

**Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Aging  
Minutes of January 15, 2014 Meeting**

**Members present:**

Susan Adler, Libby Arron, Joan Crawley, William Finelli, Brian Ott, MD, Rick Ryan & Sister Marietta Walsh

**Members excused:**

Karen Enright, Rev. Paul Bliss

**DEA Staff:**

Director Taylor, Larry Grimaldi

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Karen Enright at 10:08 AM

**Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

William Finelli made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, seconded by Dr. Ott. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

\$ 109.59. Approved.

**Upcoming Agenda Topics & Speakers:**

- ✓ February meeting will continue with previously identified items in order to prioritize and identify potential speakers and timelines.
- ✓ Director Taylor raised the topic of reviewing the outcomes of the merger of DEA within DHS as an area which she would like to discuss with the commission over the next few months. Now that it is two (2) years later, how does DEA go forward into a new administration; as per state statute?
- ✓ Director Taylor cited one outcome is the loss of direct communication with the General Assembly's Budget Committee regarding the ability to provide detailed explanation of programs' benefits.
- ✓ Director Taylor further broached the issue of the continuation of unfinished business of other related boards and commissions; i.e. State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease.
- ✓ She also expressed a benefit of the merger being enhanced collaboration and being an integral part of the larger organization.
- ✓ Joan expressed concern as to whether the next DEA Director will maintain a seat on the Governor's Cabinet and inquired as to what the commission could do to foster the transition into the next administration.
- ✓ Director Taylor indicated that she will bring her thoughts to the commission within the next month, or two, for further discussion.
- ✓ Dr. Ott inquired as to whether advocacy is an appropriate role for the commission. To wit, Director Taylor responded it is if she brings an issue to us and asks us to pursue it.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

**Submitted January 31, 2014**

Rick Ryan  
Acting Secretary

**Next Meeting February 19, 2014**