

Needham Council on Aging Board Meeting

April 11, 2019

5:00-6:00 pm

Center at the Heights, 500 Hillside Ave., Needham, MA 02494

Present: Colleen Schaller, Penny Grossman, Dan Goldberg, Sandra Prinn, Ed Cosgrove, Carol deLemos, Gary Crossen, Lianne Relich, Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Tom Keating

COA: Ms. Latanya Steele, Director; Aicha Kelley, Program Coordinator; Jessica Moss, Social Worker; Kathy Worhach, SHINE

Guest: Timothy Muir McDonald, Director of Health and Human Services

5:00 Meeting Called to Order by Board Chair Colleen Schaller.

Ms. deLemos made a motion to accept the March 14th minutes. Mr. Keating seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted with Ms. deLemos and Ms. Schaller abstaining.

Ms. Jessica Moss, Social Services Report

Ms. Kristen Lindley continues to offer evening office hours and has started a podcast group.

Ms. Kerrie Cusack has returned from maternity leave and has started a post graduate certificate in advanced clinical practice with adults at Boston College. BEI Community Health Focus group was also attended by Ms. Cusack.

The social work staff met with Police and Fire on April 10 to become a part of the new county wide notification system when overdoses occur. The goal is to get resources to families within 48 hours.

She also noted there has been a large uptick in referrals to Ms. Rachael Kain's Safety at Home program since it was highlighted in the water bill.

Ms. Kathy Worhach, SHINE Report

Ms. Worhach noted the demand increases each month. She updated the Board on the new data system. An example in Metrowest during the open enrollment period the counselors processed 1300 drug plan applications with a savings of just over 2 million dollars.

A training class to meet the ever increasing demand is scheduled at the end of April. The program is called Health Benefits University and provides the basics as well as training in the changes to Medicare/Medicaid.

Ms. Aicha Kelley, Program Coordinator's Report

Ms. Kelley noted the second Compass in house design has been mailed at 28 pages.

Ms. Kelley noted the programming continues to grow; even with shorter descriptions 2 pages more were required. Ms. Fallon noted they are trying to avoid reaching 32 pages as it would increase the mailing costs.

Ms. Kelley discussed a few programming highlights:

- Partnerships continue to grow.
For example she met with the assistant dean on the former Mount Ida campus which is now a branch of University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The vet tech program will stay there and interns who live there in the summer will likely be available for internships at Health as well as at the CATH
- The cooking class will return with goodie bags.
- CPR classes will be conducted morning, afternoon and evenings at a cost of \$45.00
- Music programs
- Author presentations
- Program around the stigma of Alzheimer's

The Health Fair last weekend was well attended; and it will become part of summer programming.

Ms. Kelley noted that in the survey more technology classes are at the top of the new request list but those who register often do not attend. Ms. Kelley requested the Board to think about some solutions to this dilemma.

Ms. Kelley noted she has received the juice bar quote and the program will include a juicing sample and an introduction.

Mr. Stephan Grably, Transportation Report

Ms. Steele noted that Mr. Grably was unable to attend but his report is in the packet; if the Board has any questions please email him.

Ms. Schaller inquired about the use of the senior bus to transport students to Rosemary. Ms. McDonald noted that it was a special Best Buddies program for special needs students at Pollard Middle School who needed transported to Rosemary and that Mr. Grably arranged as a one off. Mr. McDonald will check on the reason for the schools inability to provide transport.

Mr. McDonald noted that Representative Denise Garelick has added \$90,000.00 in the State Budget to purchase a 7 person handicapped accessible van and a regular 6 person minivan. These will be available by the end of the fiscal year and will allow transportation to customize and meet different needs. For example—the seating is flexible and this means the smaller bus can be used to assist seniors with medical appointments. Pictures were distributed and there was a discussion of use, seatbelts and the customization to suit the CATH needs.

Mr. Goldberg also noted that the report shows more than 1000 rides and Ms. Steele noted that ridership always increases during the warmer months.

Mr. Timothy McDonald, Director of Health and Human Services, Parking Update

Mr. McDonald provided an update on the parking situation. Also changing the zoning to senior parking only passes. A challenge is that the Council on Aging is much more successful and programming has increased exponentially since the building occupation permit was issued. The permit is violated on a regular basis. Reopening the zoning permit or changing to permit parking both have long logistical time lines. The department and Board needs to confront the fact that parking will remain a challenge if the

building is used to its capacity. Ms. Kelley and Ms. Steele continue to work on staggering programming times across the day to assist with capacity and parking issues. Mr. Grably will face logistical challenges first thing in the morning and late afternoon with the buses in the off-site parking but that allows for the use of four more parking spaces.

