

TOWN OF HADDAM COMMITTEE ON AGING Minutes

Monday September 16, 2019 10:00 am Annex building

Attachments: Agenda, July & August 2019 Social Services Monthly Report

Members Present: R. Thurston Clark, Jackie Crysler, Marge DeBold, Sue DiCarli, Beth Hartke, Mary Lou Heger, Frannie Kosalski, Gloria Maynard, Mary Lou Pierce, Susan Ruddy, Robert Waller, Jessica Condil from Social Services, Colleen Totman, Coordinator for Senior Center, Lindsay Lehan, Kathy Kennedy, Youth and Family Services, Sherry Carlson from CRAHD, Joann Woickelman, High Meadows Senior Housing, Members of the Public Bob McGarry, Mark Lundgren, Mary Kidd

Call to Order: By **R. Thurston Clark** followed by Pledge of Allegiance at 10 am

Minutes of the June 2019 meeting were reviewed, and a motion made by Susan and seconded by Beth was made with modifications, to accept. A vote by the members all agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Haddam Senior Services: Jessica provided a copy of her July and August service report (attachment). This included ride provided by Senior Van, and the summary of activities provided by the Senior Center. All programs were quite busy all summer.

The Committee led by Thurston wanted to talk about the CRT meal program in the Center. He was advised that CRT had informed them there was a minimally expected usage in the program of 7 per day, for which we were beating this goal on the 3 day per week which the center is now open. In July they served 115 meals and August 109. Some of this was influenced by the special events such as the Ice Cream Socials.

The Senior Van usage was also discussed in terms of Medical Appointments. In July used 20 and 14 in August. We are seeing a slight increase in usage from the High Meadows residents. Nevertheless, there continues to be excess space on the van. It was recommended that we could increase this service utilization by reminding people of its existence in some of the literature provided by Social Services, The Center and Senior Handbook as well as live contacts at the Club 60

and upcoming Senior Expo. The Shopping trips are still popular as are the 9 special trips to local tourist and interest areas. We discussed some concern for prohibited out of state travelling. We'll have to investigate the guidance provided by the Administration on these out of state trips for future consideration. Formal rules need to be flushed out for the future. We discussed the 9 Towns Transit option when the Senior Van is unavailable. Particularly with the overarching goal of expanding Senior public transportation, and expanding utilization of the Senior Center meals, program options, and parking etc. for our growing Senior population.

Jessica advises their good reception to the Food Market Coupons. She continues to provide help for those applying for a variety of programs, and Food Bank was well used this summer with the help of lots of locally grown vegetables and donations by a wide variety of Service Organizations and Churches in town. At present they need "staples".

Senior Center: Newly appointed Coordinator of the Center, Colleen Totman joined our group today and provided overview of the transition. She wants to maintain the best of what was offered before and provide new options to keep the program fresh and stimulating. For the past two months she has been "listening" very carefully to what the attendees want from their Center. She wants to ensure the programs are friendly and reflect the desires of the visitors and regulars alike. She is taking note of the special events that draw larger than normal crowds, such as the Club 60 days, special meals and holiday events. She has implemented a Food Donation bucket for those who want to help others.

Gloria suggested that she prepare a "white board" to show what is available that day or week and continue with well-publicized activities in the Haddam Now and Haddam Bulletin. Perhaps Gregg McKenna could include some program articles when he delivers pharmacy products to those who are shut ins. The availability of ample parking near the center was raised by the group and should be explored further. The senior bus could alleviate some of this and help build the lunch participation.

Club 60 Mary Lou Pierce gave an overview. They are having their second meeting of the new program year this afternoon. Bill Warner the new Town Planner will be giving a presentation today. On 10/7 a Medicare Insurance representative will be lecturing on the program, in advance of the 2020 renewal period that begins

on 10/15 and runs through 12/7. The Thimble Islands trip is being booked now, and includes lunch at the Chowder pot, and requires a prepay of \$28.95 per person. They are still pursuing the potential of viewing programs from the Senior Learning Network since the TV and Camera seems to work well with what we have at the Center. They are querying their members to solicit questions for the candidates' debate managed through the Library for next month.

Senior Handbook is ready to go to publisher and should be included in this month's Haddam Bulletin as a pull out. (see attachment). As part of marketing it for best utilization we will provide extra copies to the Nutmeg Pharmacy so they can include when making deliveries or when a patient express need for this information. Copies will be made available at the Senior Expo, and Social Services will have some to share with their clients. We will share with the Library, so they provide the information as well. Ongoing we will look for opportunities to share this resource and continue to update as needed.

COA pamphlet Trifold" is ready and will be distributed to prominent spots in town and be available for a quick introduction to our work and membership.

Senior Center Survey: (Attached) and will be used by the COA to help inform stakeholders and we need to examine this further to help with future.

HKYFS: Lindsay Lehan introduced the new Clinical Director of HKYFS to the groupu Kathy Kennedy. Kathy provided some background about her experience, past working with all clients ages 4-88. She cited experience working with Grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. They can bill under the Husky program among others. Lindsay provided some information about the new reports on Vaping deaths, some initiatives locally.

Connecticut River Area Health District Nurse Sherry Carlson provided information about the FLU Season response now upon us. She provided information about the Herd Immunity program, the expected delivery, after an approximately 4-week delay. The Flu Shots (attachment) program will be offered in schools, Community Centers, Senior Centers and other venues to provide a broad opportunity for those who don't use their personal physician for shots. They will also provide Blood Pressure Screening at our Center as well. The COA will share this when available.

High Meadows Senior Housing; Joann Woickelman provided information about the complex's response to the survey, which was low. They had a picnic and are planning a holiday party for December. At present there are no vacant apartments. Most of the repairs identified earlier this year are done except for the completion of sidewalk repairs, which will need to be done next year. Our next COA meeting in October will be at their Community Room. We hope for a good turn out of residents for the meeting.

WORK FOR NEXT MONTH:

Senior Survey; Review details and discuss for recommendations

Senior Van: Consider policy recommendations for its use, help develop plan for maximum utilization,

Emergency Kit: Sub Committee meet to determine if adjustments are needed, explore new information from CRAHD for inclusion to identify vulnerable groups, and perhaps reach out to other support organizations to see how they help in this regard.

Promote COA information Marketing Senior handbook, COA Trifold pamphlet, and make minor adjustments to pamphlet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bob McGarry and Mark Lundgren briefly introduced themselves as candidates running for office in November and expressed interest in the work of the COA and other Agencies represented here today.

NEW BUSINESS - none

Motion to adjourn. Made by Mary Lou Pierce and seconded by Beth at 11:30 agreed by all.

Next MEETING MONDAY October 21, 2019 at High Meadows Community Room 10am

Respectfully submitted by, Robert D Waller, Secretary

Minutes approved 10/21/2019 on a motion by Marge DeBold and seconded by Mary Lou Heger, and voted approved by the members in attendance. RDW