

**approved**

## **Commission on Aging**

November 12, 2013 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Will Bigl (2015), Sam Gordon (2014), April Holinko (2014), Bettejane Karnes (2015), Steve Kegler (2015), Bev Korba (2014), Laurie McMorrow (2014), Don Nolan (2014), Joan Terry, (2014)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Emile Porier (Jensen's), Linda Savage (Glen Ridge)

STAFF: Patricia Schneider, Human Services Director

**Minutes** - The minutes of the October 2013 meeting were approved as written.

**Correspondence** – There was no correspondence.

**Senior Center/ Wellness Center** - In Cindy's absence, Pat reported that the renovations and new furniture have improved the offices thanks to some available funds. The administrative assistant position will be assessed before being advertised. The adult social worker needs the help of a certified CHOICES counselor as many people are looking for help in the Medicare area. The holiday programs are being planned.

Will asked that the Commission receive several reports from members of the Human Services staff.

**Senior Center Association** – No report

**Senior Housing News** – Emile said that there are 22 residents working on their Emergency Preparedness Team. Linda reported that Matt Hart and Pat Schneider came to speak at Glen Ridge, giving residents an opportunity to learn about the Human Services department as well as other local issues. Laurie told us that Juniper Hill is now a non-smoking campus and the implementation of the new policy has been a challenge.

**New Business** – Bettejane asked if the Commission would be willing to help people recycle used medical equipment. There was reluctance to begin such a program in town, however several suggestions were made regarding programs that are in existence in nearby towns. Bettejane will follow up on this information.

**Commission Goals** – Commission goals for the next year were accepted by consensus.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Terry, secretary

**Next Meeting  
Tuesday, December 9  
9:30 at the Senior Center**

## **Goals for the Commission on Aging 2013-2014**

1. Monitor Mansfield's Long-Range Plan for seniors with a continued focus on priority issues of senior safety, information dissemination, senior center space needs and health care needs including changing federal benefit programs.
2. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.
3. Advocate for increased hours for the volunteer driver coordinator.
4. Encourage the Downtown Partnership to make the new Storrs downtown senior friendly.
5. Track the development of independent living/assisted living facilities in Mansfield.
6. Continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Senior/Adult Services Social Worker in meeting senior needs.
7. Develop a basic guide for seniors to use in emergencies.