

Danbury Commission on Aging -- Minutes of May 12, 2015

Co-chair Mary Mazzucco called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

Attending: Mary Beth Hickey, Mary Mazzucco, Barbara Newland, Riva Shoshana, Neil Corday

Staff: Susan Tomanio - Director, Michelle McNamara - Activities Director - Department of Elderly Services

Absent: Charlotte Barrows, Angela Hylenski, John Schroeder, Annemarie Walker, Connie Vitetta, Estelle Zimmer

Guests: Laurie Ferraro, Regional Hospice

Guest Speaker: Linda Pinckney of Regional Hospice

Minutes: Minutes of April 14, 2015 were accepted as presented.

Guest speaker: Linda Pinckney spoke about the new Regional Hospice Facility, located at 30 milestone Rd. Danbury.

Main points of Ms. Pinckney's presentation:

- The new Hospice facility is the first of its kind in CT, and is licensed by the state as a specialty hospital.
- Its mission is to alleviate pain and suffering at end of life. Patients' comfort & dignity are the main goals, including having a comfortable home-like place at one's time of death.
- The facility has 12 private suites that accommodate patients, family and pets.
- Other features: family living room and dining room, library, chapel, spa, beauty salon, country kitchen that prepares all meals, and age-appropriate bereavement rooms.
- They provide three levels of care: (1)General inpatient care for the sickest who cannot be comfortable at home, (2)routine hospice benefit, and (3)respite benefit for when a family needs time off from care giving.

OLD BUSINESS

April's Scam presentation was cancelled. Scheduled speaker Don McGran informed us that he had a "personal" conflict. No further explanation was given.

Instead, Danbury Police Department Detective Roger Brooks will be our speaker at a scam presentation on Tuesday, June 9, 1PM, at Elmwood Hall, in lieu of our June meeting. Mary Mazzucco encouraged all COA members to attend.

Mary Mazzucco explained her vision for the Senior Housing Options Forum.

The plan is to first find subject matter experts for various housing options.

Those experts might be invited to COA meetings as guest speakers (see New Business / Speakers).

We agreed to look at affordable housing (mobile homes, subsidized housing and congregate living)

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and other options (assisted living, independent living, and nursing homes).
Next will be deciding how to disseminate the information to Danbury's seniors.

COA Membership:

Charlotte Barrows will not be returning. Carol Gerner and Jay Geib have resigned. We need to fill those vacancies. Mary Mazzucco suggested that we recruit people from the senior services or senior care fields—people who will bring knowledge or experience to the Commission. Riva Shoshana chooses to remain as an alternate. Mary will inform Mayor Boughton that we want to change Mary Beth Hickey's status from alternate to regular.

NEW BUSINESS

Guest speakers:

Mary Mazzucco will contact Carolyn Sistrunk, Executive Director, Danbury Housing Authority, about joining us in September. For October, Barbara Newland will contact Joan Garbo of Joan Garbo Associates, independent geriatric care managers.

Because of the June 9 Scam Presentation we will not meet in June. As usual, we will not meet in July or August. Mary Mazzucco will not be available for our September meeting. Either John Schroeder or Neil Corday will preside.

Adjourned at 2:15pm

Prepared and submitted by Neil Corday, Secretary