



## **Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020

A meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 10am via Zoom with the following members present: Richard McCarthy, Josette Burke, Linda Winslow, Janet Fasanello, Jim Pelligrene, Mary Jones, and Rosanne Rockwell. Also in attendance was the COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Assistant Director Debbie Fradkin, and COA Outreach Worker Laurel St. Pierre.

10:15 AM: Meeting was called to order by Richard McCarthy.

COA Director Kerri McManama provided a slide presentation on statistics and programming at the Center. Presentation attached.

The Presentation covered:

- A review of the October and current statistics demonstrating numbers in Outreach the Department has not experienced since April. The statistics continue to follow a similar curve to the prior year, however the numbers are far greater indicating the Department is providing more services than last year at this time.
  - Reasons cited for the increase include; continued support of the Pantry programs, Medicare Part D Open Enrollment, and an ongoing COA Survey to re-engage over 1000 Center participants to determine their needs, barriers to service and outreach requests.
  - Many survey contacts have resulted in Outreach contacts for specific issues or well being checks.
  - *Josette asked about specific program attendance. Kerri referenced data on individual program participation through a google sheet which tracks this data as well as referencing that programs have at least 4 in*

*attendance or as many as 10, with just one with a waiting list currently (chair yoga).*

- *Janet asked how often the Pantry is running? Kerri replied that the program is still running at twice a month and that yes, the Department is still providing delivery and pick up service. This may change in the future as Greater Boston Food Bank policies appear to be in flux.*
- *Rich asked about the number of Grab and Go pick ups each week? This was an average of 40, but continues to rise and this past week hit 50.*
- Holidays at the COA were discussed through the lens of the ongoing pandemic.
  - The Department is planning a drive thru trunk or treat holiday style event with stops along the route with community partners and groups. At the time of the meeting the Department has secured 5 stops for the event through outreach to the community. Groups will be assigned a spot in the parking lot on the drive thru route to decorate themed to a holiday song and groups are encouraged to have activities or giveaways, holiday music, dressing up etc. The more participants and the more creative the better. Seniors will sign up for a time slot to not overwhelm South Street. The Police Department has been informed and will be both participating and assisting with traffic. Donations and gift cards are being accepted for the event.
- The Department also continues at this time to provide coverage for the VSO, which will likely extend until at least December 7th. Phone coverage support through the Veterans Committee, a Senior Tax Work Off Volunteer and Department. Benefits assistance, reporting, and coordination is being provided by the Department.
  - *Josette asked is this arrangement will be indefinite and stated that this adds a great deal of work to the Department's role. Kerri reiterated that this will likely continue through at least December 7th, but that by our next Board Meeting in December we should have more information. The Department continues to support Walpole's Veterans to the best of their ability and will continue to do so until a long term plan can be established.*
- The Board again discussed the possibility of meeting in-person at a future meeting in January, utilizing a meeting space at Town Hall which would allow for social distancing, which was stated to be larger than the Murphy Room. (Closer examination of the referenced room is that the space is about half the size.) - -
  - *Kerri directed the group to the often updated COVID section of the Town website which at the time of the meeting noted 50 cases undergoing*

*monitoring and ensured it was clear how to access the information from the Town Site. Following discussion the group determined this should be revisited prior to the January meeting with feedback and advice from the Board of Health.*

**The next Board Meeting is scheduled for December 17 at 10am via Zoom Teleconference.**

Richard McCarthy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 AM.