

**RHODE ISLAND CITIZENS COMMISSION
FOR THE SAFETY AND CARE OF THE ELDERLY
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 9, 2014**

Chairman Rick Susi called the Meeting to order at 10:05am at the Division of Elderly Affairs, Director's Conference Room, 74 West Road, Cranston. Mr. Susi circulated an Attendance Sheet.

Attendance: Chairman Rick Susi; Secretary Mary Ann Ciano, Carolyn Pellegrino, Marjorie Perry, Valerie Topp, Denise Owens

Guests: Trooper William C. Corson, Janet Spinelli, Ph.D, RN, PCNS, and Maria Mancebo, Ph.D

Excused: Stephen Dresner, Tom Magill, Vincent Quintero, Terry Haydt, Trooper Amanda Brezniak

Absent: Jack Quigley, Gloria Heisler, Roger Demers, Chief Elwood Johnson, Lou Brennan, Rita Murphy, Robert Rock, Martha Crippen

The Minutes from the June 3, 2014 Meeting were approved and accepted.

New Business:

Janet Spinelli, Co-Chair RI Elder Mental Health and Addiction Coalition, and Maria Mancebo, Assistant Professor (Research), Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Research Psychologist Butler Hospital, discussed the issue of Hoarding and Older Adults.

Ms. Spinelli handed out material for review from the State of Massachusetts concerning the topic of Hoarding and Older Adults. The Massachusetts Housing Authority has developed a statewide multi-disciplinary Task Force to develop resources in dealing with this issue. The protocols are targeted for housing settings. A waiver form for confidentiality was developed so that specifics about clients can be discussed.

Ms. Mancebo said that hoarding is a psychiatric problem with genetic components. It is the way a person processes information. Hoarding worsens in adulthood and in later life, particularly when people suffer loss. Acute treatments are not very good in the treatment of hoarding. Massachusetts is the leading state in treating hoarding. A combined approach works best. Ms. Mancebo indicated that Butler Hospital runs a monthly hoarding group, which is free. Ms. Mancebo is putting in place behavioral consultation through the Butler Hospital clinic.

Ms. Spinelli and Ms. Mancebo are looking to determine what the community needs may be in dealing with older adult hoarders. They would like to look at current interventions that are in place and put together a grant so that reimbursement can be accomplished for those hoarders living in their own homes. Ms. Mancebo said that the best place to start in treating hoarding is to develop a preventative intervention.

Trooper Corso recommended that Ms. Mancebo and Ms. Spinelli provide training/teaching at the RI Police Training Academies to new recruits with the goal of understanding hoarding as a form of mental illness.

Chairman Susi and Commission Members present today agreed that next year's Safety & Care Resource Conference topic should be Mental Illness/Hoarding, with both Ms. Mancebo and Ms. Spinelli as primary speakers.

Ms. Mancebo and Ms. Spinelli will be invited to the February 2015 Commission Meeting for an update on their research/grant and for further planning for the 2015 Annual Safety & Care Resource Conference.

Old Business:

Conference Planning:

Chairman Susi confirmed that the Conference date is **Wednesday, October 29, 2014**, at the CVS Health Headquarters in Cumberland. Chairman Susi and, perhaps Secretary Ciano, will be meeting with the CVS Conference Coordinator within the next few weeks to finalize the arrangements. Chairman Susi will continue to follow up with the CVS Health Conference liaison.

Chairman Susi distributed a preliminary draft of the Conference Registration Flyer to the members present today. Valerie Topp suggested that the CVS Health logo be placed on the flyer due to the sponsorship from CVS Health. Secretary Ciano will contact Martha Crippen to obtain the specifics on the topics of the speakers for the Flyer, since Ms. Crippen coordinated the speaker roster. The goal is to begin distribution of the flyer the week of 9/22/14.

Denise Owens reported that the Safe Driving Brochure/Flyer will be available at the 10/29/14 Resource Conference. A Roger Williams University School of Law student has been identified and will be working on the Project. The Student may be asked to provide a 5-10 minute presentation on the topic at the beginning of the Resource Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20am. The next meeting of the Commission will be the Annual Resource Conference: **Wednesday, October 29, 2014, CVS Health Headquarters/200 Highland Corporate Drive/Cumberland. Registration begins at 7:30am. The Program is from 8:30am-12:00noon.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Ciano