

# Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 26, 2023

The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 10:00am at the Walpole Council of Aging with the following members present; Josette Burke, Janet Fasanello, Mary Jones, Jim Pellegrine, Jerry Reicher, Marcia St Louis, JoAnne Mulligan, and Meaghan Priest. Also in attendance was COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Outreach Worker Jillian Nauman, and Nancy Aicardi. One (1) guest was in attendance.

Absent: Sandhya Malur, Linda Winslow, Joanne DiPietro

10:00 AM: The Monthly Meeting was called to order by Josette Burke

1. Attendance was taken, and then the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Dylan Thomas, Law Enforcement Support Clinician for Walpole  
Makenzi Buckley, Case Manager, Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, Riverside Community Care
  - Dylan is a Clinical Social Worker who works with Riverside, but is imbedded with the police department, and works 12:00 - 8:00PM Monday to Friday
  - His position is supported by a grant from the Department of Mental Health
  - Not sure if the mental health crisis is increasing, or whether society is more aware
  - Dylan is available and will go with the police on calls to give an on-sight evaluation and/or make the person (persons) aware of any resources available to them
    - a. Could be drug-related, could be a psychotic incident, or a criminal incident
    - b. If a Section 12 (a person in need of hospitalization), EMS will transport the person to either BI Needham or Good Samaritan in Brockton
  - He does a lot with people, both ones he assists, as well as ones the police encounter when he is not available
  - He trained with the Mobile Intervention Crisis Team at Riverside
  - He's available for help to residents
    - a. His information is passed along by word or mouth, but the Board of Health and school guidance counselors also have his contact information
  - Most mental health issues are in the under 21 age group, as well as the 21- to 30-year-old age group
  - The late teens, early 20's is when bi-polar disease and schizophrenia develop
  - Makenzie stated that Riverside is in Norwood, has clinicians on staff 24/7, covers 17 communities, and tries to mobile out within an hour of receiving a call
  - A person does not have to be in crisis to receive services, in fact, their main focus is to provide resources to hopefully prevent a situation from becoming a crisis
  - Riverside is outside of medical insurance
  - They are seeing a lot of adolescents in schools
  - Outreach: they have reached out to principals and SROs of schools in their area
    - a. They also go by word of mouth and HESSCO is aware of their services
3. Review of September Meeting Minutes
  - There were no corrections noted. Janet motioned and JoAnne M. seconded
  - The vote was 7 – 0 – 1 to accept the Minutes with Jim abstaining as he was absent

4. Outreach Update – Jillian Nauman (slides were provided)
  - The total Outreach number for September was 404 to 241 unique individuals
    - a. The numbers were pretty much 50/50 between in-person and telephone calls
    - b. Some were for Medicare and Shine questions
  - Jillian provided slides including a Pie Chart with the breakdown of categories of Outreach
    - a. Some of the higher numbers are seen in Nursing/Wellness Clinics, medical rides, and information research - with wellness checks requiring the most follow up
    - b. Medical Rides continues to be a big demand – the 5 RSVP drivers do help quite a bit, but this requires a lot of phone calls to set up the rides
    - c. Information/Research Category - usually actively researching a specific issue or task to be performed at the home of the caller
  - The Flu Clinics were very successful, both the town-wide and the grant-funded NCOA Clinic
  - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group
    - a. Currently there are 6 grandparents involved in the Group and it's really taking off
    - b. It can be intense at times, but the grandparents are glad to see they are not alone
    - c. The COA is working on planning and sponsoring a day trip for this group
  - No “feel good” story, this month, but Jill talked about the monthly Collaboration Meeting held at the police department
    - a. Dylan Thomas is also involved in this Meeting
    - b. The latest meeting revolved around one family – Jillian is working with the grandparents, and other members of this Team is working with other family members
5. Center Update – Kerri McManama (slides were provided)
  - The total number of rides increased to 442 in September
    - a. The largest need was for scheduling, followed by recreation and health and wellness
  - Check-ins
    - a. The numbers dipped a little, down to 3317, but that's still high
    - b. The YTD total check-ins are up to 44,426 with September most likely hitting 1,953 unique check-ins
    - c. The average daily check-in for September was 166, with the 70 – 79 age group the largest
    - d. The In Town and Out of Town participants as well as the Female and Male participants ratios remain the same
  - NCOA Vaccine Update
    - a. The Center received a \$10,000 Grant from NCOA, and created a purchase order for 421 \$25 gift cards from Big Y (5% discount for bulk orders)
    - b. The Center was able to spend every penny of the grant for this initiative
    - c. Thus far the Center has proved 320 gift cards to the community with the balance to be distributed as others come in with proof of flu vaccination
  - Staffing Update
    - a. During the month of September and into October, the Center had some staffing shortages mainly in Outreach
    - b. Jill generously flexed her schedule and worked up to 19 hours once that was approved by the Town
    - c. The Center is hopeful to be at “fully staffed” status for the foreseeable future
    - d. On occasion Kerry has had to drive the Van to cover rides
  - Breakfast – Deb kept it going over the summer
  - Upcoming events
    - a. The Center will be closed on November 10<sup>th</sup> for Veterans Day, and then again, an early closure the day before Thanksgiving and closed for Thanksgiving and the day after
    - b. Soup Lunch beginning on Thursdays through a collaboration with New Pond Village
    - c. The Flu Clinic provided flu vaccine to 160 with smaller clinics held at Diamond Pond and Neponset View

