

COLUMBIA COMMISSION ON AGING

10/22/14

Attending: Maureen Allen, Paula Cahalan, Margie Golden-Mossberg, Millie Ramsey, Cathie Rowe, Maggie Ewald and Bernadette Derring.

Minutes: Minutes were read. Corrections made. Accepted by Margie and seconded by Maggie.

Introduction: 2 observers who are interested in the Committee were introduced to the members. Jill Livingston and Lyn Buonocore

Mission statement of CONA was presented. Motion to accept the statement by Margie and seconded by Maggie. Unanimous vote to accept the statement. Bernadette and Millie were thanked for the work they did to research and compose the statement.

Our mission is to identify the needs of Columbia's seniors and seniors-to-be with the best resources available. We maintain the priority of supporting and advocating for the elderly and their families in all aspects of life by providing social services, transportation, education, health, recreation and resources that support their well being and independence.

Discussion: Millie reports that she had checked the *Crossroads* publishing to see if CONA could put a survey about seniors needs on the back page. That page is used for advertising.

Guest Speaker, Rose Kurcnik, from Dial- A-Ride presented:

- 1. Monday through Friday service. Hours 8 AM to 4PM. 2 vans available, a 12 passenger with 1 wheelchair slot and a 18 passenger with 2 wheelchair slots. The vans will pick up in Columbia about 8:30 and at 10:00. They return trips at 2:00.**
2. The rides are always shared and van will usually go to other towns while transporting.
3. 2 day notice requested. Medical appts take priority and will accommodate same day request if client needs to make an unscheduled visit to doctor. Dial-a-ride gets patient to appts on time. If a delay should occur, Dial-a Ride will notify the doctors office of the patient delay. Dial-a Ride will attempt to accommodate the client when appts run past 2:00 and will not leave the client stranded.
4. Drivers will assist with carrying up to three 15 lb bags of groceries into client's home. Also will assist clients to bus, and climbing on and off steps.
5. Dial-a Ride is funded by state grant money and local contributions. Also private grant program for out of region trip. Elderly clients (over 60) are not charged but may make a donation. Non elderly or disabled are charged a nominal fee ranging from \$1.50 to \$3. Also Dial-a ride services group homes in Columbia. Drivers of vans must be insured.
6. About 120 rides a month are scheduled on Dial-a ride from Columbia. The town pays about \$8,000 dollars a year but this is based on ridership numbers per year.
7. Speaker left informational pamphlets to be distributed and kept at the Senior Center.

Discussion on van services furnished in surrounding towns. Paula had done research and presented

1. Bolton has a 20 person van, a 10 person and a mini van. They will drive anywhere in the state. Financing from Greater Hartford Transit. Presently Columbia is sharing recreational trips with Bolton
2. Mansfield: run by volunteers. 16 person van. DOT funded 60%, town 40%. town has a coordinator.

Update: Bernadette has not been able to get hold of Peter Starkel to obtain from him information on "File for Life" magnets (plastic envelopes placed on refrig which will hold pertinent information for first responders. Bernadette had several at the Senior Center. Discussed that these possibly could be placed at the entrance or exit to the polls in Nov.

Discussion:

1. Possibly sending a card with Meal on Wheels to inform those clients the purpose and works of Commission on Aging.
2. Updating a resource guide for the town of Columbia that could be used as a valuable reference for new comers or elderly.
3. Maggie suggested a web site for CONA be formulated. Bernadette will discuss this with a student intern working with her.
4. Maggie discussed state statutes for volunteers when driving the elderly. She also had contacted the State Commission on Aging. Contact person was Dagmar Knoll.
5. Ct. Well Being Survey could be produced for local level but data base starts at \$20,000. Possibly Capitol Region Council for Government might help us access local statistics for a lower rate.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Next meeting Nov 19th due to Thanksgiving Holiday.

Written by Lyn Buonocore

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Rowe

Received: November 3, 2014
At 8:34
Attest: Robin M. King
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk