

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
April 13, 2016**

PRESENT:     Anne Bisson                             Tracy Heger  
              William Bell                            Ann Kardamis  
              Barry Burke                            Charlotte Carr

ABSENT:     Louise Silva, Ted O'Brien, James Lincoln

Meeting called to order at 10:04 by Anne Bisson

Barry made a motion to accept the March 2016 meeting minutes. Ann Kardamis seconded. All in favor.



**Director's Report Board Meeting of 4.13.16**

**Old Business:**

1. FY 16 Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) Service Incentive Grant: We received notice of the grant award. I submitted a letter to the Auditor for account purposes. We have begun the process of hiring for the position. We will not be able to expend the funds awarded by June 30, but we will get the person on board and schedule one workshop for June.
2. FY 17 Formula Grant: The Formula Grant funds were finally deposited on 3.9.16.
3. Senior Tax Work-Off Program: Due to the increase in the hourly wage, participants will have to work only 75 hours. We have advertised the program and individuals are picking up and completing the application packets. They have until April 30 to do so.
4. Media and Messaging Center: The Information Technology (IT) department has hired someone to begin the installation of the Center. Cables have been installed. We will be purchasing the 60" television soon and IT will provide a computer. We will be able to post announcements, show movies and educational programs and also provide live messages from City Hall.
5. Taunton Opiate and substance use Task Force (TOTF): The monthly meeting was well attended – 33 in attendance. The group was updated on all of the grants. The Mayor approved a Facebook page for the Task Force so that information about services could be posted. SSTAR needs to form focus groups to discuss the prescription drug issue. We will hopefully be having another Fed-Up Rally this summer. A conference call will be held tonight regarding this topic. There is a lot of interest on this topic and Anne already has over 100 people signed up for email.
6. MA Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC) Grant: The Improbable Players who act out vignettes about substance use, bullying, etc., performed at Taunton High School and Coyle Cassidy High School. The students asked pertinent questions. Both schools thought the performance was well done. An Opioid and Family Conference was held in Dartmouth. The conference filled up in 2 hours. The District Attorney will provide an opioid education forum for elders at their June 15 World Elder Abuse Day conference. The grant will fund a pharmacists' training in June. The Surgeon General may attend. Anne Bisson will schedule a presentation here at the COA also. She will cover things like proper storage, etc. A video for parents of children in sports/sports injuries will be filmed. .

7. Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative (SAPC) Grant: The Strategic Plan will soon be finalized. It is hoped that all schools in the cluster will adopt a survey of students to assess risk factors. It was found that marijuana use is higher than alcohol use in this part of the state.
8. Partnership for Success Grant (PFS Grant): We have a new Technical Assistance person to assist us in the grant. SSTAR has begun the data gathering process. This grant is for Taunton only and is for prevention activities for youth and prescription drug use. Focus groups will be held. They have secured two consultants to assist with the grant and with evaluation.
9. Drug Free Communities Grant: The grant was submitted. It is a highly competitive Federal Grant. If received, this would be a ten year grant.
10. FY 17 City of Taunton Budget: The budget was submitted by the due date of 3.18.16 There will be a new hire for a Community Relations Counselor position in July.
11. Safe Neighborhood Initiative (SNI): The SNI will be holding the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Taunton Safe Neighborhood Initiative Breakfast on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at the Bristol Commons Community Room (the former Dewert Ave.). The guest speaker will be District Attorney Thomas Quinn. The cost of the breakfast is \$10.00 per person. Ardmore Apt.'s have been renamed to Richard Dewert Terrace.
12. Fuel Assistance has approved increases from \$20.00 to \$150.00.

#### **New Business:**

1. Older Americans Month: The following activities have been scheduled for the month of May 2016:
  - a. May 3 at 7:00 p.m.: Older American's Proclamation at City Hall
  - b. May 10 at 2:00 p.m.: Senior Medicare Patrol
  - c. May 12 at 11:00 a.m.: TRIAD Fashion Show
  - d. May 17 at 1:00 p.m.: Roger Tincknell – 'From Elvis to the Beatles'
  - e. May 20 at 12:00 p.m.: Spring Fling
  - f. May 24 at 12:00 p.m.: Volunteer Recognition
  - g. Massachusetts Bar Association is tentatively scheduled for May 26.
2. Meeting Summary/Anne attended the following meetings:
  - a. Community Development Block Grant Monitoring: Our CDBG grants were evaluated on 3.10.16. There were no deficiencies.
  - b. MA Municipal Association Legislative Breakfast: I attended the MMA Legislative Breakfast on 3.11.16 in Berkley MA. The upcoming budget was discussed. The most heated discussion was on the opioid issue in all communities.
  - c. Interviews for Head Clerk: We received twelve (12) applications for the position. Charlene and I interviewed three individuals on 3.15.16. Two were selected for testing through the Department of Human Resources and we hired Kelley Sylvia. Her first day was April 11, 2016.
  - d. Safe Neighborhood Initiative: The monthly meeting was held on 3.23.16. Discussion occurred about 'leaning', a new drink that youth are using to get drunk/high. I outreached to the schools to inform them of this.
  - e. TRIAD Planning Committee: The planning committee met on 3.23.16 to discuss the upcoming Fashion Show and other TRIAD activities. Anne Bisson will again be MC along with John Munise.
  - f. Bristol Elder Services Advisory Council: The Council met on 3.24.16. Much of the discussion was on the revised by-laws; the by-laws were approved.

