



Minutes of Town of Andover
Council on Aging Board Advisory Board
Virtual Meeting via Webex Link
June 18, 2020 at 8:30 am

The Council on Aging Advisory Board met in regular session on Thursday, June 18, 2020 via Webex. Chair Paul MacKay called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Molly Bicking, Joan Fox, Kimberly Rainen, Louise Hadad, Judy Trerotola, Tana Goldberg, Joan Kleger, Thomas Rando, Jeff Kaplan, Paul MacKay, Jane Burns, Jemma Lambert

ABSENT: Fran Walker McGuinness

MINUTES: Minutes from the May 14, 2020 meeting were circulated in advance.

MOTION: Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of May 14, 2020 with one minor correction; Judy seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

CITIZENS INPUT: none

ELDER SERVICES COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE AND PLAN / DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jane presented her Director's report for May.

- Meals on Wheels continues to be a fluid situation. At the end of May, 154 seniors were receiving meals on wheels; this number fluctuates with clients taking themselves on and off. In May, over 3,000 meals were delivered.
- Friendly Caller Program – By the end of May contact was made with all residents age 80 and over. 123 out of 1,200 clients have been placed on a friendly caller list, and are receiving phone calls at regular intervals. The decision was made to not expand the list based on conversations with the social workers.
- Programming – The Program Coordinator position has been filled. Kelly MacKay will start on June 29. Two finalists were selected from seven initial interviews. Joan Fox, Molly and Louise took part in the interview process. Kelly has a great background in programming from Benchmark Senior Living in the memory care unit. Coffee and Conversation will take place on Zoom on July 13 to introduce Kelly. The board members were happy to be part of the process and were excited with the decision to bring Kelly on board.
- Programming on Zoom / Fitness on Zoom and Outside – Programs are up and running on Zoom; some are not getting off the ground. We will keep trying to see which programs work. Book club



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and watercolor painting have been working. A summer session has been scheduled for fitness programs starting July 6. It will be a combination of outside classes and live Zoom classes. Fee will be \$25 for 8 weeks. There will be a minimum number of participants to run the classes.

- Construction – Interior demolition is complete; the ledge has been removed; foundation work has begun. They met last week to discuss reconfiguring staff cubicles to allow for social distancing, adding plexi-glass to the kitchen. These changes did not take space away from the seniors. Coffee and Construction on Zoom was well received, and we will continue to have that monthly. The Instagram site is slowly taking off.
- SCRPT Program – Ashley has been taking applications for the FY21 program. The plan is to continue the FY21 program; there is no date yet to bring back volunteers. For the FY20 program, if folks had worked prior to March 16, they will receive full credit. If volunteers had not worked prior to March 16, credit will not be received.
- Reopening – We are following the state guidelines for re-opening. Podiatry by appointment started last week at Clark Road on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Areas are taped off, signage, sanitization, PPE, screening process are all in place. Clients wait in their car until 5 minutes before their appointment time. AARP tax appointments will start next week on Tuesdays.
- Senior Connections Reopening – Target date to reopen is July 13 with a maximum of 8 participants and 2 staff members. Intakes have been scheduled for those planning on returning to evaluate their ability to participate.
- Transportation – Transportation will be the next focus for reopening – possibly in August. This will involve sanitizing vans and more responsibility on the drivers. Drivers will be trained on the screening process.
- Grab and Go Meals – Another focus will be on a grab and go meal system for those seniors who were added to meals on wheels but are not homebound. Jane will be meeting with the social workers next week. This program would be a transition to reopening congregate lunch.
- Questions - Jane answered questions from the Council about Kelly's experience, and Jane expanded on Kelly's dementia training and public health background. There was also a question regarding the guidelines for reopening the Senior Center. Jane explained that the state is relying on individual towns to work with their Boards of Health. There was a question about FY21 SCRPT applications; which have been received and letters will go out soon. There was a question about exercise class participation. Zoom fitness will start on July 6.



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Elder Services Transition Navigator Program

Ashley English provided an update on the Transition Navigator Program which was launched with Empowerment Success Corps and made possible by an MCOA grant. It is aimed to help newly retired people age 55 and over find volunteer opportunities to enhance the next phase of their life. The first workshop titled Discovery of Purpose was held over Zoom with ten participants. The program focuses on the benefits of volunteering, health, wellness and overall happiness. The second workshop is on June 30. The COA members will encourage people to participate in this program. Jeff will share his experience with financial planning with Ashley to see if it can be used in this program.

Tom discussed unsafe dwellings for seniors. Although this is outside of the Discovery Center program, this is an area that needs attention. Jemma would like to work with the COA on a program to develop funding and a time bank for home repairs.

Conversation on Current Events

There were discussions regarding Coronavirus, racism and protests. There were conversations of how this affects Andover and what role the COA should play. The Chinese community was affected during Covid-19, and stopped coming to the Senior Center before it closed. There were discussions of multi-cultural programs, educational programs, discussion groups, showing the movie "Remember the Titans" and getting people together, which due to Covid-19 cannot happen right now. With the new program coordinator starting soon, it was discussed for the Programming Committee to meet with Kelly to discuss inclusive programming and to use inclusive language in our newsletters and flyers to help reduce the cultural divide.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURN: Kim made a motion to adjourn at 10:03 am; Judy seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Next regular meeting of the COA Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, July 9, 2020.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:03 am

Respectfully submitted,
Christine M. Marshall, Office Assistant