Mr. McDonald noted there has been no headway with Avery as auxiliary parking for staff. The holding company has not responded.

Ms. Latanya Steele, Director Report

Ms. Steele noted she has met with the Friends Board to reassure them of their importance in the life of the Council on Aging and the Center at the Heights. The Friends are in the process of selecting a design for the Jan Dorsey memorial. It will be under the awning during the warmer months. The Board reviewed the proposed designs and preferred the one on page six. The Friends will have their annual meeting on July 24 and Ms. Steele inquired if any Board members could attend.

Ms. Steele noted that she has finally obtained the Newton Wellesley Hospital Screening Health van as a mobile health resource for seniors related to preventative and primary care. It will have different hours of operation including weekends and provides a resource for those with transportation barriers such as residents of Nehoiden Glen and Linden Street. Also the van does not require a copayment and does not inquire about insurance coverage so will help those seniors with language barriers as well as those with legal status issues. Ms. Mullaney noted if the question of a referral occurs the senior/patient is given a note for their doctor; it's not sent electronically. Ms. Mullaney also inquired if the van can refer patients to a Newton Wellesley primary care physician who is accepting Medicare. Ms. Schaller noted she did not know. Ms. Steele will check on the primary care issue for the May meeting.

Ms. Steele noted that May is older Americans month.

She also noted that the formula grant will cover the costs of the juice bar and the new bakeware.

Updates on assistant directors positions and part-time program assistants

Mr. Timothy McDonald noted that the two assistant director positions—one that handles transportation and programming and the other that handles counseling and volunteer efforts—are on the agenda for the May Personnel Board meeting.

He also noted that Town meeting approved the budget. There are two part-time Program Assistant part time jobs in the budget funded-- if the hires occur for this year with salary savings. One position will assist with evening programming; the other with both weekends and evenings.

Ms. Colleen Schaller, Board Chair Report

Ms. Schaller noted that Planning Board approved the accessory dwelling unit proposal. It will now be sent to Town Meeting. The sticking point is the inspection cycle for the ADU's; 1, 3 or 5 years were all discussed and the decision will be made then. There was also concern about au pair hires among young families.

In answer to an request on the update of the shutters project Mr. McDonald noted that were ongoing discussion between Department of Public Works who views it as a maintenance issue as they were

broken before the warranty expired and the construction division. They remain on the maintenance repair list.

Mr. McDonald also noted there are ongoing facility issues that will require a facility assessment in the next budget cycle either 2021 or 2022. These include the costs of making more doors push button handicapped accessible, changing back café door to a handicapped accessible entrance , the switch of the game and fitness room and the issue of how best to use the deck. Discussions on the deck use included whether or not it should be subdivided and how to use it in different ways. Summer 2019 programming includes barbecues and movies—the space use can be revisited after the summer.

Transportation Policy Discussion

The Board will receive an edited copy of transportation policy at the May meeting. Ms. Mullaney was unable to attend the meeting but sent comments to Ms. Schaller. The Board discussed the following issues that need to be included in the next draft:

- the suggested three minute wait time—this is too short
- Adding the smoking restriction to include vaping, marijuana, alcohol and weapons
- A policy on regular users who are consistently late for scheduled pick up times
- Medical reasons that might preclude use of the bus or use of the seatbelts (shingles, catheter bag were provided as examples)
- Fee difference for round trip from homes to the Center versus shopping trips
- Clarification of shopping language to include pharmacy and banking
- Noting that all destinations over a 10 mile radius require an exception from Ms. Steele
- Clarity on the operational hours

Mr. McDonald also noted that the policies and procedures Manual is complete; it will be voted on at the May meeting to take effect in September 2019

Ms. Schaller noted that she checked with Sandy in the town manager’s office on the rules for voting on a motion. The requirement is one beyond half the Board membership to vote. So the COA Board with a 12 person membership requires a quorum of 7 to vote on any policy.

Ms. Grossman made a motion to adjourn at 6:15 pm. Mr. Goldberg seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Board adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Faith Crisley