

**RHODE ISLAND CITIZENS COMMISSION  
FOR THE SAFETY AND CARE OF THE ELDERLY  
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 11, 2015**

Chairman Rick Susi called the Meeting to order at 10:03am 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; Treasurer Stephen Dresner, Esq.; Vincent Quintero; Tom Magill; Terry Haydt; Marjorie Perry; Valerie Topp

Guest: DEA Director Charles J. Fogarty

Excused: Roger Demers; Lou Brennan; Rita Murphy; Robert Rock; Carolyn Pellegrino; Denise Owens; Martha Crippen; Trooper William Corson

Absent: Jack Quigley, Gloria Heisler, Chief Elwood Johnson, Cpl. Ann Assumpico

Chairman Susi welcomed DEA Director Charles J. Fogarty to the Meeting. Mr. Fogarty has been a two term Lt. Governor and also has been a former State Legislator. Director Fogarty expressed his gratitude and commitment to the Commission and said he looks forward to working with the Commission.

The Minutes from the September 9, 2014 Meeting were approved and accepted.

**Old Business:**

**2014 Information & Resource Conference:**

All members agreed that the CVS/Woonsocket Conference Location worked out well and will be considered for future Conferences.

Chairman Susi indicated that the Fire Chief's Association established a relationship with CVS as a result of the Conference. CVS is planning on donating 128 AED Units to High Schools throughout the State.

Secretary Ciano reported that 109 participants registered for the 2014 Conference, and 89 participants actually attended.

Members agree that future Conferences will focus on one topic area.

Commission Membership:

Treasurer Dresner indicated that Lou Brennan is still interested in maintaining her membership on the Commission. She plans on attending future meetings. Chairman Susi indicated that currently there are three vacancies on the Commission. Normally, the Commission has 21 members; currently the Commission has 18 active members.

Legislative Update:

DEA currently does not have any legislation that may be noteworthy to the Commission according to Director Fogarty. Director Fogarty indicated that Paula Parker, DEA Assistant Director, sits on a Legislative Group at the Executive Office of Health & Human Services. The Commission will be kept apprised of any impacting legislation by DEA.

New Business:

2015 Information & Resource Conference:

Topic: Hoarding & Older Adults. Potential Keynote Speakers: Maria Mancebo, Butler Hospital and Janet Spinelli, Elder Mental Health Coalition. Chairman Susi asks that Secretary Ciano follow up with Ms. Mancebo and Ms. Spinelli to invite them to the next Commission Meeting in June 2015 to plan for the Conference and to also obtain their confirmation to address the topic as the keynote speakers.

Vincent Quintero indicated that this issue also needs to be addressed for adults under 60. Mr. Quintero recommends a possible speaker from the Dept. of Energy, Dennis Lopes, to provide resource information on home improvement/safety.

Marge Perry may have a resource at the Dept. of Health who may go out to the homes due to environmental risks.

Valerie Topp indicated that the issues of mental health and homelessness should also be addressed as symptoms of hoarding.

Vincent Quintero provided information on a possible back up location for the Conference—the Rhode Island College (RIC) Donovan/Faculty Dining Center. Mr. Quintero has a contact person at Rhode Island College Dining Center.

Chairman Susi asked Mr. Quintero to provide a five to ten minute update at the 2015 Conference on the "Remembering When" Program. This Program provides outreach on fire safety and fire prevention.

Mr. Quintero also noted that he will be attending an upcoming National Fire Prevention Association Conference in New Hampshire. One of the topics is Hoarding. Mr. Quintero will bring information to the June 2015 Meeting.

Members Agreed on the following date for the Conference: **Wednesday, October 28, 2015. Location: CVS Conference Headquarters/Woonsocket.**

**Other:**

Chairman Susi noted that there will be two upcoming Honor Flights for World War II Veterans. One will be on April 11<sup>th</sup> and the other on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Both are full. The plan is to have four honor flights a year.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:20am. The next Meeting of the Commission will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, 10:00am-12:00n. Vincent Quintero will attempt to secure the RIC Donovan Dining/Faculty Center for the Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Ciano, Secretary