



Council on Aging

November 13, 2014 - **Minutes**
181 Hillman Street, Building 9

Board Members Present:

Bruce Duarte, Chair
Patricia Costa, Vice-Chair
Esperanza Alejandro-Berube
Inez Mello
Jane Stott
Mary Sullivan
Joan Swain
James Sylvia

Also Present:

Debra Lee, COA Director
Pamela Amaral-Lema, COA Administrative Specialist
Elaine Coelho, Downtown Senior Center Coordinator

Excused:

Virginia Morrison, Secretary
Stanley Ociesa

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by the Chairman, Bruce Duarte

Secretary's Report

Mr. Duarte asked the board members to read over the minutes to see if there were any questions. The board members agreed upon the approval of the minutes from October 16th, 2014 meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes for October 16th, 2014 meeting was made by Mr. Sylvia and seconded by Ms. Mello. The motion was unanimously approved.

Appearances

Elaine Coelho, Downtown Senior Center Coordinator- Ms. Coelho spoke about the new programs she has implemented into the monthly schedule. Mr. Duarte asked Ms. Coelho about any outreach services. Ms. Coelho responded by stating she does pass out flyers to all New Bedford Hotel residents and nearby high rises along with the senior centers. Ms. Coelho has tried to bring in entertainment on a bi-weekly schedule to attract seniors to attend the senior center. Ms. Coelho stated when there are events with food and entertainment seniors come down to the center. Mr. Duarte and other board members thanked Ms. Coelho for her dedication and hard work.

Old Business

Aging Mastery Program- Ms. Lee stated the group is still going well. There are different speakers each week on various health/wellness topics. Ms. Lee reported the group would like to continue to meet on a weekly basis in the upcoming year to discuss different issues on aging and to help bring awareness to the public.

CARES Program- Ms. Lee stated the CARES program started last week and there was one caregiver in attendance along with a senior suffering from dementia. Ms. Lee believes more people will join the group due to outreach and advertising efforts.

National Memory Screening Day- Alzheimer's Association will conduct a memory screening tests at the Senior Support Center on Tuesday, November 18th from Noon to 5PM.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren- Ms. Lee reported to the board that starting in January 2015, Grandparents raising Grandchildren will use the Hillman St. Senior Support Center as their new location. They will hold their monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month and will use the conference room every Wednesday from 10AM-2PM to help explain their program to seniors.

New Business

Holiday Party- Ms. Amaral-Lema stated the annually city-wide holiday party will be held at Fort Taber on Friday, December 12, 2014 from 12PM-3PM. Carmen's Private Chef Services will be catering the event and "Ray-J" as entertainment.

Food Drive at Senior Centers- Ms. Lee reported there will be a food drive until December 31st, 2014 at all of the five senior centers along with the senior support center. The food collected will help seniors in need during the holiday season and anything left over will be donated to nearby food pantries.

Electronic Tracking System- Ms. Lee stated Buttonwood and Hazelwood has begun using the My Senior Center tracking system and are working out a few glitches. Overall, the new system has received positive feedback from employees and patrons.

Chairman's Report- Mr. Duarte

Mr. Duarte asked Ms. Lee which presentations she enjoyed at the MCOA conference in October. Ms. Lee said she and Ms. Amaral-Lema attended both an Alzheimer's and fundraising presentation that were really informative and insightful. Ms. Lee stated the conference is always valuable because of the networking and meeting of similar agencies to help the greater need of the community. Mr. Duarte stated when he attended the MCOA conference a few years ago, he found the Alzheimer's presentation phenomenal and all of the ways to help the mind stay active to help reduce the chances of acquiring the disease.

Mr. Duarte asked how the Mental Health and aging training went. Ms. Lee stated there were around 30 representatives from different Council on Agings and human service agencies who attended this training. Ms. Lee stated there was someone from Martha's Vineyard and Groton and others who traveled great lengths to attend this training session. Most of the New Bedford Council on Aging employees are attending this training. The training consists of four online courses which are four hours in length and once they are completed a certificate will be awarded.

Motion to approve the Chairman's report was made by Ms. Swain and seconded by Ms. Costa. It was unanimously approved.

Director's Report- Ms. Lee

Ms. Lee stated everything that was in her report had been discussed.

Motion to approve the Director's report was made Mr. Sylvia and seconded by Ms. Stott. It was unanimously approved.

Correspondence

The next Council on Aging advisory board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 9AM.

Motion to adjourn this meeting was made by Ms. Stott and seconded by Ms. Swain. It was unanimously approved.