



*City of Bristol
Commission on Aging*

The regular Commission on Aging Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 11:00 AM. in the Bristol Senior Center, Room #109, 240 Stafford Avenue, Bristol, CT.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting - February 20, 2025
3. Public Participation
4. Mayor/Council Update
5. Correspondence
6. Old Business
 - a. Facility Project Update
 - b. Nightly Usage Report
 - c. By Commissioner
7. New Business
 - a. Charter revision inquiry
 - b. By Commissioner
8. Committee Reports
9. Any other matter to come before said meeting

- a. a. Monthly Statistics
- b. Director's Report
- c. Upcoming Events

10. Adjournment

- a. Next meeting April 17, 2025 at 11:00am

Jaimie Clout
Secretary to the Commission

**CITY OF BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
Wednesday, February 20, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes
Bristol Senior Center – 240 Stafford Avenue
Bristol, CT 06010 – Phone: 860-584-7895 Room #109**

Present: Chairman Larry Zbikowski, Commissioners: Sheila Herens, Cathy Duck, Dolores Ricker, Chris Leigh, Ellen McCusker, and George Irving. Executive Director Jason Krueger, Assistant Director Jaimie Clout, and Mayor Caggiano.

Absent: Council Liaison Susan Tyler.

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

Approval of Minutes: *Commissioner Herens moved to accept the minutes from the January 16, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ricker, All in Favor.*

Public Participation: Questions were directed to *Mayor Caggiano* in regards to the upcoming move of Bristol Pre-School to the Bristol Senior Center building complex, parking lot concerns, and the status of the Jerome Ave. Bridge as well as questions regarding the burning of medical waste at the Covanta location. *Mayor Caggiano* remarked that he would address these questions in his update.

Council Update: *Mayor Caggiano* remarked that the BOE had a total of \$16M available to them to make repairs to the roof at Edgewood School. Additionally, that a current budget deficit of \$7.8M exists. The conditions at Edgewood School have been deemed unsafe for building occupancy. With the looming budget deficit, it is best for taxpayers for the city to utilize a space in which to move Pre-School to a location that would result in the least financial burden. It was stated that the temporary occupancy should cease by June 30th 2025 and that the BBHD should remain unaffected in terms of their planned relocation to that space. *Mayor Caggiano* further remarked that BOE has discretion over their funds and how they spend their funds is not within his purview. *Mayor Caggiano* explained the process of medical waste and stated that he had no concerns in regards to what medical waste is being incinerated but only that there are no negative effects to ambient air quality. He encouraged residents to follow along the reports made by Reworld regarding air quality. He further remarked that there are tax benefits to the residents of Bristol for hosting the Covanta site. He addressed the concern of noise pollution and assured audience members that the problem is being handled and ultimately noise levels have decreased since 2022 and he credited the BBHD for advocating for such decreases.

Correspondence: None

Unfinished, "Old" Business: None

New Business: None

Any other business: Executive Director Krueger reported the statistics for January: we had 3,725 participants, total membership was 5,760, with 22 members' deceased and 71 new members. Our fundraiser total was at \$19,100.00.

Executive Director Jason Krueger stated that our upcoming events include our St. Patrick's Day dinner hosted by our Korean Veterans on March 12th, the Shamrock school dancers on March 14th, a full slate

of lectures, and Indian cooking class on March 7th, and a shredding event on April 21st. Classes are in full swing and Trip Registrations are going very well.

The next meeting of the Commission on Aging will be on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 11:00am in Room #109.

Adjournment: *Commissioner Ricker moved "to adjourn" at 11:40 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Irving. All in favor.*

Respectfully submitted, Jaimie Clout, Secretary to the Commission.

DRAFT

Bristol Senior Center- Senior Benefit Coordinator Report

Submitted by: Carrie Tedd

Reporting Period: February 2025

Services	Total Count
Phone Calls	198
Appointments	88
Walk Ins	6
Home Visits	0
	Total 94
SNAP Applications/Renewals	31
Medicare Savings Program Apps/Renewals	37
Husky C Applications/Renewals	3
Miscellaneous Medicare Assistance	1
SNAP Toiletry Program	13
Lifeline Program Applications	0
Housing	15
Energy Assistance Applications	13
Eversource Discount Programs	44
Transportation	7
Title 19/Probate Court Paperwork	1

Appointments: The month of February was a little slower than last month, but steady and more involved cases at times this month.

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: Open Enrollment ended on December 15th and will not re-open until October 2025.

SNAP Toiletry Program: I have given 13 SNAP toiletry bags and over 42 incontinence products out to clients & residents this month and some just came in to get a few items they ran out of. I have limited the laundry detergent and cleaning spray to ever other month, because it says 22 loads one bottle can do.

Lifeline Program: The current ACP Program is officially over, but 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. I have approved 4 members this month for the program. They just need to schedule an appointment to see Carrie and go through the online application process.

Housing: The housing crisis is still the same, I continue to assist senior residents with applications for all towns and types of senior housing. I have created a handout for outside of Bristol Subsidized Housing Resource Guide and continue to update it as I investigate new opportunities for subsidized and affordable housing.

Energy Assistance: I continue to process applications and set new appointments for energy assistance. The last day to order heating oil is March 31st, 2025 and this years energy assistance will close out May 30th, 2025 and begin again on September 1st, 2025.

Eversource: Since I advertised in the last 2 newsletters about the Eversource Tiered Monthly Discount Program, I have done over 44 income verifications and went into the Eversource Portal to change their status to either 10% off monthly or 50% off their monthly bill. This is a no brainer if you qualify to get a monthly discount on these increasingly higher utility bills, then why not set an appointment with me to see if you qualify.

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. We are running low on the ADA Paratransit Ride Booklets, so I will be asking Jason to order more.

Advocacy: The new informational magazine rack mounted outside the office has definitely been a success, as I am refilling multiple topic slots weekly as they run very low from residents/members taking them. I will continue to do research on the most asked questions & topics regarding senior life and update the slots as I see fit.

Commission on Aging
March 20, 2025
Director's Report

In February we saw 5234 participant swipe ins for programs, 5811 total members, 7 people deceased, 44 new members, and our fundraiser total for 2024-25 is \$19,250.00.

Our upcoming programs include a Pasta Supper Fundraiser on April 10th, A Senior Conference & Resource Fair on April 16th, a shredding event and Earth day grounds cleanup on April 21st, and a Senior Prom on April 22nd.

Class registration for our Spring classes is on Wednesday, April 12th from 9:00-11:00am. We are offering our full slate of classes along with some night classes. Our night numbers increased from 221 in January to 454 in February. We are monitoring the activities at night to allow for additional programming.

Our Senior Benefits Coordinator has submitted her report as well. She is currently helping people with energy assistance, SNAP benefits, MSP program applications and answering questions about housing.

I am waiting on one more invoice for the camera project and that is complete. We are currently getting our gardens ready for planting. We also have 25 more Senior Volunteer Tax credits left to give. We have given 55 to date.

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