

Commission on Aging

Minutes of the Meeting

February 26, 2018

Present: Chair Chris Robertson, Marion Freer, Dayna Sierakowski, Kathleen Brennan, Sheila Silverman, Mary Morrisroe, George Noyes, Advisor Karen Gaudian

Absent: Mary Ann O'Grady

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Robertson at 2:34pm.

Minutes from last month were presented. Sheila motioned to accept, Kathy seconded.

Chris asked about Medicare Savings Program (MSP). Karen stated that it's all in limbo right now. Nothing new has happened. Chris said she spoke to John Frey and he will come to meeting in May-will have more info for us (however, session will be over by then and law in place, so we have to continue to make desires known before then).

Debra Francheschini-Gatje from Meals on Wheels was present and talked about coffees held at Ballard Green and Congregate housing. Congregate had good attendance, Ballard not as many. Coffees were funded with some funds (S & S cards) from Social Services.

Chris relayed info from Barbara Newland at RVNA. New Medicare cards coming out in April with no SS number on them. Reminder that Medicare only communicates through mail (not phone). Karen stated that new cards are being released by state---CT should be in August?

Barbara Newland, Director of Community and Business Partnerships (a new position for her), from RVNA announced that RVNA Health Fair will be April 21st from 10am-3pm. RVNA is going through process of becoming certified for Hospice.

Chris went over list of potential speakers for future COA meetings.

Cathleen Savery, tenant commissioner on Ridgefield Housing Authority, spoke to us about COA possibly donating some money for monthly coffees. There are separate monthly meetings that residents get together (board meetings to talk about resident issues). Coffee hour is an attempt to get people out and socialize.

Request was made from Cathleen for COA to give \$1500 in Stop & Shop gift cards to Quality of Life Initiative Program at the Housing Authority for them to be able to hold coffees once a month to prevent isolation of housing members. Request was made for Housing Authority to write letter requesting funds.

George Noyes made a motion that COA give \$1500 in S & S gift cards to the Quality of Life Initiative Program at the Ridgefield Housing Authority locations—Ballard Green and Congregate Housing—to help with the cost of community coffees and social programs. Kathy Brennan seconded and motion was approved by the Commission.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.