

COMMISSION ON AGING
City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services
Senior Services and Community Division
830 Maple Avenue
Hartford, CT 06114

May 8, 2012 Meeting Minutes

- Call to order at Tuscan Home (66 Montville Street, Hartford), 1:00 p.m.

Suspend rules to allow public meeting:

- About a dozen residents joined us to hear about the mission of the Commission and some of the services offered by HSS at our Senior Centers and Parker Community Center. The only issue raised by residents was from Mr. West who would like help in finding a job. Useful contact info in this regard will be sent to him by Commissioner Nelson.

Regular Commission meeting convened at 1:35

- Moment of silence
- Roll call: attending Commissioners: Nelson, Reese, Hartie, Myrick Sr., Bicking, and Rivera.. Excused: Wallace-Jenkins Absent: Corder.
- Staff: Elby Gonzalez-Schwapp.
- Commissioner Wallace-Jenkins is still recovering from illness and we extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery
- Approval of April minutes.

Progress reports on 2011 – 12 Commission Goals.

GOAL #1 – To fill vacancies on the Commission - Still three openings available.

GOAL #2 – To be better known in the community,

1. (Nelson) Through the "Are You Okay? launch opportunity. our name will go out in the invitation, brochure, and press release and hopefully any press photo. Elby Gonzalez-Schwapp suggested Commission find a sponsor to print a superior quality "Are You Okay?" brochure. The launch Family will attend. The city will declare May 30, 2012 as "Roberta L. Jones - Are You Okay? Day" in recognition of her initiative and efforts to bring the program to Hartford.

2. (Nelson: Purchase of promotional materials has been initiated.

3. (Bicking) The HHS website is being redesigned and Commissions will eventually have a presence on the calendar and space under "Clerk" menu for minutes.

4. Writing Competition (Commissioner Corder was absent.)

Commissioner Nelson updated members on contest status and distributed Competition fliers announcing the contest with rules and submission date and place, and deadline. Commissioners will distribute. Ms. Corder or Nelson will write a press release.

GOAL #3 - To build bridges with Commissions & Boards which share mission focus with us.

1. (Bicking): attended regular monthly meeting of the Commission on Disabilities. They look forward to working with us on common concerns and initiatives.

2. (Nelson): As a follow up to the Commission's Safety Committee efforts (Hartie), Nelson presented a brief overview of the National "Triad" Program which has a presence in 48 states and several communities in Connecticut.. The mission of Triad is to improve communication and understanding between law enforcement, emergency responders and elders and at the same time begin to reduce the fear for safety that many elders experience. Nelson suggested that the Commission make one of its goals next year to initiate a discussion about introducing Triad in Hartford by bringing together the appropriate parties and institutions who, hopefully, would then create a Hartford Triad in the near future. This item will be on the agenda in June for discussion.

GOAL #4 – Hold an "open meeting" at each senior center this year. This goal has now been completed. And, the Commission has met at its first Senior Housing complex: Tuscan Homes.

End of year report to Mayor and Common Council : (Nelson) offered a first draft for Commissioners to read before the next meeting. It will be on the agendas for discussion.

2012-13 Commission Goals. (Nelson) Included in the Year Report (above) was a draft of possible goals for next year. This will be on the agenda of the June meeting for discussion.

Commissioner Committee reports: Due to the constraints of time only the Nominating Committee reported

- A. Housing, (Wallace-Jenkins)
- B. Senior Services, (Nelson)
- C. Outreach, (Cordner)
- D. Safety, (Hartie)
- E. Nominating, (Hartie): Because we elected officers in June 2011, no election is necessary in 2012. We continue to look for new Commission members.

Senior Services Division Report: (Gonzalez-Schwapp) reported on four initiatives:

1. Division has applied for a grant to change congregate meal vendors at Parkville, Institute for the Hispanic Family Senior Center and possibly 4 Senior housing sites..
2. Division preparing to seek accreditation of the North End. and South End Wellness centers. Commissioner are invited to volunteer to be a part of the process.
3. Senior Center staff members will soon begin (soft) training on recognizing and dealing with Alzheimers disease, breast cancer and other Senior health issues they may come across at the centers.
4. The annual Senior Wellness Expo will take place on July 17, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.

Next regularly scheduled meeting at North End Senior Center at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 2012.