

MINUTES

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING -

DATE June 9, 2020

Virtual Attendees: Carolyn Bottum, Dan Boynton, Laura Crosby, Sally Kindleberger, Wendy Kusik, Don Milan, Florence Montgomery, Donna Rizzo, Dot Taylor, Dilla Tingley, Abby Butt, Amy Gagne

This meeting was held virtually on ZOOM due to restrictions because of the COVID19 pandemic.

Minutes: The Minutes for the March 10, 2020 meeting were approved.

Calendar: Carolyn reviewed the **virtual programming** we have been able to provide and that will continue through the summer: Men's Coffee, Conversation Groups – German French, Russian, Memoirs Group. Special programs include “Advanced Directives” with Care Dimensions and” Plan Your Funeral” with Rosemary Lloyd. A Bingo Series is in the Planning Stage in collaboration with LLCT, and Minuteman National Park. A Question and Answer with the Police Chief is planned as there are many scams associated with our current situation. Our local restaurant REAL will collaborate with a virtual cooking program on using local produce.

Director's Report:

Carolyn introduced **Amy Gagne** who has joined the staff and who is the new Assistant Director. She has excellent credentials, having worked many years at “Right at Home” home care agency and Carolyn and Abby have worked with her before, particularly on the very successful Memory Café. We are pleased to have her.

Abby spoke of the COA efforts on **monitoring the well-being of seniors and other vulnerable citizens** during these stressful times. There have been many **Emergency Fund** requests. These are very varied from rent and tax need to car repair and many complicated situations have come to light. Fortunately all requests have been honored. \$7000 new donations have come into the fund and \$7200 in grant money. There is still \$20k remaining in the fund. Five or six families have been paired up with volunteers for errands and deliveries. Because many seniors are computer illiterate the COA bought five ipads which were quickly snatched up and help people access services. We plan to order more.

Newsletter: The April, May and June newsletters were published on line. The July/August newsletter will go out town-wide in printed form. Tricia McGean, Town Nurse has assured us that if collators were gloves, germ transmission should not be an issue.

Reopening: We will be following the Governor's guidelines. Staff will be returning gradually beginning next week and individual counseling will begin June 22 for those cases where face-to-face is important. It will be done in the map room where social distancing can be maintained and provided we have secured sufficient protective equipment. Other programming might be able to start in September.

Abby has been coordinating with other COA's in the region. Concern is that if one opened before the others it might be overwhelmed by people from other communities accessing services and activities.

Transportation: We are negotiating with Doherty's for them to provide transportation for medical appointments only in a 12 person van. The drivers would be school bus drivers with training and only one passenger per trip. It will be expensive. We have received one grant from CHNA 15 and approached First Parish for another grant.

New Board Members: We are delighted to welcome Terry Perlmutter and Jane O'Rourke to the COA Board.

Liaison Reports

Trips- on hold for now

Minuteman Senior Services- no report

Housing Commission- no report

SHINE- Quite a bit of activity now because people have been laid off and lost health insurance coverage. Some counseling can be done on line or by phone. Abby suggested that ipads could be made available to SHINE clients who do not have computers. Things will get busier come fall and another round of open enrollment. Training for new counselors is on hold, but we hope will resume soon to give Don some help

Diversity Initiative- Florence is disappointed that people are not able to come to Bemis now because June is Gay Pride month. She did provide by e-mail to the Board many of the resources she has identified.

New Business:

Transition Plan: When Carolyn Bottum retires, Abby Butt will become COA Director, Amy Gagne will be Assistant Director, Natalia Dedkov will have increased hours and be the Social Worker for all age groups in Lincoln, Peter Harvell will continue to be the Veteran's Services Officer and Tricia McGean the Public Health Nurse. A motion was made and seconded that the **COA Board support the proposed Transition Plan.** It passed unanimously.

Joint Meeting of FLCOA and COA – At this virtual meeting which preceded our Board Meeting there was a ZOOM BOMB. Tim Higgins broke into the meeting to thank Carolyn Bottum for her service and present her with a pillow of the Bemis Hall as a token of our gratitude.

Submitted by Dilla