

Minutes of Board Meeting of May 8, 2012

Board Members Present: William Cobham, President, Mary Ann Dalton, Yaw O. Adjei-Koranteng, Maureen Harty, Edna Stamp, and Carmela Schipani.

Staff Present: Lisa Castagna; Eileen Ginnetty; Vincent McCarthy; Susan Pacheco; Emma Watkins

Minutes from April 10, 2012 meeting were accepted.

COA Executive Director's Report: Eileen noted that the Senior Staff had done reports this year for Ellen Semonoff, highlighting successes and challenges, in preparation for the FY 2013 budget hearing. They also met with Ellen as a group to discuss issues. Emma's report included the challenge of individuals with mental health issues and /or homeless seniors who come to the Citywide Center. Both she and Vincent also report an increased number of people coming in for the subsidized meals. It is an ongoing business keeping seniors and staff safe.

Vincent reported that the 2050 Center continues a successful collaboration with the Cambridge Arts Council. One of the challenges at 2050 is working within the limited space that is available.

Susan noted the increased number of individuals coming in for assistance with applying for various Medicare programs.

Eileen also noted Nancy Peters MSW; a past board member had passed away. The MIT Luncheon was a success, and the Mayor's post card survey was canceled.

Special Guest Presentation: Eileen introduced Rachie Lewis from the Mass. Senior Action Council (MSAC) who was our guest. Rachie reported the FY13 activities of their seven chapters including the Cambridge (Betty Schmidt) chapter. A grass roots group, MSAC advocates for legislation of concern to seniors, post card campaigns to restore level elder nutrition funding and home care services. They have been very involved in the issues of Medicare; public transit. Members address and advocate for issues that are local, statewide and national. There is an annual Senior Action Day.

Citywide Senior Center: Emma reported that the Day of Remembrance and Cinco de Mayo Celebrations went well. A group of seniors will attend a student performance at CRLS on the evening of May 23rd with transportation by SCM. Also, a major first outreach event will be held on June 26th; a Jazz concert and reception for LGBT seniors and their friends. Emma encouraged people to attend. She also is looking for ideas for what our next LGBT event will be.

Client Services: Susan noted the Elder Law presentation on May 14, and NAMI presentation Living with Mental Illness on May 24th. Susan also announced a COA sponsored training on May 23rd at Millers River Apartments on Hoarding. Yaw, who is the Service Coordinator in that building, is working with Susan and her staff on this. The presenter will be Dr. Christiana Bratiotis from B.U. They are advertising it more as "Spring Cleanup" helpful hints, rather than calling it hoarding, which would probably scare some people off.

North Cambridge Senior Center: Vincent reported on the many classes and events at 2050. Mother's Day Tea May 9th, Talking With Delores film and discussion May 10th, Intergenerational discussion with Graham and Parks students. North Cambridge is an Open Studios site May 19th, WirelessEd May 22nd, and writer Janet Marks May 31st.

Other Items: Yaw mentioned that he was at a training recently and there was an interesting discussion about "elder speak", when people may speak in a condescending way to seniors, i.e. saying "dear" and "honey".

Respectfully Submitted
Lisa Castagna

Next meeting Tuesday June 12, 2012, 11:00-12:30, followed by Board/Staff Luncheon at 12:45