

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Minutes of the Meeting - January 18, 2012**

Members Present:

Susan Adler Rev. Paul Bliss, Joan Crawley, Madeline Ernest, William Finelli, , Helena Friedmann, Nancy Pontes, Sue Robbio, Rick Ryan, and Sister Marietta Walsh.

State Staff Present:

DEA Director, Catherine Taylor and Larry Grimaldi, DEA

Guests:

Matthew Trimble, Saint Elizabeth Home and James P. Nyberg, Leading Age RI

Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:18 AM

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Nancy, seconded by Helena.

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand is \$109.59.

Old Business

Rick's letter to the leadership of the General Assembly about the method in which the DEA/DHS merger occurred has only received, to date, one response - from the President of the Senate, Ms. Paiva Weed. It was recommended that a follow up letter be send about the consolidation of the departments. Ms. Taylor told us that nothing is clear or decided. Also inform us that important communications with other departments has been initiated.

There are budget talks about a smaller allotment from the Federal government and State talks about the level of current services and co-pay.

New Business

An article written by Rick was published on the January 2012 issue of the Senior Digest on page 15; it informs the seniors of the Mission and the history of the Commission.

Thanks to Larry for the history of the Department of Elderly Affairs and for his help with the publishing in the Senior Digest.

Another article is in the works about been pro-active and supporting seniors.

We need data about cutting admissions, increased home care and grants.

Referrals to The Point and the follow up of them can be encourage by communication of all fully functional agencies such as DEA, Medicare, Medicaid, police, visiting nurses and the ER.

A transition for calls to coop is now in the planning stages.

There is a need for trained people to evaluate seniors out of the nursing home and their new places. One of the problems trying to get information is the HIPA regulation.

Rick received a regretful letter of resignation from Janice Zeickner. We now need one officer and one member to fill all the places of the Commission.

Mr. Matthew Trimble of Saint Elizabeth Home

There is an initiative to build a “green house model” for senior care. The idea is to provide for the social need of the elderly by having clusters of rooms with common facilities; all done in small scale. The green house model is a win-win situation it is less expensive to run, the food is prepared “in house” and the outcome for the seniors is much better due to interaction and socialization. The problem is that there is a moratorium on building more nursing homes. Considering the aging population of Rhode Island we need more home beds not less. The approval is through the Dr. Fine in the Department of Health and DEA.

A letter to Dr. Fine could ask what is the time table for approval of this kind of facility.

Mr. James Nyberg of Leading Age Rhode Island

Informed us of the cuts for assistance to low income people and asked for help in the legislation to restore the funds.

Also on the restoration of subsidies from Federal 202 funds that were eliminated.

The suggestion that adult day care be used as a transition to the community from a nursing home is a priority and it just makes sense.

A serious problem is coming up, the nursing homes will be paid by a price system not a before - cost reimbursement (cap of \$144/day). That will make necessary to cut expenses such as decrease the number of the staff and also to the quality of the service.

It was asked of both presenters to supply us with more numbers information through our Chairperson Mr. Ryan.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM