

## **Needham Council on Aging Board Meeting**

**May 13, 2021**

**Present:** Colleen Schaller, Chair; Penny Grossman, Dan Goldberg, Sue Mullaney, Sandra Prinn, Helen Gregory, Gary Crossen, Ed Cosgrove, Lianne Relich, Gary Crossen, Carol deLemos

**COA:** Ms. Latanya Steele, Director Ms. Jessica Moss, Social Worker, Ms. Kerrie Cusack, Social Worker, Ms. Aicha Kelley, Assistant Director, Katie Pisano, Program Assistant

**SHINE:** Kathy Worhach

**Guest:** Ross Donald, Town Meeting member and resident of Needham Housing Authority at Chambers Street for ten years.

**Meeting called to order by Ms. Schaller Board Chair at 5:03 pm via Zoom per Governor Charles Baker State of Emergency Order March 2020**

Ms. Jessica Rice the social work intern from BU MSW program introduced herself.

### **Ms. Jessica Moss, Social Work Update.**

The numbers were up from March 2021 to April 2021. We saw 92 in March and 119 in April.

Informational sessions and counseling referrals are up.

Ms. Cusack has been working on Tablet and Tutors partnered with the Needham Community Council. Stacy Fallon at Needham Community Council along with Ms. Moss have organized two successful tech outreach with the Needham Housing Authority.

CCIT meetings continue to go well. (Community intervention team) There is a new employee through Riverside embedded in the Police and working with us as well as with Dedham.

Food deliveries are in the low 80's most days.

The Needham Chamber of Commerce has been assisting with the Friday meal deliveries from a different restaurant each week. This is part of the \$10,000.00 grant from the Chamber to support Needham restaurants.

The delivery requests from Trader Joe's have decreased now that most seniors are fully vaccinated and can do their own shopping.

Ms. Moss noted she hired two new volunteers in April.

Mother's Day delivery with flowers went well; thanks to the Board members who participated.

### **Ms. Aicha Kelley, Transportation Report**

She noted that drivers have been super busy. Mr. Stephan Grably unable to attend this meeting but she wanted to note has been very careful with vehicle maintenance. With Stacey's departure he has taken on more duties. He goes above and beyond on every ride to assist seniors and is respected and appreciated for his work.

Ms. Schaller noted that the staff in general have been incredible throughout COVID.

**Ms. Aicha Kelley, Programming Report**

Ms. Kelley noted that she is hesitant to schedule events without knowing the State's reopening plan. Potential teachers are not sure if they want Zoom or outside and are also looking at their vacation schedules. She did her first Saturday event two weeks ago and 55 normally show up but only 6 did. Her general plan is to go with the flow for July/August as various events slowly get scheduled and plan to have the Center at the Heights fully open in September. She also noted many Zoom events are hugely popular so a hybrid model will probably be needed. She is thinking about Bridge with twelve participants.

Ms. Schaller noted that it will not be an easy transition return to reopening with rules and regulations for attendance changing both at the State level and under the Health Department's mandate for Needham. There will be more reopening discussion at the June meeting.

**Kathy Worhach SHINE Report**

Ms. Worhach noted that a few professionals are on site but most of the work has been happening virtually. She noted that presentations and outreach meetings is a lot easier without having to reserve rooms,

SHINE is participating in the National Medicare virtual event this month.

Training is occurring two days a week. Counselors recertified this spring and the average score was 38 out of 40 highlighting the commitment and aptitude of all the counselors.

**Chairperson's Report**

Ms. Schaller has sent the racial equity report and will be leading a discussion with the Board at the June meeting.

Ms. Steele thanked all the staff. She noted that it is important to let everyone know that reopening planning is ongoing.

Mr. Goldberg asked if there was a need for the Board to meet in July and August. Ms. Schaller will update the Board on this in June but normally there are two members who volunteer to serve for any outstanding business over the summer period.

**Ms. Grossman made a motion to adjourn at 5:35. Ms. deLemos seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Board adjourned at 5:35 pm**

**A reminder that the remaining meeting date is June 10, 2021 at 5 pm**

Minutes Respectfully Submitted, Faith Crisley, Recording Secretary