



*City of Bristol
Commission on Aging*

The regular Commission on Aging Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2025, 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. Regular Meeting - March 20, 2025
3. Public Participation
4. Mayor/Council Update
5. Correspondence
6. Old Business
 - a. Facility Project update
 - b. By Commissioner
7. New Business
 - a. By Commissioner
8. Committee Reports
9. Any other matter to come before said meeting
 - a. Monthly Statistics
 - b. Director's Report
 - c. Upcoming Events
10. Adjournment

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

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

Absent: Chairman Larry Zbikowski

Meeting Called to order: Commissioner Sheila Herens called the meeting to order at 11:06am

Approval of Minutes: *Commissioner Ricker moved to accept the minutes from the February 20, 2025 Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Duck, All in Favor.*

Public Participation: None

Council Update: *Mayor Caggiano* remarked that the BOE had requested additional time to occupy the formerly vacated Bristol Pre-K building space. *Mayor Caggiano* advised the commission that he was unable to provide the BOE with more time and that the deadline of June 30th, 2025 is still in place. *Mayor Caggiano* then remarked that it seemed as though the requested evening part-time position would ultimately be approved. Prior to the Mayor's arrival, there was discussion in regards to potentially changing the city charter to add language that could strengthen advocacy for the senior center. *Council Liaison Susan Tyler* suggested that the senior center consult with city attorney Conlon to clarify the recommended procedure for making charter changes and further remarked that the charter revision committee likely would not meet again until after the November election.

Correspondence: Two letters from City Clerk documenting the reappointment of *Commissioner Herens* and *Commissioner Ricker*.

Unfinished, "Old" Business: *Executive Director Krueger* remarked that the final bills for the camera system were being processed and that repair of the Bocce court surface will take place shortly as the weather warms at no cost to the senior center. Additionally, that the speaker system works well. Regarding nightly usage of the senior center, *Executive Director Krueger* that attendance has nearly doubled since January when the night hours first began.

New Business: None

Any other business: *Executive Director Krueger* reported the statistics for February, we had 5,242 participants, total membership was 5,811, with 7 members' deceased and 44 new members. Our fundraiser total was at \$19,250.00.

Executive Director Jason Krueger stated that our upcoming events include our Pasta Dinner fundraiser on April 10 from 4:30-6pm, our Spring conference and resource fair sponsored by a New Season in Life on April 16th from 8:00am-1:00pm in the gymnasium, our Earth Day Cleanup and Shredding event on Monday, April 21st from 10:00am-12:00pm. Additionally that class registration will be on

Hi Yvonne,

Thank you so much
for allowing the mum
to attend the use of the
Senior Center for one
weekend. Everyone we
worked with was so nice
& helpful! The

chaperons were
especially

helpful!

All the mum
volunteers,

members &

guests

were very

Please ~~return~~ the
money. The money
raised will be
enjoyed by all
city residents!
Hopefully we can do
it again next year!

Thanks a bunch!

my sincerest thanks,

Natalie Cunningham

Mum Festival

Fundraising Chair

Bristol Senior Center- Senior Benefit Coordinator Report

Submitted by: Carrie Tedd

Reporting Period: February 2025

Services	Total Count
Phone Calls	292
Appointments	131
Walk Ins	18
Home Visits	0
	Total 149
SNAP Applications/Renewals	51
Medicare Savings Program Apps/Renewals	44
Husky C Applications/Renewals	23
Miscellaneous Medicare Assistance	1
SNAP Toiletry Program	25
Lifeline Program Applications	0
Housing	26
Energy Assistance Applications	7
Eversource Discount Programs	49
Transportation	13
Title 19/Probate Court Paperwork	3

Appointments: The month of March was incredibly busy and I do not foresee it getting any slower, yet much busier due to so many social & economic issues our state is having. Especially when I get walk ins for emergency issues or homelessness and or requests to assist with Senior Evictions from the State Marshall.

