



## *Council on Aging*

January 8, 2015 - **Minutes**  
181 Hillman Street, Building 9

### **Board Members Present:**

Bruce Duarte, Chair  
Patricia Costa, Vice-Chair  
Virginia Morrison, Secretary  
Inez Mello  
Jane Stott  
Joan Swain

### **Also Present:**

Debra Lee, COA Director  
Pamela Amaral-Lema, COA Administrative Specialist

### **Excused:**

Virginia Morrison, Secretary  
Esperanza Alejandro-Berube  
Stanley Ociesa  
Mary Sullivan  
James Sylvia

**The meeting was called to order at 9:20AM 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 December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting.

**A motion to approve the minutes for December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting was made by Ms. Swain and seconded by Ms. Mello. The motion was unanimously approved.**

### **Old Business**

**Transportation Van-** Ms. Lee spoke about the new transportation van given by SRTA. It is a retired On Demand Response van in good shape that SRTA had to take off the road because of mileage. Ms. Lee stated once the van is no longer needed it will be returned to SRTA. The City of New Bedford insures the vehicle and it will help with medical transportation services.

**National Depression Screening Day-** Ms. Lee stated there will be a national depression screening day at each of the senior centers. A social worker will be available during the presentation to help anyone who needs immediate assistance. It is a screening tool provided by the National Institute of Mental Health.

### **New Business**

**Donation-** Ms. Lee reported the Council on Aging received a \$1,000 check from the Ora DeJesus Healthy Aging & Wellness Foundation. Mrs. DeJesus has passed away, but her husband wrote a letter describing how impressed he is with the new programming/services offered by the New Bedford Council on Aging.

### **Chairman's Report- Mr. Duarte**

Mr. Duarte asked Ms. Lee how the electronic tracking system is working. Ms. Lee stated it is running well at Buttonwood, Hazelwood and now Brooklawn senior center. The transportation portion of the electronic system is running well and one can now book transportation appointment years in advance.

Mr. Duarte asked Ms. Lee how Clear Path Program is funded. Ms. Lee stated it is funded between the Disabilities Commission and the Council on Aging. There are 60 slots available with first priority given to individuals who need chemotherapy, radiation treatments, and dialysis along with others needing home health care assistance. It is a program where someone has to reapply each year to meet the criteria needed to receive services.

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

### **Director's Report- Ms. Lee**

Ms. Lee stated in the last two weeks she was able to acquire \$27,000 in grants for the Council on Aging. The EOEA incentive grant was in the amount of \$10,000 along with the \$10,000 from A.R.A.W in total \$20,000 has been brought in to fund a new outreach position. A.R.A.W. also granted \$7,000 to the New Bedford Council on Aging in which half will go into a necessity fund to help aged women with a one-time assistance of gift cards to the grocery store and the other half will help fund the Clear Path program.

Ms. Lee reported she was able to acquire a van from SRTA. It is a retired demand response van that will aide with medical transportation. SRTA takes vehicles off the road once they reach a certain mileage, but the vehicles are still in good condition. After the inspection and insurance paperwork is settled the van will have the city seal and New Bedford Council on Aging painted on the van. Once the van is no longer running it will be return to SRTA.

Ms. Lee spoke about the Mental Health & Aging training session that was held in November by Boston University. Most of the New Bedford Council on Aging staff will take the online training to receive a certificate of completion.

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

### **Correspondence**

The next Council on Aging advisory board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9AM.

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