

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Minutes of the Meeting - March 21, 2012**

Members Present:

Rick Ryan, presiding, Sister Marietta Walsh, Susan Adler and Helena Friedmann

**NOTE:** Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting was declared by Chairperson Ryan to be an informal informational meeting only. No official votes, motions or actions were taken on behalf of the commission.

State Staff Present:

Paula Parker, Assistant Director, DEA

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was delayed until next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand is \$109.59.

Old Business:

Comments were shared about the "green house" facility and fact that some beds have actually disappeared. We need new ones and some re-orientation of the beds available in the State. The Health Department needs to be clearer about their stand on the re-imburement. The rate has to correspond more on the needs and the acute stage of the patient; it need to be more rational. There is the possibility of homes closing because of the possible changes to payment; especially some small ones. It was suggested to ask Director Taylor to invite some one from Medicaid to get a sense of finances in the State after the DHS waiver from Federal government. A letter was sent again to Gordon Fox concerning the elimination of the Department of Elderly Affairs. Also a letter to Chairman Melo of the Finance Committee, because this decision is clearly a Budget decision.

Sister Marietta informed us that the Health Care Planning and Accountability Council has been in effect for 2 years with EOHHS and OHIC as Co-chairs. They were charged to make a plan of the facilities such as State Hospitals, Extended Care facilities, Nursing Homes and how they fit into the Health Plan. They have some funding and will have RFP for gap analysis.

The Bristol Veterans Home presented a proposal for the addition of 19 pod units to be added to the existing building. It will go on the ballot in November. It will have sections for assisted living and small apartments for families.

The re-admissions to hospitals have increase and become a problem because many nursing homes facilities can not handle the need of some clients.

In the preliminary stage there is a State plan on dementia. The Lt. Governor is taking DEA and Alzheimer entities in developing a state plan on dementia; Director Taylor is very much involved.

New Business:

An article on Page 15 of the Senior Digest is looking for volunteers to join the Commission on Aging; we need people to represent the disable and minorities.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45