- d. Two additional upcoming trips: Newport Playhouse in November and Newport Christmas in early December
  - e. Holiday Open House will be Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>
  - f. Kerry is working on finalizing the Department Budget for FY25
6. Finance Update – (Sandhya provided slides, and Kerry reported)
- Total spent in September was \$1,660.13 (Operating Budget)
    - a. There were no unexpected expenses
  - A total of only \$898.30 of the Formula Grant was spent in September (does not include funds spent on salaries)
  - A balance forward from previous FY23 was \$45,867.55 and the FY24 Funding Federal Census of \$89,824 is anticipated
  - Estimated salaries for FY24 is \$55,000 and anticipated expenses for FY24 is \$35,000
  - Gifts
    - a. The Center did not receive any gifts in September
    - b. A total of \$319.69 was spent in September leaving a balance of \$15,892.40
7. Old Business
- Signage at street – Sign is up
  - Signage at front garden – Jerry suggested having a decal on the center window rather than the door instead of the garden
    - a. Kerry and Jerry will work on colors that will work with the vision-impaired
    - b. Josette made a motion to approve going forward with development of the decal – passed unanimously
    - c. Will vote on the decal and location once it has been designed
8. New Business
- Walpole Housing Update
    - a. The Budget was worked on at this meeting
    - b. Tom White, now retired from Rockland Federal Credit Union, is a new member of the Board
    - c. Replacing Denise Landry will be difficult
  - Master Plan Update
    - a. Still on hold as the Planning Board is still waiting for the Consultant to appear before the Board
  - Select Board Update
    - a. Grant Funding Secured – Huge thank you to Patrick Deschenes, Director of Community and Economic Development and Landis Hershey, Walpole Conservation Agent, for all their work in securing the following grants. \$65,000 through the State's Housing Choice Initiative to assist in a zoning review and rewrite and \$300,000 through Mass DEP to improve stormwater retention and reduce possible groundwater impacts
    - b. SHINE Program – the SHINE program was highlighted as well as Thanks to the staff and volunteers at the COA that provide this service
    - c. WFD Promotions – Brian Cherella was promoted to the Assistant Fire Chief position and Allen Hover was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief
    - d. MBTA Communities Zoning – the Board appointed a Steering Committee to spearhead the development of new zoning regulations to meet this State mandate. The goal will be to bring possible zoning revisions to Spring 2024 Town Meeting. There will be public input sessions scheduled in the coming months
    - e. FY25 Budget Planning – Jim Johnson updated the Board on the start of the FY25 budget process, and the Finance Committee will hold meetings in November with the Select Board, School Committee and WFD/WPD to discuss plans
  - Friends of Walpole Update
    - a. There was no report as Rich McCarthy was not present

- Looking ahead
  - a. November and December will be business meetings due to vacations and the holidays
  - b. Possibly Jim Johnson
  - c. Meaghan brought up the Right to Die Bill which is in process this year – might be an interesting topic
- 9. Open Forum
  - a. No questions from the guest

**Next Meeting scheduled for November 30th, 10:00 AM at the Center**

Josette asked for a Motion to Adjourn – Janet motioned, and Jerry seconded

After a unanimous vote, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM