

Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Aging

Minutes of the Meeting

June 20, 2012

Members Present:

Joan Crawley, Bill Finelli, Sister Marietta Walsh, Sue Robbio, Susan Adler, Abby Arron

State Staff Present:

Larry Grimaldi, DEA Rhonda Schwartz, DEA

1. Call to Order:

Rick Ryan, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

2. Approval of Previous Two Meetings' Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Sister Marietta, seconded by Sue Robbio and approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

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

4. Old Business

The budget has been left intact. No decreases after years of cuts. An annual conference on July 31 has been planned.

Re-applying for benefits will start in September.

5. New Business

Rick was contacted by Charles Gate North with a claim of harassment. It concerns newspaper recycling in violation of a rental agreement to maintain the property. The tenants need to comply because of fire hazard problems. A letter to DEM and the coordinator of recycling about this concern and the concerns about the safety of smoking.

Talking and educating policeman about the abuse from and to seniors is important, at present the senior Advocates for the Police and Fire Departments are trained.

Libby has heard stories of problems with mixed up/delayed medication and bathrooms in less than desired condition. Also the escalated cost of ambulances. There is a phone number 785-3340 for an ombudsman/advocate from the Alliance for Better Long Term Care.

Rhonda Schwartz informs us that the money follows the person, both State and Federal.

There is a focus on re-admission (RIH) with a grant for care transitions. Referral to The Point is important but because of HIPA regulations it can not be done by RIH, a form needs to be developed to make this possible.

There are 9 regional Point places; they can offer the option of consulting - that is basically talking to the client and/or family about finances and care. Now they are trying, with the grant, to train people on standard services for all with an option of counseling.

Now OC not only acts on crisis help but also provides information for all people of all incomes on options and decisions by a client.

A resource book has been planned with places and differences of each service place. Housing issues are important.

The challenge is to do or look for help before a crisis develops. We can explore Churches as a resource for education.

We need to explore new members to the commission. A recommendation to invite Mr. Jim Nyborg's name was suggested.

The commission is recessing for the summer and we will have the election of officers at our September meeting.

6. Adjournment

Thank you to Tamarisk Assisted Living for their hospitality.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.