Town of Simsbury

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Aging and Disability Commission

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AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION

March 18, 2003

MINUTES

Chairperson Peg Bergethon, in the Blue Room at Eno Memorial Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present:Peg Bergethon, Ricki Bergquist (Staff Consultant), Grace Comeau, Kathy Fallon, Gloria Knierim, Charlotte Steptoe, Eileen Umpleby, Edward LaMontagne, Lynn Veith

Not Present: Frances Sarnecki, Moira Wertheimer, Maryann Alimi, Arline Bidwell, Norris Christensen

Public Audience: None

Guest Speaker: Mickey LeCours-Beck

Mickey distributed the 2003-2004 budgets for the Social Services Department (including Social Services, Senior Center, Friendly Visitor and Dial-A-Ride Programs). The budget has been approved by the First Selectman. The will be no cuts in the budget as presented. Approximately one month ago all Town of Simsbury Departments had to give back 6% of their current operating budget. There will be a public hearing in April and a referendum in May to finalize the budget.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: Mickey reported on the status of the Town Emergency Preparedness Program. A smallpox/anthrax/radiation vaccination program has been developed. This clinic will cover the towns of Simsbury, East Hartland, Granby, East Granby and Granby. There will be on Orientation for all clinic volunteers on May 16 with an Emergency Preparedness Drill on May 17. Mickey explained the clinic process in detail and expressed a need for more volunteers. She also distributed an Emergency Preparedness Handbook from FEMA and a handout on How to Protect in Place.

Minutes: The minutes of the January meeting were approved by Ed and seconded by Gloria with the following changes:
Page 1: should read that a copy of the thank you letter for the Picnic in the Park was sent to Jerry Toner
Page 2: The last paragraph under the Disability Subcommittee should be amended to read that Charlotte reported reading an article regarding disaster plans for people with disabilities and aged.

Reports: Subcommittees/Projects:

Disabilities Subcommittee Report: Ed distributed the Commissioner's Report on DMR issues. The DMR waiting list has grown in numbers and a class action suit will be filed. Ed distributed American Network of Community Options and Resources report on Public Service Announcements regarding the Quality of Life Issues. Nine Group Homes in the Mystic area will be privatized. The Birth-To-Three Program budget has been cut by 4 million dollars. Governor Roland will reduce the current five DMR Regions to 3 in the current proposal.

Legislative:

Federal: None
State: None

Housing: None

Souper Tuesday Report: Gwen will arrange for the soup for next week's luncheon. The Lion's Club will volunteer their assistance. There are currently 76 people signed up for the luncheon next week. The Woman's Club has requested to have two representatives from the commission attend their luncheon. The Second Chance Shop has asked if there will be another Fashion Show at a Souper Tuesday Luncheon in the fall. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the future status of Souper Tuesday Luncheons. Grace proposed that the luncheons continue with six luncheons per year. This amends the vote taken at the May 15 meeting to stop the luncheons when the current funding is exhausted. The motion by Grace was seconded and a unanimous yes vote ensued to support the motion.

Ways and Means: None

Senior Center: Rickie reported that the Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner was a success. A Senior Center Regional Conference was also recently held and was a success. Rickie shared that another conference will be planned for next year with Simsbury being the host site.

Other: Tommy Thompson from FAVRAH has agreed to be the guest speaker at the next commission meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Music For All Ages: Eileen reported on the status of the planning. Members of the commission signed up to bring baked goods. Lynn will elicit youth volunteers and provide the refreshments and pitchers. Charlotte will provide tablecloths.

Ability Award: Ed presented the draft guidelines and nomination form for the Ability Awareness Award. Revisions were made in the guidelines and nomination form and a motion to accept the final draft was made by Lynn and seconded by Eileen. A unanimous yes vote by the members approved the draft. Ed made a motion to allocate up to $100.00 for the award publicity, stationary supplies and a plaque, which will be awarded at a Board of Selectman meeting. The motion was seconded by Gloria and passed by unanimous vote.

ADA Report: Ed presented an update on the status of the ADA compliance in the Town of Simsbury. He distributed an e-mail correspondence with Brandon Robertson. A discussion of the status ensued. Ed motioned that the commission proceed with the suggestions made by Mr. Robertson for review and development of an action plan if warranted. The motion was seconded by Kathy and passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence: Peg received notification of Frances Sarnecki's resignation from the Aging and Disability Commission from the Board of Selectman.

Adjournment: The next meeting is April 15, 2003. Kathy Fallon made a motion to adjourn and Peg Bergethon seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn R. Veith
Clerk