

**RHODE ISLAND CITIZENS COMMISSION
FOR THE SAFETY AND CARE OF THE ELDERLY
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 6, 2014**

Chairman Susi called the Meeting to order at 10:08am at the Division of Elderly Affairs, Director's Conference Room, 74 West Road, Cranston. Mr. Susi circulated an Attendance Sheet.

Attendance: Chairman Susi; Vice-Chair, Jack Quigley; Secretary, Mary Ann Ciano; Vincent Quintero; Trooper Amanda Brezniak (for Lt. Ann Assumpico); Terry Haydt; Robert Rock; Majrorie Perry; Denise Owens; Martha Crippen (for Roger Demers)

Excused: Stephen Dresner; Lou Brennan; Tom Magill; Rita Murphy; Valerie Topp

Absent: Gloria Heisler; Carolyn Pellegrino

Old Business:

*A participant list of those who attended the 2013 Senior Police & Fire Advocate Information & Resource Conference was provided at today's Meeting.

*Members were also provided with the Survey results from the participants at the 2013 Conference. Participants provided feedback on challenges faced by Senior Police & Fire Advocates and also provided feedback suggestions for topics for the 2014 Conference.

New Business:

Legislative Update:

**DEA Director Catherine Taylor reported on Senate Bill 2094, which was introduced by the Dept. of Attorney General.

*This Legislation would allow the release of protected health care information by health care professionals for victims of elder abuse.

*The information will be transmitted to law enforcement and DEA by the health care professionals.

*If the Legislation passes, the Attorney General's Office will notify the Police Departments.

*Commission members had questions regarding the reporting aspect of this proposed Legislation.

*The next step, according to DEA Director Taylor, will be for DEA and the Attorney General's Office to further review the reporting aspect.

**Martha Crippen indicated that the Dept. of Attorney General is still working on legislation concerning background checks of homecare workers for those who are employed in facilities and in in-home settings.

2014 Senior Police & Fire Advocate Information & Resource Conference:

**Preliminary discussion on the topic for this Year's Conference.

*Commission members also agree that the Conference should continue to focus on one topic area, and the Conference should be held at a Hotel/Conference Center.

*Martha Crippen said that financial exploitation concerning older adults is exploding. Thus, members suggest financial exploitation as the topic area.

*Denise Owens indicated that we must ensure that there is a tie in to the role of the Senior Fire Advocates.

**Suggested Financial Exploitation Presenters:

*State Police Financial Crimes Unit

*Fraud Investigator from a local Bank

*How to identify financial exploitation--?presenter

*What do advocates need to know about financial exploitation--?presenter

**Vin Quintero recommended that a Commission member volunteer to contact local state businesses in order to bring resources (perhaps grants) to the local community advocates. Ms. Quintero said that this information could be left at the Resource Table.

*Chairman Susi supported having more resources for advocates; however, this will need to be discussed in more detail. No Commission members volunteered to take on this recommendation at of this Meeting.

2014 Commission Membership:

Chairman Susi said that he will plan on reviewing the Commission membership, since some members have been inactive or have taken on other job responsibilities.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:44am. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014, 10:00am-12:00n at the Division of Elderly Affairs, Director's Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Ciano