-comments &/or questions from Commission members  
-comments from others-up to 2 minutes each  
-confirm next meeting- **June 24, 2024 at 4 pm, in person at the Worcester Senior Center-front of the lunchroom**  
-Adjourn

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## Commission on Elder Affairs - Minutes 4/29/24 Meeting

Present: Fran Langille-Chair; Shonee Austriaco, Facely Henriquez, Kathan Horne, Noreen Shea, Richard Shea, Roxana Gomez Vargas, Sarah Faucher, Ted Bibba, Thuha Le, Tuyet Tran, Ward Abdulky, Jay Rumas, Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters.

Fran called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm at the Worcester Senior Center. She introduced new Commission member, Ted Bibba and asked members who could not attend the recent volunteer recognition event to see Amy at the end of the meeting to receive their appreciation gift. She then introduced the speakers:

Tuyet Tran, Director of the Southeast Asian Coalition (SEAC), reported that she and Thuha (Commission member) were founding members of SEAC in the year 2000 and Thuha was their first Director. The organization developed to give assistance and a voice to the city's new population from Vietnam and has since expanded. Tuyet thanked the Commission for supporting their food security program through which they distribute 5000 pounds of fresh produces and food per year as well as at least 1,000 hot meals. She discussed their new project, growing mushrooms and invited everyone to the Asian Festival at Worcester State University on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Jay Ramos, Integration Specialist, and Ward Abdulky, Case Manager, spoke about Ascentria' Care Alliance's services for "new Americans," which include resettlement, placement, support and socialization. Among her responsibilities, Ward reported on the Arabic Elder Group she coordinates which is funded through the Commission. The group has been active at the senior center for over 10 years and is currently comprised mainly from refugees from Syria, Iraq and Sudan. Besides case management assistance, they enjoy educational meetings, Arabic style lunch, exercise, ESL classes, community gardening and contributing to multicultural events.

After a brief discussion about diversity at the senior center, Fran thanked the guest speakers and called for votes as follows: The minutes of the March 25, 2024 Commission meeting were approved (m/s/a); The Report to the Commission on the Senior Center Committee's meeting on April 9, 2024 were approved (m/s/a).

Amy highlighted the following: Goals and objectives have either been surpassed or already met for the year; Submitted renewal application for the Consumer Rights Program; More information to come in May re: FY'25 tax levy budget; the House has approved an increase in the state COA budget but it still has to go through the rest of the process; the senior center participant survey had 433 respondents of which 97% reported their experience with the center as outstanding or good...a full report will be forthcoming; the RFP for developing the vacant space has not yet been released; participation indicators continue to show increases; facilitated Discovery Center's purposeful living series to allow Chinese elders to participate as they asked.

Highlights from Patty's report include: a very busy April program schedule including a creative event to recognize volunteers and the Chinese Family Celebration which resulted in a workshop on calligraphy to be held; some upcoming in May programs include the Vet 2 Vet Café, a vaccination clinic, African meal, and outside exercise; June programs will include a health fair/speaker series, AAA driving course, History of the Bicycle, and the kick off of the summer concert series; the carpet project will finish this week; various leaks are being addressed; and work continues on security.

Linda provided more information on the Fall Prevention & Wellness Series. She noted that Ana Cristina is starting a Brazilian Elder Group as well as seated volleyball. She also reported on the upcoming mental health awareness program, LGBTQAI group and senior services statistics. She addressed Kathan's question about Fall Prevention activities in the autumn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m. (m/s/a)

REPORT TO COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS - Senior Center Committee 5/14/24

Present: Richard Shea-Chair; Fran Langille; Facely Henriquez; Noreen Shea; Patty Hainsworth; Amy Waters.

Richard called the meeting to order on TEAMS at 12:07 pm. The minutes of the 4/9/24 meeting was approved. (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for 6/11/24 at 1 pm (instead of noon) and will be hybrid (onsite and TEAMS).

Amy reported that the FY'25 city tax levy budget will be considered by City Council on May 21<sup>st</sup> and that the State House & Senate Ways and Means committees both recommend an increase in COA formula funding from \$14 to \$15/senior living in each municipality per the 2020 census.

The Committee reviewed in detail, the FY'25 budget proposal which Amy recommended, which does not include the potential increase in State COA funds. *After discussion members approved the budget as presented, summarized as follows (m/s/a):*

<i>African American Elder Group Coord</i>	<i>\$ 5,699</i>
<i>Computer Lab</i>	<i>\$ 2,400</i>
<i>Elder Home Maintenance</i>	<i>\$19,473</i>
<i>St. Paul's Elder Outreach</i>	<i>131,108</i>
<i>Ascentria Elder Outreach</i>	<i>\$25,698</i>
<i>ESWA Nutrition</i>	<i>\$ 5,752</i>
<i>Fitness/Wellness Programs</i>	<i>\$34,000</i>
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>\$ 5,150</i>
<i>Transportation</i>	<i>\$14,000</i>
<i>Age/Dementia Friendly</i>	<i>\$ 5,000</i>
<i>Walking Club</i>	<i>\$ 2,000</i>
<i>COA Personnel</i>	<i>354,598</i>
<i>Dues/Training</i>	<i>\$ 9,000</i>
<i>2% COA Admin.</i>	<i>\$11,186</i>
<i>Misc Fee Subs, Programs, Supplies</i>	<i>\$16,000</i>
<i>SEAC Food Delivery</i>	<i>\$ 5,150</i>
<i>Fitness Center Operation</i>	<i>354,661</i>
<i>Dementia Friendly Coord. temp</i>	<i>\$20,007</i>
<i>Program Asst. temp</i>	<i>\$16,926</i>
<i>Add'l 4 hrs/wk temps contingency</i>	<i>\$10,836</i>
<i>Clinic Services-vendor</i>	<i>\$ 9,720</i>
<i>Contingency</i>	<i>\$10,204</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$1,068,568</i>

Amy also reviewed progress with licenses for space and announced that the bid for proposals to develop the vacant wing of the senior center was posted yesterday and proposals are due 6/26/24. More information will be shared by the Dept. of Economic Development on the bid process at the June Commission meeting.

Patty reported on & the Commission discussed: Building switched to air-conditioning; carpets installed; kitchen had great inspection; grounds looking good; fall prevention wellness series started today along with vaccine clinic; upcoming programs include oral health, bike history, artist reception, driver safety, pride flag raising, advanced tai chi, chair volleyball, stress reduction, Brazilian Elder Group, and Dementia Friendly event. Patty also responded to Dick's question about the new kitchen equipment which is very much appreciated and in use.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm. (m/s/a)