

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
MINUTES  
JUNE 17, 2020**

Attending: Patricia. Burns, Presiding; C. Burns; Kip Burgweger; James Dougherty; Ann Marie Hynes; Steven Katz; Ellen Wolfson  
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich.

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. The meeting was held by Zoom.

Minutes: Minutes of the June meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. A Motion was made to accept the Minutes as presented. The Motion was seconded and carried.

Chair's Report: P. Burns reported that the drive through barbeque for members was a big success and generated great publicity and feedback. Commission

Directors Report: L. Contadino presented the following Report:  
**SWCAA GROCERY BAG PROGRAM**  
Team Leader: Greenwich Commission on Aging  
Community Partners: Greenwich Department of Human Services, At Home in Greenwich, Community Centers, Inc. (CCI), Jewish Family Services of Greenwich, Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Meals on Wheels, River House Adult Day Center

Program Launch:	5/1	160 recipients
	5/8	195 recipients
	5/15	210 recipients
	5/22	215 recipients
	5/29	215 recipients
	6/5	215 recipients (Fabric masks included in each bag in addition to CONNECTT flyer and COA information
	6/12	215 recipients
	6/19	215 recipients
	6/26	215 recipients
Program Conclusion:	7/6	200 recipients

Program Summary:  
252 Unduplicated Clients  
2,055 Grocery bags delivered  
\$51,250 CARES Act funding

Next Steps:  
Potential FEMA funding to resume program after Labor Day - working with Neighbor to Neighbor and the State of CT Commissioner of Agriculture. New program would be a 75/25 funding split. Once tabulated, volunteer time will be applied toward the 25%. Program parameters for eligibility parameters would

remain the same: age 60+ and resident of Greenwich. Meeting with Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner of Agriculture and CT "Food Czar" and Mike Walsh, State Under-Secretary of Strategic Initiatives and Accountability and Brenda Bergeron, Attorney, CT Department of Emergency Services today (Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Discussions will be had with Morrison about providing a limited grocery service for members who would pay at cost.

#### SWCAA AFFINITY GROUPS

Affinity Groups continue to meet every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom as follows:

Week One (of each month) - High Technology User:

Week Two (of each month) - Full Group Participation for basic needs and Reopen CT update. Great variability regarding reopening Senior Centers across the region.

Stamford           September - currently formulating plan Now considering October

Westport           September - working with Architect to map safe-distances within Center Now considering October

Wilton                 January - no plan available

Week Three (of each month) - Low Technology User no access to technology.

Week Four (of each month) - Caregiver and in-home program supports.

#### VIRTUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING

Virtual Health Insurance Counseling does present some unique challenges. Town of Greenwich Legal Department has determined that the program does not meet the criteria as a "covered entity" under HIPPA guidelines, but confidentiality is of critical importance. Town of Greenwich IT Department and Risk Manager determined that clients are not to email sensitive information to a Town email and have staff forward that information via email to a counselor. All information received via email permanently remains on the Town system. In the event of legal discovery, there is potential risk that information may not be fully redacted and confidentiality may be breached.

Working strategy:

1. Create Accounts on Medicare.gov
2. Telephone or facetime encounters - no zoom
3. Drop off and pick up documents from residents if necessary
4. Jotforms on COA webpage only for basic information including counseling consent/disclaimer and request to schedule an appointment

Anne Marie Hynes, Heidi Nolte and Lori met to further streamline jotforms and develop a viable strategy for Open Enrollment as well as educational sessions via zoom addressing the following: How to create an account on MyMedicare.gov and How to Navigate the Medicare Plan Finder.

Greenwich is further along in the process of developing a strategy for Open Enrollment as compared to other Towns in the SW region. SWCAA has

scheduled a meeting for July 20th to discuss plans for Open Enrollment in greater detail.

#### CAREGIVERS CIRCLE & CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

Working with Donna Spellman to schedule the Fall Caregivers Circle Programs and launching virtual Caregiver Support Groups.

#### STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lori Contadino  
Laurette Helmrich  
Patricia Burns  
Steve Katz  
Anne Marie Hynes  
Lauren Rabin

Members of the Strategic Planning Committee met for a second time on July 7th - Members of the committee are independently conducting a SWOT analysis and Lori is working on redrafting the Vision Statement. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21st at 3:00 p.m.

#### 299 ON THE AVE

Commission on Aging and Senior Center staff continue to work remotely. We are in the process of developing a phased re-opening plan to commence September or October. Administrative staff would return first. Discussion about curbside pick-up of meals, grocery commodities, and the potential for on-site low impact activities are ongoing. Plans for next phase of renovation also will be incorporated. Governor Lamont has halted plans for Phase 3 - Stamford and Westport Senior Centers are now considering opening in October. A new SWCAA Task Group has been created to address issues related to reopening Senior Centers within our region and both Laurette and Lori are actively participating.

Senior  
Center:

L. Helmrich reported on the following:

#### CONNECT PROGRAM

First paid class - Advanced Art Class which required registration and payment utilizing GCDS credit card program has begun

#### CREDIT CARD UPDATE

Met with Card Connect & Asst. Treasurer to establish credit card payments. Applications ready to complete for General Fund and Friends Act. Registration and payment will be made through MyActiveSeniorCenter

#### BUILDING UPDATE

Meeting with BCM and Morrison Living regarding new kitchen plans

#### DRIVE THRU BARBECUE

Successful drive through Barbecue 7/10 for 140 plus members

First trial of online registration through Constant Contact

AGING MASTERY PROGRAM

Beginning registration for the remote version of this successful program

Dept. Of  
Human

Services: E. Wolfson reported that there has not been a meeting since our last meeting.

Nathaniel  
Witherell:

E. Wolfson reported that Dr. Walsh reported a total of 48 covid cases at the home with 3 deaths. All employees have been tested with no positive tests to date. Witherell's 5 star rating has been restored. A cell phone tower may be placed on the roof of Witherell. They are accepting new residents again and outside visits for residents have begun. A new Director of Finance and a new Director of Nursing have been hired.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission will be at 8:30 on September 16,  
2020

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty  
Secretary