- g. Elder Community Crisis Intervention Team: The team met on 3.28.16. Many old cases were discussed as were three new cases. The team worked well on a crisis with an elder gentleman who had not been out of his room for over a year.
  - h. Scope of Pain Training: I attended this training on 3.29.16 at the Chateau in Norton. Eighty (80) local prescribers attended. They were trained on proper prescribing of opiates and how to properly monitor both the medication and the client.
  - i. Mayor Hoye: Charlene and I met with Mayor Hoye on 4.11.16. We discussed the homeless issue and a presentation request.
  - j. South East Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation: Meeting for 4.12.16 was cancelled.
  - k. TRIAD: The TRIAD meeting was held on 4.12.16 at Leisurewoods with good attendance. The members were informed of the upcoming Fashion Show scheduled for May 12 and tickets were sold. AMR (American Medical Response) ambulance company presented on their services and provided 'File of Life' packets for attendees.
  - l. Taunton Opiate and Substance Use Task Force: The monthly meeting was held on 4.12.16 and was well attended – 33 in attendance. The group was updated on all of the grants.
3. Upcoming Scheduled Programs/meetings
- a. Project Homeless Connect: 4.13.16
  - b. MA Councils on Aging: 4.15.16
  - c. Dementia 24/7: 4.21.16
  - d. Senior Spectacular in Attleboro: 4.22.16
  - e. Congressman Kennedy: 4.25.16
  - f. TRIAD Planning Committee: 4.26.16
  - g. Safe Neighborhood Initiative Annual Breakfast: 4.27.16
  - h. Community Crisis Intervention Team: 4.28.16
  - i. Dementia 24/7: 4.28.16
  - j. Taunton Opiate and Substance Use Task Force Planning Committee: 5.2.16
  - k. Taunton Emergency Task Force: 5.3.16
  - l. Proclamation at City Hall: 5.3.16
  - m. Workshop in Connecticut: 5.5.16
  - n. Mayor Hoye: 5.9.16
  - o. South East Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation: 5.10.16
  - p. Taunton Opiate and Substance Use Task Force: 5.10.16
  - q. TRIAD/Dress Barn: 5.11.16
  - r. TRIAD Fashion Show: 5.12.16
4. DHS Updates:
- a. Zumba Gold Instructor: Kristie Wintle began classes on March 17, 2016 and is doing great.
  - b. Head Clerk: Kelley Sylvia began her employment on April 11, 2016.
  - c. Bilingual Case Worker: Gloria Cardoso-Santos resigned from her position on April 6, 2016. We will begin the hiring process for this position
  - d. Elder Community Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator: We will begin the hiring process for this part-time position.
  - e. Tracy will be attending SHINE Counselor training from 5.9.16 to 7.6.16. She will be attending 12 full day classes.
  - f. A flyer was handed out on the Drug Take Back scheduled for 04/30/16. It was discussed that small amounts of needles may be returned to the TPD and larger amounts may be turned into the BOH. William mentioned that the larger boxes of needles are too large for the drop off box

at the TPD and that the BOH will add people to a mailing list to notify of Sharp Take Back dates coming up.

## **Senior Center Coordinator Monthly Report 4.13.16**

### **Board Meeting – April 13, 2016**

Paul Beukema, AARP local tax aide coordinator, and his volunteers started Tax Preparation. They have help 352 seniors prepare tax returns from February 1<sup>st</sup> thru April 4<sup>th</sup>. We have been out of appointments since early March. Today is the last day for Tax appointments. CFC also opened up to help with Taxes on Tuesday evenings and also filled up quickly with appointments. Paul is retiring and will not be returning next season.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Sarah Shepard Nutritionist from Bristol Elder Services was here to do a presentation on "Foods for Healthy Aging: Feeding Your Mind, Body and Soul." 10 seniors attended.

Curry College nurses were here again this year on March 11<sup>th</sup>, to do a presentation for our seniors on "How Diabetes affects Seniors". We had 12 seniors attend the event. They brought healthy cupcakes for them and handed out recipes.

### **Upcoming Events**

On Tuesday, April 25, 2016 appointments will be available for Betty Howarth, from American Credit Counseling. She helps elders with reports, budget assistance, debt management and settlements and to help to build credit. Seniors are asked to contact the office to make an appointment to meet with her. A notice will be put into The Taunton Daily Gazette.

May is Older Americans month and on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 7:00 PM, we will be going to the City Hall Council Chambers for the reading of the Proclamation. This year's theme is "Blaze a Trail." Last year we had a good size group that came and we will be asking and taking names of people to join us again this year. So keep your schedule free for this night and please help us show the Mayor and City Council how many Seniors we can get to fit into the Council Chambers!!!

Our "Spring Fling" will be held on Friday, May 20, 2016 at 12:00 noon in the Governor's Ballroom at the Holiday Inn in Taunton. Entertainment this year is DJ Mike Amado. Tickets are \$8.00 and they went on sale April 11, 2016. This year's meal will be Cape Cod Stuffed Chicken. Anne mentioned changing things up with food and entertainment this year to boost attendance. Sales are going well so far.

On Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 12:00 noon we will be having our Volunteer recognition at the Fireside Grille in Middleboro. Invitees will have a choice of Grilled Salmon, Roasted Turkey Dinner or Baked Stuffed Shrimp. Since this is funded through Elder Affairs a Guest Speaker is brought in to provide education on a particular topic of interest. Past topics were discussed and new topics were requested.

MA Bar Association, Elder Law Education Program, will be coming to the Senior Center sometime in May. They are in the process of updating their resource guide and it's taking a little longer than expected. The

deadline for applications is the week of the 8th and I should hear from them sometime this week with a date. A date should be scheduled for the end of May.

Anne mentioned that we will again be holding the "Going the Distance" 1 Mile Walk at Hopewell Park this year. Last year 53 were in attendance and she hopes to increase attendance for this year's event.

Ann Kardamis motioned to adjourn the meeting @ 10.45. Charlotte seconded. All in favor.

**The next meeting will be May 11, 2016.**