

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Council on Aging and Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday September 23, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Newton Senior Center  
345 Walnut Street  
Newtonville, MA 02460

Present: E. Dugan, C. Gibson, H. Gunner, H. Haywood, JE. Heffron, A. Hoffman, M. Knapp, N. Krasner, E. Lorant, S. Paley, J. Picard, C. Rose, E. Rosenbaum, N. Scammon, CA Shea, D. Sostek, E. Wade,

Staff: J. Colino, Director Newton Department of Senior Services

Notified: A. Cooper, N. Brown, T. Shoemaker, E. Picard

Guests: H. Alpert, K. Donahue, R. Reilly,

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Approval of Minutes/Introduction:

Everyone introduced themselves. Minutes from June end of year meeting were approved.

2. Chair's/Director's Report: Much happened over the summer.

**Staff Changes:** Newly hired volunteer coordinator left her position. Christie Rexford, the outreach worker resigned in mid-August, and the position has changed along with changes to the Kathy Laufer our clinical social workers position; both positions will serve residents of all ages. The goal of this change is to maximize limited resources to be a more stream-lined/seamless short term case management model that will be able to serve more people. The new director of social services (previously the community social worker position), who will supervise both social services staff, begins Monday. She will spend some of her time here at the center. The case management position is about to be posted in-house first, then opened up to the public. Molly Sass, our program coordinator, gave her notice and will be leaving at the end of the first week in October. Jayne Colino and Alice Bailey are the only two full-time staff operating the senior center building. Everyone needs to be patient while the department gets rebuilt. In addition, the soon to be hired veteran's services officer will also be housed partially at the NSC since most of their cases are seniors.

**Senior Center Building Name:** It was shared that the Executive Committee has a meeting to meet with the Mayor scheduled for October 2 @ 3:30. It is explained that in informal conversation has begun about renaming the senior center and broadening its purpose to function as a community center. The scheduled meeting with the Executive Committee is the first step in having a formal conversation with Mayor about this idea. Jayne requests feedback.

### Comments and Questions:

- How common is this new social services model? Not as common as our current model where senior services are provided through a municipal COA setting through a licensed social worker. There are more instances where the COA is the only human services provider in a community.
- What does this mean for Jayne's position, managing a building/community center?
- This feels like seniors being denigrated. It is not a good plan. Center should be for seniors.
- What is provided by the local ASAP(Area Services Aging Provider)?
- This feels like a loss to senior services at a time when the senior needs are increasing.
- Older adults vote and should be heard.
- Why is this happening? Are there benefits beyond financial?
- Are we jumping ahead of ourselves? No one said senior services are getting cut.
- The vision has social service providers here and at city hall, and the age range will be broadened.
- It isn't clear how different populations will be served. We have metrics to measure if the number of seniors being served decreases.
- We have no way of knowing how many seniors currently get services at city hall.
- When people come to the NSC they come for socialization along with services.
- In the past when schools were consolidated it was after a citizens Advisory Committee recommendations. Will there be a similar process?
- Is the meeting with the Mayor an open meeting and can Advisory Board members attend?

### Upcoming meeting with the Mayor:

A summary was requested after the October meeting with the Mayor. Email Jayne and Marian with any other thoughts. A vision for a community center exists, and with staffing changes the vision may be changing. The change process needs to be realistic, open, and inclusive. In addition, the building itself needs a feasibility study. The Capital Improvement Plan for municipal buildings/infrastructure will be presented to the Alderman in October and may reflect some funds to address building issues.

### Presentation on Living and Aging in Newton: Senior Needs assessment by U. Mass. Boston

- Needs Assessment presented at the Library on September 8, 2014. It will be on line next week.
- Needs Assessment informs our Strategic Plan and Vision, Mission and Goals.

### Updates:

- Frank Caro from Brookline will present at our next meeting.
- Newton Cares Coalition exists to improve mental well-being and suicide prevention: QPR training- question, persuade, refer will be offered as training for those interested. Jayne is convening a training session with senior service providers on the fourth Tuesday in January at Scandinavian Living Center. Jayne is chairing the adult committee and would appreciate referrals for others to join that committee.

**Membership Report:** Carol Ann reported that Adele and Howard are interested in staying on as AB members. Norman will resign. New members will be reported next month.

**Springwell Report:** Legal services for COA will be with Metrowest as opposed to Boston College. Contact Information - 508-620-1830 and mwlegal.org. Adele will attend a conference that highlights concerns on a new trend in hospital's where patients are not actually admitted with a diagnosis but are held under an observation status that cause discharge and eligibility for community based services. Adele will report back.

**Senior Citizens Fund Report:** no report

**Working Groups:**

- Transportation group continues to work on transportation and mobility
- Housing group will schedule a meeting soon
- Community Engagement: see old/new business for opportunities

**Legislative Report:** no report

**Old/New Business:**

- Alzheimer's Walk 9/28 8:00-12:00 Ena has been working with Jayne and they have 14 members on the NSC team. Ena and Nancy Brown and asked Newtonville merchants to support with canisters at check-out registers.
- Newtonville Day 9/28 12:00-5:00 help needed with staffing table, either let Jayne know or just stop by.
- Health and Wellness Fair 10/16 9:00-1:00 at NSC with over 30 vendors who are wellness providers. There will be health screening then a keynote speaker Dr. Robert Schreiber.
- Next library series Oct 20 7:00 p.m. Transportation and Mobility with Bill Haley, David Koses, Elizabeth Dugan.
- Massachusetts Gerontology Association Fall Policy Forum 10/24 which is focusing on how data is used at the ground level. Mayor Warren is making the opening remarks, followed by several exciting speakers. 9:30-1:00 Lasell College.
- We all received invitations to attend a celebration by the Dukakis Center anniversary center.
- We all received an invitation to the Newton Democrat City Committee. Howard will be honored.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Carol Rose, Secretary