

Report to the Commission on Elder Affairs
Senior Center Committee July 14, 2015

Present: Robin Bahr Casey, Gail Schuyler, Chris Evans, Amy Waters
Absent: Theresa Eckstrom, Tom Cullinane, Patty Hainsworth

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The minutes of the June 9th meeting were approved. (m/s/a). It was decided that there would be no regular meeting in August and that the next Committee meeting would be Tuesday September 8, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Finances: Amy reported on the following- The legislature has recommended the increase in state COA funding, but it still must be approved by the Governor; The year 2 budget process for the DPH Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund falls prevention grant has begun; CMAA has awarded \$11,017 in Title IIID funding for the osteoporosis prevention program==this is an increase of \$3,280; and FY'16 tax levy/coa allocations are in the contracting process per the June Commission vote.

The committee, which was given the authority to make these allocation decisions on behalf of the full Commission on Elder Affairs (6/22/15 meeting), carefully reviewed and discussed proposals for increased funding from Centro and Ascentria. The increases would be in addition to what was approved by the Committee and Commission at their meetings in June 2015.

It was decided that contingent upon availability, funding would be awarded to the Centro Latino Elder Program for their proposed transportation line item, however the costly food and entertainment proposed would not be supported. Regarding the proposal from Ascentria for the New American Elder Outreach Program, it was decided that there is a clear need for increased support, especially to assist the Bhutanese elder refugees, and that an allocation would be made urging Ascentria to add hours to a Nepali (Bhutanese) speaking staff person instead of relying upon an interpreter.

The following increased allocations were approved contingent upon the final approval of the \$9/elder coa formula allocation from the state:

Centro \$ 1,600 increase for a total of \$14,410
Ascentria \$10,000 increase for a total of \$15,460

It was decided that should the formula grant remain at \$8/elder, the increased allocations would be reduced to:

Centro \$ 800 increase for a total of \$13,610
Ascentria \$ 5,000 increase for a total of \$10,460 (m/s/a)

Amy reported that the rental fee for Quinsigamond Community College has been increased within the committee's recommended range, and that the Alzheimer's Association has given notice that they intend to leave for larger quarters by the end of October 2015. The Committee discussed options for utilizing the space which will be coming available including the possibility of using it for program space expansion and perhaps re-locating the clinic to be more accessible to the main elevator. The Committee agreed that Amy seek the City Administration's input regarding moving the clinic. A current tenant has also expressed interest in expansion and will be offered space.

Operations: Amy reported that we expect the grant funded part-time PWTF falls prevention assistant to start on July 20th. She also noted that the "Friends" will be replacing the 10 foot screen in the lunchroom as the motor no longer works.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. (m/s/a)