

**RHODE ISLAND CITIZENS COMMISSION
FOR THE SAFETY AND CARE OF THE ELDERLY
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 2012**

Chairman Rick Susi called the Meeting to order at 10:05am at the Division of Elderly Affairs, 74 West Road, 2nd floor, Cranston. Mr. Susi circulated an Attendance Sheet.

Attendance: Chairman Susi, Secretary Ciano, Russ Enos, Janice Zeichner, Terry Haydt, Rita Murphy, Martha Crippen

Guests: Janet Holmes, Valerie Topp

Excused: Roger Demers, Cpl. Ann Assumpico, Tom Magill

Absent: Jack Quigley, Stephen Dresner, Gloria Heisler

Chairman Susi introduced new member Rita Murphy. Ms. Murphy is the Director of Elderly Affairs for Congressman Cicilline's District 1 Office (Woonsocket to Newport).

Chairman Susi also reported that he plans on submitting the names of Terry Haydt and Rita Murphy to the Senate Office of Senator Paiva-Weed to officially confirm their membership appointments.

Chairman Susi informed today's attendees that former Chair and founding member of the Commission Anna Tucker passed away last week. A memorial of Mrs. Tucker will be posted on the Safety and Care Website.

Old Business:

- Review and approval of the September 7, 2011 Minutes by Chairman Susi.
- Terry Haydt provided an update on the website. In order to access the Commission website, must first access the DEA website: www.dea.ri.gov There is a link for the Commission. The progress continues in launching the updated website. The goal is to totally launch in the Fall of 2012.

- Secretary Ciano provided an update on the Fire & Police Advocate Training which was held on October 26, 2011 at the Pilgrim Senior Center in Warwick. A breakfast buffet was catered by the West Valley Inn. The total number of people registered was 120; 101 people attended. The only negative feedback received by Secretary Ciano was the limited parking. Janet Holmes offered to speak with the Director of the East Providence Senior Center to determine if the East Providence Senior Center could be a potential site for the 2012 Training. Ms. Holmes indicated that there is ample parking.
- Chairman Susi reported that he recently presented to aging network professionals at the DEA Academy Training on 2/14/12, at the Johnston Senior Center. Chairman Susi provided information on the Commission, as well as the role of the Senior Fire and Police Advocates.

New Business:

- Chairman Susi reported that he did not locate any legislative issues that would have an impact on the mission of the Commission. He asks that if any of the members become familiar with any legislative issues to notify him.
- Chairman Susi indicated that there are currently seven vacant public member slots available on the Commission. If anyone has any recommendations for potential members, please contact Chairman Susi. Janet Holmes said that she will contact Carolyn Pellegrino (retired East Bay CAP) and Bob Rock, Director of the East Providence Senior Center to determine possible interest.
- Members recommended contact with the following aging network agencies for potential members: Senior Center Director's Association, Adult Day Care Director's Association, Resident Services Coordinator/Housing, RI Forum on Aging. Rita Murphy said that she has a contact on this Forum and will refer the potential member to Chairman Susi or Secretary Ciano. DEA can also send an e-mail to aging network professionals. Secretary Ciano will follow up on this.
- Chairman Susi had asked for roundtable discussion from members. The primary focus of this discussion focused on planning the 2012 Senior Fire and Police Advocate Training. The following recommendations were made on potential topics for the Training.

- Terry Haydt recommended that Chairman Susi e-mail the Fire and Police Advocates to obtain their input on topics of interest for the Training.
- Rita Murphy indicated that many challenges she has observed involving senior housing. She often receives calls from seniors verbalizing the challenges of living with younger, mentally disabled adults. There does not appear to be any structure for monitoring these individuals. Perhaps, a presentation from one of the Executive Directors of the larger housing authorities, as Providence, to address this topic.
- Janet Holmes verbalized that transportation for seniors residing in rural areas is a major gap in service delivery. Perhaps, transportation issues can be addressed.
- Valerie Topp recommended that the community mental health system provide a presentation to assist the first responders in dealing with seniors who are experiencing behavioral health problems.
- Janet Holmes said that hoarding continues to be a growing problem with the senior population. Perhaps, an expert in hoarding or someone who has had a successful resolution in dealing with a hoarding situation could be a topic.
- Martha Crippen suggested a panel on coordinated community response by aging network professionals in collaborating on difficult at risk clients.
- Terry Haydt suggested that perhaps the Training time be changed—i.e.—begin the Training at either 9:00am or 10:00am and have a light (boxed lunch) so that more time can be available for questions and answers. The Training should not be more than 4 hours.
- Valerie Topp recommended the Ray Conference Center at Butler Hospital as a possible Training site. There is ample parking and food can be catered into this Conference Center. Secretary Ciano will follow up on this recommendation.
- Janet Holmes recommended that perhaps the DEA Senior Medicare Patrol Coordinator (SMP)/Aleatha Dickerson provide a presentation on medicare fraud and scams.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:31am. The next Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 6, 2012, 10:00am-12:00n at the DEA/Director's Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Ciano