

Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting

May 20, 2021

Present: Director Jim Leyden, Chair George Shea, Vice Chair Fran Miffitt, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Marybeth Bergeron, Saul Finestone, Jan Komaiszko, Marge Morgan, Eleanor Stolar, Judy Yaffe, Theresa Yesu

Absent: John Bowen, Phil Hallahan, Rose Morace, Julia Moulton

Guest: Robin Frechette

- I. **Welcome:** George opened the meeting at 9:30am. He noted that Marilyn Hurst has submitted her resignation from the COA board.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Robin had a correction in the State Representatives report. On line 3, it is a bill S415 not a program S415. The minutes were then approved.
- III. **Reports:**

- a. **Select Board:** Tom Lachiusa was not available.
- b. **State Representative:** Robin gave an explanation for Marybeth's question at our last meeting regarding the definition of handicapped within the bill #730. There is a 13% mandated non-elderly handicapped which has now become more drug, alcohol, and mental health individuals to be included in the housing complexes. This bill stipulates those properties should be separated, if possible.

House budget elder affairs highlights:

1. Supportive senior housing at the state and federally assisted housing sites- level funding at \$7,763,422 and will establish not less than 10 additional supportive housing sites.
2. Home care services: \$1,670,485 and funds elder home care programs.
3. Elder home care case management: the house increased the governor's budget by \$200,000
4. Nutrition Services Programs: increased by \$400,000 including \$750,000 for Meals on Wheels
5. Grants to Council on Aging: remains at \$12 per elder
6. Mass Health Senior Care: Funds health care services provided to Mass Health members who are seniors- budgeted for \$3,699,225,668.

The Senate will debate their budget next week; then the FY22 budget goes before a conference committee to hash out differences. I do not expect any of the above to change.

V. **Old Business:**

- a. **COA Clerk position:** May 28th is the end date for applying for the position. It is a 35 hour a week \$17-\$18 range- hopefully to have the center open in the evening 5-8pm. Marybeth wondered if Jim or Lyn Simmons was doing the interview and Jim said both were conducting the interviews.
- b. **Meals on Wheels Update:** refer to page 7. We were pleased to note that George said our van can now be stored at the new DPW and will be under cover for the winter months. Also Marybeth noted there is no conflict of interest with the LACCF and her position on that committee. A report of the LACCF can be given out by Jim.
- c. **Food Pantry Update:** refer to page 7.
- d. **Virtual Programming:** refer to page 6.
Fran wondered how the sale at the Maple Tree Shop went, but no one had the information. A question from Theresa regarding the upcoming election of the chair, Saul noted the current Vice Chair will remain in that position, for another year. She is well qualified for the chair but at this time is unable to move up to chair.

VI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:32am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Tyson