

Mansfield Commission on Aging Agenda
9:30 AM – Mansfield Senior Center
Monday, March 10, 2014

Members: Please call Will Bigl at 860-429-0180 if you cannot attend.

I. Call to Order:

II. Acceptance of Minutes of the **February 10th, 2014** meeting.

III. **Correspondence** – Chair and Staff:

IV. Optional Reports on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

A. Health, Social, Recreational and Educational:

Human Services Director—Pat Schneider

Senior Center – Cindy Dainton

Senior Center Assoc. –Estelle Elliott

B. Housing:

- 1) Juniper Hill (Martina Wharton); Jensen's Park (Emile Poirier); Glen Ridge; ()
Wrights Way (Estelle Elliot); Assisted Living; Other Related Town and Regional
Organizations.

- Need representative from Glen Ridge

C. Human Services Advisory Committee: (Joan Terry)

D. TRIAD: (W. Bigl)

V. New Business

❖ Agency Funding Request

➤ Companion & Homemaking

➤ TVCCA Meals On Wheels

➤ WRTD

▪ Dial-A-Ride

▪ ADA

▪ Fixed Route Transportation

❖ Top Legislative Strategies Connecticut's Commission on Aging

VI. Old Business

VII. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission

VIII. Adjournment

Next meeting: **Monday, April 14, 2014 at 9:30am** -- Mansfield Senior Center

7
DRAFT

Commission on Aging

February 10, 2014 Minutes

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

ABSENT: Sam Gordon (2014)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Estelle Elliot (Sr. Ctr. Assn. and Wright's Way); Emile Porier (Jensen's); Martina Wharton (Juniper Hill)

GUEST: Cynthia van Zelm, Coordinator of Downtown Storrs Project

Minutes – Bettejane Karnes made a motion, seconded by April Holinko, that the January minutes be accepted as written. Motion passed.

Correspondence – Laurie shared a letter from a professional organization that listed Mansfield's outreach social worker's job vacancy.

Senior Center Coordinator - Cindy Dainton sent a notice inviting us to hear a speaker at the Senior Center on March 12. The topic is Welcoming Environments. We are encouraged to attend.

Community News - Estelle Elliot echoed the invitation from Cindy. She also said that Wright's Way is currently full to capacity. Martina reported that Juniper Hill had a nutrition program in January. Emile said that folks at Jensen's are currently hibernating.

There were no reports from Triad or Human Services representatives.

Cynthia van Zelm gave an update on the progress and future plans for downtown Storrs.

Bettejane Karnes presented a report giving information on how individuals can recycle used medical equipment.

Steve Kegler offered to bring important issues from our Commission to the attention of the Town Council during the appropriate time at Council meetings.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Terry, secretary



1. Aging in Place / Livable Communities

Aging in Place Task Force recommendations below endorsed by Majority leadership.

- Provide incentives for local and regional projects responsive to changing demographics, which may include accessory or in-law apartments, home modifications and home share. *(HB 5395)*
- Maximize funding for people of all ages based on functional and financial need to retrofit and update their homes to accommodate lifestyle changes. *(HB 5395)*
- Offer opportunities for municipalities to be recognized as a "Livable Communities" by meeting certain requirements through Connecticut Legislative Commission on Aging's Livable Community initiative (PA 13-109).

2. Long-Term Services and Supports

- Alleviate prolonged and disjointed eligibility determination process for those seeking access to Medicaid home and community-based waivers by creating a centralized processing unit, establishing presumptive eligibility *(SB 254)* and a mechanism for paying providers in the interim *(SB 104, specific to nursing homes)*.
- Support additional slots in Medicaid home and community-based waivers: Add 100 slots for Home Care for the Disabled (CHCPD) pilot and 100 slots for Katie Beckett Waiver (and work toward greater integration and parity). *(GB 5052 calls for 50 slots for CHCPD)*
- Expand supportive housing for people with mental illness by 110 dedicated units. *(In Governor's budget proposal.)*
- Pursue the Community First Choice benefit authorized under the Affordable Care Act that offers states 6% additional Federal Medical Assistance Percentage on personal care assistant services. *(In Governor's budget proposal. May not require legislation)*

3. Support Sufficient Provider Rates

- Support providers across the long-term services and supports continuum. *(In the Governor's budget under capital investments is an additional \$30 million for nonprofit human service providers for a total of \$50 million in FY 2015.)*
- Support sustaining the physician provider rate increase. *(In Governor's budget proposal.)*

4. Renters Rebate

Re-open and expand program which provides some rent relief for low-income people. Program was closed last year (though grandfathered in anyone who had received renters rebate assistance in 2011). *(GB 21, HB 5001)*

5. Elderly Nutrition

Increase funding for Elderly Nutrition Program which provides home delivered and congregate meals. *(SB 161, HB 5223)*

6. Alzheimer's Task Force

- Expand dementia training requirements for staff in nursing facilities, home health agencies, residential care homes, assisted living services agencies, nursing home administrators, long-term care ombudsman staff and volunteers, protective services for the elderly staff, probate judges, and paid conservators. *(SB 179)*
- Expand annual missing person's police force training to include dementia education (SB 179)

7. Workforce Development

- Support select recommendations of the Personal Care Attendant Workforce Council and Legislative Program Review & Investigations Committee (Reemployment of Older Workers report) that people who want and/or need employment should receive training and help with their job search. *(GB 5054, HB 5375, HB 5376, HB 5377, HB 5382; Majority leaders endorsed specific recommendations in the Older Worker report.)*
- Establish and incent work models that foster flexibility and innovation (such as telecommuting).

8. Nursing home residents

Increase the personal needs allowance. *(HB 5002, SB 162, HB 5226)*

9. Public Retirement Plan

Support establishment of a retirement savings plan for low-income private sector workers *(SB 254)*

10. Consumer protections for people of all ages

- Enhance transparency with electric suppliers. *(SB 2)*
- Strengthen "Do Not Call List" provisions & accountability. *(SB 209)*
- Increase awareness and create greater transparency in the prescription drug discounts and medical record privacy.
(Majority Leaders' endorse all three above protections.)
- **OPPOSE** SB 110, since this bill *limits* consumer protections for persons who are seriously ill.

11. Uniform Power of Attorney

Strengthen Connecticut's Power of Attorney laws to better protect its residents and to benefit its businesses and courts. Adopt a uniform power of attorney law. *(HB 5215)*

12. Long Term Care Insurance

Reduce the burden of insurance premium rate increases. *(SB 199)*

Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging serves as an objective, credible source of information on issues affecting Connecticut's older adults, to prepare our state for the needs of its soaring older adult population and to provide accountability within state government.



Welcoming Environment Presentation

The Mansfield Senior & Wellness Center in cooperation with the Mansfield Senior Center Association is proud to sponsor a national speaker, Susan Lather, on *Welcoming Environments*. Susan presented at the National Council on Aging Conference last fall and brings a wealth of knowledge with her.

The presentation will be repeated twice on Wednesday, March 12th. Once at the Executive Board meeting at 10:00am and then again at the Membership meeting at 12:45pm. Please come and join us for this wonderful presentation.

