



City of Bristol
Commission on Aging

The regular Commission on Aging Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 11:00 AM. in the Bristol Senior Center, Room #103, 240 Stafford Avenue, Bristol, CT.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. COA April 18, 2024 meeting
3. Public Participation
4. Mayor/Council Update
5. Unfinished Business
 - a. Building Use Survey
 - b. Project updates
 - c. By Commissioner
6. New Business
 - a. Parking Lot
 - b. By Commissioner
7. Committee Reports
8. Any Other Business
 - a. Monthly Statistical Report
 - b. Upcoming Programs and Activities

- c. Senior Benefits Coordinator Report
 - d. Director's Report
- 9. Next Meeting is Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 11:00am in Room #109
 - 10. Adjournment

Jaimie Clout
Secretary to the Commission

**CITY OF BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
Thursday, April 18, 2024 - Regular Meeting Minutes
Bristol Senior Center – 240 Stafford Avenue
Bristol, CT 06010 – Phone: 860-584-7895 Room #109**

Present: Chairman Larry Zbikowski, Commissioners: Cathy Duck, Ellen McCusker, George Irving, Chris Leigh, Dolores Ricker, Sheila Herens, Executive Director Jason Krueger, Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano, and Council Liaison Susan Tyler.

Absent: Assistant Director Jaimie Clout

Meeting Called to order: Chairman Larry Zbikowski called the meeting to order at 11:02am

Approval of Minutes: *Commissioner Duck moved to accept the minutes from the February 15, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ricker, All in Favor.*

Public Participation: None

Council Update: Mayor Caggiano gave the update that the funding has been approved for the BOE to vacate their occupancy of the building. The expected date for BOE to vacate by is April 15th 2024.

Correspondence: There were two letters of correspondence. The first, dated April 10, 2024 was a letter from the Comptroller to make us aware that in regards to the the allocation of ARPA funding, the mayor or acting Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the allocation of such funding. The second was a letter also dated April 10, 2024 to state that it was voted on to approve the submission of a grant application to the "Demand Responsive program" to authorize the mayor or acting Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the allocation of such a grant/funding.

Unfinished, "Old" Business: There was letter read by ***Commissioner Duck*** to explain a letter written by Jason Krueger, Executive Director in regards to where the Building Use Committee has left off in regards to the future takeover of the former BBHD space. Executive Director Krueger commented on the fact that the senior center, along with the committee are working on putting together a survey to its members to ensure the best use of available space. A comment made by Council Liaison Sue Tyler to thank the mayor for getting that list out very quickly for city hall volunteers for the welcome desk. A further comment was made that there is an old picture of city hall on the website and recommended updating the picture.

New Business: Executive Director Krueger spoke on the current state of the congregate meal program with the given circumstances that CW Resources had laid out for us. He further explained the limitations of the program and how our membership have handled the situation. Executive Director Krueger stated that there is \$5,295 in a new fund that was created to subsidize our lunch program. We will continue to add to the fund so that no senior will go hungry at the Bristol Senior Center. Furthermore, he commented that there may be a future need to explore the possibility of bringing the congregate meal program in-house. As of May 1st, the daily meals on wheels program will be made whole and brought back to previous services. Mayor Caggiano commented that the food program was not within city parameters and recommended that we contact our BOE for aid. A comment was made by Council Liaison Sue Tyler to recommend that professionals coming in to speak at the senior center should make a donation in exchange for allowing them to promote their services. It was remarked by Executive Director Krueger that this may be a good idea.

Any other business: Executive Director Krueger reported the statistics for the past month is as follows: In March we had 6,229 participants, total membership was 5,552, with 10 members' deceased and 76 new members. Our fundraiser total was at \$20,205.00. Executive Director Krueger reported on the status of the installation of our new Bocce courts and that construction is due to begin on Friday, April 19th. 50% of ARPA funds were used as well as a 50% match made by the Bristol Senior Center. It was also mentioned that \$146,000 in ARPA funds for our camera and intercom system had been approved and that once the Board of Finance approves, we will be able to move forward with that project. Executive Director Krueger remarked that we have applied for the Farmer's Market reduced coupons once again this year and that he had met with HRA in regards to our current Dial-A-Ride program to discuss the city-matched grant funds to provide \$55,000 to the city to subsidize the cost of the program. The city provides over \$100,000 to this program as well. Dial-A-Ride will be expanding on shopping trip opportunities.

Executive Director Jason Krueger stated that our upcoming events include an Earth Day clean-up event, an Earth Day rock painting event, Senior Olympics in May, our summer programs will begin in 2-weeks, we have a Mother's Day Dinner Dance, the annual Volunteer Dinner and the Bristol Brass and Wind Concert to perform in May.

The next meeting of the Commission on Aging will be on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 11:00am in Room #109.

Adjournment: *Commissioner Herens moved "to adjourn" at 11:48 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Duck. All in favor.*

Respectfully submitted, Jaimie Clout, Secretary to the Commission.

Bristol Senior Center- Senior Benefit Coordinator Report

Submitted by: Carrie Tedd

Reporting Period: April 2024

Services	Total Count
Phone Calls	256
Appointments	92
Walk Ins	5
Home Visits	0
	Total 97
SNAP Applications/Renewals	38
Medicare Savings Program Apps/Renewals	33
Husky C Applications/Renewals	5
Miscellaneous Medicare Assistance	2
SNAP Toiletry Program	8
Lifeline Program Applications	3
Housing	13
Renter's Rebate Applications	19
Transportation	10
Title 19/Probate Court Paperwork	1
Energy Assistance	11

Appointments: The month of April was up and down and I think when it was slow it was due to the newest class schedule not starting again until the 1st week of May and it has been slower in reference to the number of members coming through the doors daily.

