

Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Aging
Minutes of the Meeting
May 23, 2012

Members Present:

Joan Crawley, Madeline Ernest, Bill Finelli, Sue Robbio, Susan Adler and Helena Friedmann

State Staff Present:

Catherine Taylor DEA and Larry Grimaldi DEA

1. Call to Order:

Ms. Crawley called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

2. Approval of Previous Two Meetings' Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Madeline, seconded by Helena, and approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand is \$109.59. Account maintenance fee is pending.

4. Old Business

Director Taylor gave us an update on the current state budget deliberations as they relate to funding of DEA and community grants for senior services at the next meeting.

RIPAE has \$100K for reimbursements, checks are been mailed to about 300 people, some people do not qualify any more because of the income topping. The expenditures were \$ 190K. They are in the process of matching utilities with folks that apply this year.

There is help with the paper filling and some are applying, they must have part D in order to qualify and to get help for people in the doughnut hole. The March 31 deadline has been extended. One of the delays has to do with the fact they are no replacement cards, they are expensive to process (\$9.000), the new cards will have a 2018 expiration date.

There has been a 175K request for funding.

On the Budget: DEA had a 25% cut in community services grants. There was a House Finance call to testify so Directors went to testify including Ms. Taylor. Nothing is resolved yet but there is some support to keep some money for the Senior Centers instead of cuts all across the board. Documentation of the services provided has become very important to allocate monies. Our charter has the specific mission to preserve the dignity of the seniors and we would help as needed.

The Governor has asked for moneys to cover the \$380K overrun on assistant living (115 waiver clients).

Still there is no long term regulations from the Alliance, they have been working now for a year and are still in a draft format. The regulations have to reflect the Federal Government programs and requirements; the biggest problem is the lack of knowledge about the role of the Alliance and the Federal Government. Regulations such as the ombudsman job, it has to be separate from the executive director, one person can not have the two jobs. Or the role of the Alliance in regard to adult protective services, the Federal regulations says the abuse situation has to be reported to the Health Department, the situation can only be assessed and then DOH takes over. The draft need to be re-written with a hearing to follow and that way the Alliance will have a better understanding of their role.

5. New Business

The “rebalancing and nursing homes” update for the cost base vs. the price base will take a few years to implement. There is the need for consensus and to include the impact of the Health Care Reform. There are lots of questions about the non-profit and the profit impact on any decision. Director Taylor is having a meeting this afternoon (May 23) about the question “does money follows the person”?

There is joint RI meeting planned for the Alzheimer and the Dementia organizations to investigate resources because we do not have tools to deal with the situations.

From funding to day centers, to the role of the ombudsman, to retaliation, to the prison population, to education to the general public and the impaired people and finally to cultural differences – it is necessary and important that there is a conversation between all parties. Suggestions such as PSA are needed to the general public about Alzeimers and Dementia and the resources available; just as important is the help that the caregivers need in order to continue with the care. Also that the September meeting could be geared to this issue.

The recruiting of new members has to continue especially for people with different knowledge and more important with different connections.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m

Next meeting June 20th at Tamarisk