

October 15, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

We, The Commission on Aging, had our meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2009. We did not have a quorum, so we had a general discussion meeting with no minutes . The minutes from September were not approve, they will be approved at our November meeting. All reports from Susan M. Tomaino, LCSW, Director of Elderly Services /Coordinator Elmwood Hall and Margaret Emerito, Municipal Agent for the Elderly are attached.

Respectively,


Helen L. Miller
Chair, COA

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2009 OCT 21 P 2 30

BY: 

Meeting Notice

Danbury Commission on Aging

The Danbury Commission on Aging will hold its October meeting at Elmwood Hall Danbury Senior Center on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 2:15pm. This meeting is open to the public.

Agenda

Attendance and Call to Order

Introduction of Guests

Minutes of COA September Meeting

Financial Report

Departmental Reports:

Director of Elderly Services – Susan M. Tomanio, LCSW
Municipal Agent for the Elderly – Margaret Emerito
Coordinator, Elmwood Hall – Susan M. Tomanio, LCSW

New Business:

Senior Housing – Charlotte Barrows
Ridgefield Regional Meeting – Charlotte Barrows
Hosting COA Regional Meeting – Helen Miller

Old Business:

Parking Lot - Helen L. Miller
Senior Discount Program - Helen L. Miller

Comments for the good and welfare

Adjournment



CITY OF DANBURY
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810
DEPARTMENT OF ELDERLY SERVICES
COMMISSION ON AGING

Danbury Senior Center
Elmwood Hall
10 Elmwood Place
(203) 797-4686

Municipal Agent
80 Main Street
(203) 796-1513

Susan M. Tomanio, LCSW
Report for Common Council/Commission on Aging
September 2009

Department of Elderly Services

741 incoming information calls handled

Elmwood Hall Senior Center

168 program offerings

Highlights: HealthNet Senior Star Talent Contest, SweetHART Bus: Danbury's Transportation System for Seniors, Wii In-House Bowling League, Ballroom Dance Party, Importance of Dental and Oral Health, Woodcarving Seminar, Red Hat Lunch

Municipal Agent

351 office/phone appointments, 877 Rent Rebate Applications Processed to Date

Monthly Concerns: SAVE - City's Seniors Add Value Experience Program, CT. Prescription Program (ConnPACE), Low Income Subsidy Program for Medicare Part D, Elderly & Disabled Benefits information, area senior and disabled housing options, Medicare, Medicare Advantage Programs, Medicaid, Home Care Options, Respite Care Options, Medicare Rx Plans, Medicare Savings Plans, CT Rent Rebate Program, Stimulus Payment Money, DSS Protective Services

SeniorNet

Fall Semester: Computer Fundamentals, Intro to PC, Exploring Vista, E-mail Made Easy, Using Excel 2007, Using Word 2007, Intro to Digital Photos, Where's My Stuff, Introduction to Facebook, Intro to Apple Mac

Van Transportation Program

297 one way trips



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Commission on Aging Report, Oct. 13th, 2009

Municipal Agent Report by Margaret Emerito

HAND OUT UPDATES:

Benefits – added new Medicare Savings Program guidelines (see below)

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM GUIDELINES: effective 10/1/09

A. Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB): for all Medicare Part B enrollees, pays Medicare premium, deductibles and co-insurance, income limits are \$1778.91 (single) and \$2393.55 (married).

B. Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary Program (SLMB) & SLMB Q1): Pays Medicare B premium

a. SLMB - Medicare Part B enrollees. Income limits are \$1959.51 (single) \$2636.55 (married).

b. SLMB Q1-1, Income limits: \$2091.67 (single) \$2816.67 (married), may depend on funding availability.

RENT REBATE:

So far Marlene and I have completed 878 Rebate applications. The program officially ended 9/15/09. There is a process for applying late but only for medical reasons. This process involves getting written approval from the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy & Management before 12/15/09.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE for the 2009 / 2010 Heating Season

For a household with a person at least 60 years or older, or with a disabled person, the maximum income is \$30,485 for one person and \$39,465 for a two person household. The asset limit is \$7,000 for a renter's household and \$10,000 for a homeowner's household. Applicants should make an appointment and apply directly at CACD. CACD can also make arrangements for home visits. Call 203-748-5422.

Seminars

1. Marlene and I attended a two session seminar held at Hancock Hall. The topic was Understanding Palliative Care. The first session (9/24) touched upon the Gaps in End-of-Life Care and living with illness. The second session (10/8) covered the Legal Issues and care options.
2. On 9/24, Marlene and I also attended a program co-sponsored by CT Caregiver Connection, Inc. and the Danbury Nurses Registry. The topic was the Veteran 'Aide and Attendance' Benefit. The meeting covered the eligibility requirements involved.

Beginning Thoughts and Making People Aware for the COA Meeting

ConnPACE: A summary of Changes and Question to Ask Yourself:

DO YOU NEED TO CONTINUE ON CONNPACE?

See below to help you make the decision.

Beginning in 2010:

- **ConnPACE annual fee will be \$45.**
- **All new ConnPACE members will have to be enrolled by the end of the previous year (for 2010 by the end of 2009).**
- **If newly on Medicare enrollment is possible.**
- **Renewals for current ConnPACE participants will continue as in the past.**
- **Must have a Medicare D (drug plan) Benchmark Plan. A Benchmark Plan is one approved whose premium is below \$34.57 per month.**
- **NOTE - ConnPACE will no longer cover any medications not on a participant's Medicare D Plan except for the Barbiturates (sedative or hypnotics) and Benzodiazepines (tranquilizers) that are not covered by any Medicare D Plan.**

*****IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****

- **ALL ConnPACE participants will be eligible to be on a Medicare Savings Program which works with Medicare D Plans by keeping the co-pays for drugs at a standard cost such as \$3 for generic and \$6 for a brand name.**
- **Drug coverage during the deductible and gap periods.**
- **Payment of the Medicare Premium for Medicare B which is 96.40 per month.**
- **If your physicians accept Medicaid (Title 19), not carrying a Medigap policy (such as Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield or AARP United Healthcare) is a possibility. The decision to no longer carry a Medigap could be a very important decision. Some doctors may no longer agree to treat patients without Medigap coverage because they would no longer receive any additional payments beyond what Medicare pays including the deductible or the 20% co-pays.**
- **Recoupment of payments made by the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) is in effect now in 2009 will no longer be in effect in 2010. This only refers to Medicare Savings Plan participants, not Medicaid (Title 19).**
- **In making a decision about continuing with ConnPACE when one is enrolled in a Benchmark Medicare D Plan and participating in a Medicare Savings Plan could be simple. If you are not on a Barbiturate or a Benzodiazepines drug, it seems like ConnPACE would not be needed.**
- **If you were later prescribed one of the class of drugs not covered under a Medicare D Plan then you could enroll in ConnPACE the last six weeks of the year to begin the next year.**