SNAP, MSP/QMB & Husky Health: Taking in renewals as well as new applications for SNAP, MSP and Husky/Medicaid programs. I have seen an increase in phone call inquiries regarding food stamp income guidelines, and qualifications. Many senior residents are finding it difficult to pay for groceries due to the increased cost of groceries and other household bills like insurance, gas and clothing.

Medicare Assistance: I still receive phone calls and schedule appointments with residents to discuss when they need to sign up for Medicare in order to not be penalized for late sign up. You can sign up for Medicare 3 months before you turn 65 or 3 months after your 65th birthday. It is really important to sign

up within these guidelines to avoid paying a lifetime penalty. Most of the appointments are specific questions to penalties or plan options.

Energy Assistance: Energy assistance appointments are definitely slowing down as the deadline for Federal Energy Assistance is May 31st and the program does not reopen until September 1st, 2024.

SNAP Toiletry Program: I have given 8 SNAP toiletry bags and over 28 incontinence boxes out to clients this month and some just came in to get a few items they ran out of. I completed the Thomaston Savings Bank grant in order to secure the funding to continue this program we offer now. The deadline to submit the grant was April 28th and it was completed and submitted on the 23rd. I provided a copy of the grant to Jason and Dawn Leger the City Grant Manager.

Lifeline Program: The current ACP Program is coming to an end beginning April 1st, 2024. April or May will be the last month seeing a discount on their cable/Wi-Fi bills, depending on how they begin to end the discount rate for customer. There is another program called the Lifeline Program where customers can get a flat rate of \$9.99 for internet or a discount off their entire bill of \$9.99, depending on their approval. They just need to schedule an appointment to see Carrie and go through the online application process.

Housing: We continue to struggle with the increased cost of rental properties. More and more Bristol Senior residents are calling to state their landlord raised the rent and will be raising it again and they no longer can afford it and want to get into Senior Subsidized Housing. They are very discouraged due to increased rent charges and feel helpless due to this massive hike in real estate pricing.

Renter's Rebate: April 1st was the opening day for the State Renter's Rebate Program. I have completed 19 renter's rebate applications and emailed them over to Peggy in the Assessor's Office at the Town Hall. I have several appointments up and coming and will only get busier with this program as the summer goes on. The extra money applicants receive really comes in handy during times like these. The deadline for this program is October 1st, 2024.

Transportation: I continue to assist many members with the application process for Encompass Transportation, ADA Paratransit and Dial-A-Ride, as well as sell the discounted ADA Paratransit Ride Booklets. The Senior Center is capable of selling the ADA Paratransit ticket booklets at an extremely discounted rate due to a grant the Director secures and we are on our last bundle of booklets and will need to re-apply for the funding in order to continue to sell the booklets to our members at the discounted rate.

Advocacy: I have helped 1 senior this month with probate court paperwork as the probate court no longer offers assistance in the completing the forms. I explained to Amy at Veteran's Strong the Title 19 process and what documentation is needed and how they do a 5 year look back on banking and asset information. Veteran's Strong had a client from another town and was trying to assist them with questions they had in regards to the State Program.

2024 Bristol Senior Center Building Use Survey

Renovations to the former Bristol Preschool side of our building will be starting in the fall. When finished, the Bristol/Burlington Health Department will be moving into that side of our building freeing up the space they currently occupy. We are being given a unique opportunity to customize those rooms to meet our needs. To make sure we get it right, we are asking our members to take a brief survey to help us make the proper decisions.

1. What is the primary reason you come to the Bristol Senior Center?

2. Is there a program or activity that you wanted to try but couldn't because there were no spots available?

3. Is there a program or activity that you wish the Bristol Senior Center would offer?

4. Is there a program or activity that doesn't have their own designated space that should?

5. Is there a program or activity that is outgrowing their space?

6. If you have any other ideas, suggestions, or concerns for the space that we will be gaining, please write them below.

Thank you for taking the time to help make the Bristol Senior Center one of the best in the State!

Commission on Aging
May 16, 2024
Director's Report

In April we saw 3,713 participant swipe in for programs. We have 5,561 total members. In April we had 12 people deceased, 62 new members, and our fundraiser total is \$20,205.00.

Our upcoming programs include the Bristol Brass and Wind concert on Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00pm (The Korean Vets group will be making grinders as a fundraiser before the event), Our closing ceremony and Ice Cream Social on Friday, May 31 at 1:30pm, A Boutique Fashion Show on Wednesday, June 5th at 1:30pm, A Father's day dinner sponsored by Countryside Manor on Friday, June 14th from 4:30-6:30pm with entertainment by the County Line Band, and our Volunteer Dinner on Wednesday, June 26th starting at 4:00pm at the Doubletree.

Our Senior Benefits Coordinator has submitted her report as well. She is currently busy updating our Senior Resource guide and organizing our housing and home care information in our office. Carrie also stays very busy applying for SNAP benefits, updating MSP's, managing the toiletry program, and helping people get on the housing lists.

The past month I was focused on renewing our Dial-a-ride grant, Applying for the State ARPA funds, getting the Bocce courts done, and getting up to speed on the Farmer's Market coupon program. We are currently at 70 volunteers that have been approved for the Senior Volunteer Tax credit. Our maximum is 80.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Krueger
Executive Director
City of Bristol
Department of Aging