

**RHODE ISLAND CITIZENS COMMISSION  
FOR THE SAFETY AND CARE OF THE ELDERLY  
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 24, 2016**

Chairman Rick Susi called the Meeting to order at 10:10am at the RI Division of Elderly Affairs, Room 211, Louis Pasteur Building, 57 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI. Mr. Susi circulated an Attendance Sheet.

Attendance: Chairman Rick Susi; Secretary Mary Ann Ciano; Vincent Quintero; Terry Haydt; Marjorie Perry; Valerie Topp; Denise Owens; Rita Murphy

Guests: Jeanne Gattegno; Suzanne Michaud

Excused: Jack Quigley; Stephen Dresner; Diane Daigle; William Corson; Robert Rock; Carolyn Pellegrino

Absent: Elwood Johnson; Tom Magill

**Old/New Business:**

Chairman Susi indicated that this is the first Commission Meeting of the Year.

The September 2015 Meeting Minutes were reviewed, approved, and accepted.

**Jeanne Gattegno**, a guest participant, was formerly the Director of West Bay Community Action. Ms. Gattegno is currently working part time at the St. Elizabeth Community/Safe Haven Shelter for elder victims of abuse. The Safe Haven Shelter has been serving victims of elder abuse, 60 years of age and older, since 2009. The Haven staff address the health and mental health needs of traumatized victims. The elder victims can remain at the Haven for 30 days or longer. Most of the Haven services are paid for by the community. Ms. Gattegno indicated the goal of the Haven is to tackle elder abuse with an emphasis on community outreach. Ms. Gattegno is planning on the future development of an Elder Abuse Task Force. Chairman Susi extended an invitation for Ms. Gattegno to present at the 2016 Information and Resource Conference. Ms. Gattegno expressed a willingness to do so.

**Results of 2015 Information and Resource Conference:**

Mary Ann Ciano reported that 128 participants registered for the Conference, and 109 actually attended. Dr. Maria Mancebo, the keynote speaker at the 2015 Conference, in concert with Jessica Mowry, another speaker at the Conference, have organized a Task Force on Hoarding.

**2016 Information and Resource Conference:**

Chairman Susi noted that DEA Director Charles Fogarty has asked the Commission to consider the topic of Substance Abuse and Older Adults as the 2016 Conference topic. The Commission members agreed that this will be the topic for the 2016 Conference.

Rita Murphy reported on a study that was completed in subsidized housing. The study focused on an increase in prescribed medication misuse in subsidized housing. The misuse appears to result for those adults and older adults who do not have family members to assist. Perhaps, this survey can be presented at the 2016 Conference.

The Commission members would like to invite Dr. Mancebo and Jessica Mowry to return to the 2016 Conference to provide an update on hoarding and the Hoarding Task Force.

Suzanne Michaud said that, while working at the Resource Table at the 2015 Conference, participants were asking for copies of the power point presentations. Terry Haydt, the IT Specialist, indicated that most of the power point presentations, that are not secure, were placed on the DEA website under the Safety & Care Link. This can also be accomplished for the 2016 Conference.

Denise Owens and other members recommended a Suggestion Box with a simple Evaluation Form for participants to complete upon leaving the Conference. A recommendation on the Evaluation Form may be topics for upcoming conferences. Denise Owens said that student interns at Roger Williams University can input the data for review.

Members today recommended the following possible presenters at the 2016 Conference on the topic of Substance Abuse and Older Adults:

Kathryn Power, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration-

SAMHSA

Rita Murphy, Housing Survey

RI Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals—Lori  
Dorsey, Substance Abuse Coordinator

Elder Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Coalition

Brown University-Geriatrics

AdCare RI Treatment Center

Anchor Recovery

Butler Hospital/Substance Abuse

Physician to present on physical symptoms

Vincent Quintero was able to secure the following dates for the 2016 and 2017  
Conferences at the CVS Headquarters in Woonsocket:

Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 7:30am-12:00noon

Friday, October 27, 2017, 7:30am-12:00noon

**No legislative issues were noted at this time.**

**Other:**

Denise Owens will explore the feasibility of Chief Hugh Clements of the  
Providence Police as a designee on the Commission

Chairman Susi noted that the next Honor Flight is scheduled for April 2, 2016. This  
Flight is completely filled. The following Honor Flight is scheduled for June 4,  
2016. There is still space available.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:25am. The next Commission Meeting is scheduled  
for Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 10:00am-12:00noon, at the DEA, Conference Room  
211, Louis Pasteur Building, 57 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Ciano

