

**Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes**  
**9:30 AM – Senior Center**  
**May 10, 2010**

Present: M. Gerling (staff), T. Quinn (Chair), J. Quarto, B. Lavoie (staff), C. Pellegrine, C. Phillips, K. Doeg, K. Grunwald (staff), Leigh Wajda (guest), T. Rogers, S. Gordon, E. Poirier, M. Thatcher,

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair T. Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. Acceptance of Minutes of the **April 12** meeting: C. Phillips questioned who the Resident Services Coordinator is at Juniper Hill. Minutes approved as written.
- IV. **Correspondence** – Chair and Staff: K. Grunwald distributed a Policy Regarding Advisory Committees' Communications with Outside Agencies. No discussion.
- V. **New Business**
  - A. Coventry Volunteer Driver Program: Guest- Leigh Wajda distributed copies of the brochure from the Town of Coventry. Their program is funded with a grant from the State of CT that purchased the van and also a DOT grant that funds operations. This includes salary, gasoline, mileage reimbursement, repairs, etc. They do not currently have enough volunteers to meet all of their needs. They are asking for a one-day commitment from drivers each month, and currently have 17 volunteers. They operate 2-3 days a week. One day goes to appointments in the Tolland, Coventry, and Manchester area. Volunteer car drivers supplement the van service. This is only used for medical appointments, and they can be reimbursed for mileage. This payment is given to the rider, since they cannot pay the driver directly. They pay \$.445/mile. They also do wellness trips for seniors, which are recreational trips outside of the area; cost approximately \$20-25/pp. They use handicapped accessible Peter Pan buses. Senior Resources also had money available for transportation, but Coventry is not currently using that funding due to reporting requirements. Leigh is continually recruiting volunteer drivers for the program. As she understands liability issues it is under the umbrella of the Town's insurance. Drivers are trained to provide minimal assistance, and should not be providing physical assistance to a passenger; this is considered a medical trip. A big gap in services is for dialysis patients because of the time commitment involved. On Mondays they operate the van in Coventry just for Senior Center activities. There has been a lull in ride requests during the past several months; they ask for 24 hour notice to schedule drivers. Leigh works 10-12 hours/wk. C.

Pellegrine asked about driver training and selection: condition of knees/health is considered. Current drivers train the new drivers. K. Grunwald asked about background checks: volunteers complete an application and complete a criminal background check. J. Quarto asked about utilization: 1000/one way rides per year. This represents approximately 30 individuals who ride regularly. B. Lavoie asked about physical exams: this is not currently done. How long to set-up the program: initially took a few months to get it up and running. It takes approximately 18 months to get the vehicle once the grant application is approved. Leigh explained that trips are counted as one-way trips in each direction. Sharry Goldman asked for the Commission to advocate for seniors. K. Grunwald offered some clarification about transportation services currently provided to Mansfield residents. B. Lavoie explained some of the limitations of Dial-A-Ride services. She asked about limitations that volunteer drivers may have: it depends based on individual situations. Leigh clarified that they do not duplicate WRTD services. She explained that the program was started by the Human Services Department; fully supported by the Town Manager. M. Gerling circulated a list for people who are potentially interested in serving as a volunteer driver. A question was raised about why this program has not been supported by the Commission previously?

B. "Other": none.

## VI. **Optional Reports** on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

### A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program –Barbara Lavoie provided an overview of the work that she has been doing. This includes educating people about Medicare options for coverage. Her goal is to get out into the community and explain what is available in terms of services in the area. On June 18 there will be a Windham Senior Living Expo taking place at the Town Hall.

### B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – Marilyn Gerling read briefly from her monthly report. The Intergenerational Dinner at E.O. Smith High School was very successful. K. Grunwald announced that Linda Wohllebe is currently out sick.

Senior Center Assoc. –Tom Rogers distributed shopping bags from the Association to recognize their volunteer contributions.

### C. Housing

Assisted Living Advisory Committee, Wrights Way, Juniper Hill, Jensen's Park, Glen Ridge: no reports.

Other: B.Lavoie invited the new Social Worker at Juniper Hill to attend these meetings: Laurie McMorrow (Grunske).

### D. Related Town and Regional Organizations such as:

Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Resources of Eastern CT: no reports

**VII. Old Business**

- A. Long Range Plan Update: no discussion.
- B. Volunteer Driver Program Update: K. Grunwald provided a brief update on this program; announced that the Town Council has approved funding for a Volunteer Transportation Coordinator.
- C. Triad (K. Grunwald/T. Quinn): K. Grunwald provided a brief overview; J. Quarto asked if there is anything substantive to be gained from this program.

**VIII. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission:** no comments.

**VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.**

No meetings over the summer. Will resume in September.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Phillips