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 25 SNAP toiletry bags and over 51 incontinence products out to clients & residents this month and some just came in to get a few items they ran out of. I signed up 11 new clients to the program through verification of DSS SNAP benefits. I have limited providing laundry detergent & cleaning supplies to every other month, as it is not necessary to provide a bottle of laundry soap that does 22 loads for one person every month.

Housing: The housing crisis is still very bad and we do not foresee it getting any better, but worse. I continue to assist senior residents with applications for all towns and types of senior & subsidized housing. We have over 30 homeless individuals over 55 years of age in Bristol at this time and around a 100 people total, that is actual count for the ones we know of, not counting the ones we do not know of out there. Homelessness is defined in Connecticut as an individual sleeping in their car or tent outside in the elements or in an uninhabitable place. Sleeping on a friend's couch is not considered homeless in the State of Connecticut. I have attached the Homelessness Guide for the City of Bristol that I wrote up for the senior volunteers at the Town Hall that run into people asking for help that are homeless. We have a state & city regulated procedure to follow and I wrote a step-by-step guide for them.

Energy Assistance: I continue to process applications and set new appointments for energy assistance. You no longer can get any deliverable fuels such as heating oil, the deadline was March 31st, 2025. They can reapply September 1st, 2025.

Eversource: I have signed up so many senior residents with the Eversource Tiered Monthly Discount Program, which entitles them either to 10% off their monthly bill or 50% depending on your income or Department of Social Service benefits you receive. Eversource is changing this tier discount program starting this June. The new Eversource Tiered Discount Program will have 5 structured tiers. Either 5%, 15%, 20%, 40% and 50% depending on your household income. I will announce this in the newsletter and the bulletin board about these changes.

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 CT Transit Department is encouraging all seniors who use some sort of public transportation, but especially the ones who use the Encompass Program to reach out to our local state representatives to encourage them to continue funding the Encompass Transportation Program that is due to officially end June 30th, 2025. In order to advocate for the senior population and Bristol senior residents I continue to communicate with our districts state representatives to educate and advocate for this senior transportation program and the essential need it has on so many seniors who no longer drive and need to go outside of Bristol but are not disabled or handicapped enough for the CT Paratransit Transportation Program. Joe Hoaxa asked me several questions on the program and what the bill was named in order to bring it up at his next attending session.

Homelessness State of CT Process, a step-by-step guide on helping a homeless resident get the resources they need.....

State of CT Homelessness Definition: Lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes living in a shelter, an institution, car, tent or a place not meant for human habitation. (Couch surfing at a friend's house is not considered homeless, so 211 would be unable to get a CAN number for shelter purposes)

What is a CAN number: CAN number, which stands for "Case Assistance Number," acts as a unique identifier when you call 211, allowing the service to track your specific situation and connect you with relevant community resources.

1st Step – They need to contact 211 and do a Homelessness Intake and get a CAN number assigned to your case.

SHELTER RESOURCES

Bristol Triage Center (Homeless Shelter)

AGENCY: SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL MISSION SHELTER OF BRISTOL

LOCATION: 19 JACOBS STREET, BRISTOL, CT

NOTE: THIS AGENCY PARTICIPATES IN A UNIFIED INTAKE PROCESS & DOES NOT ACCEPT INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS FOR SHELTER, CALLERS IN NEED OF SHELTER MUST CALL 211 FOR A REFERRAL.

Bristol Triage Center will be open to individuals who report their last place of permanent residency (or the town they are currently in or coming from) is New Britain, Bristol, Southington... Emergency housing for single adults, families with children, couple with children and couples without children. Shelter is Wheelchair accessible.

Eligibility:

Individuals; 18+ Single Adults, Couples and Couples & Singles w/ Children. No outstanding arrest warrants or sex offenders.

Hours:

M-F: 8am-4pm

(Homeless Shelter)

AGENCY: FRIENDSHIP CENTER

LOCATION: 241 ARCH STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT

NOTE: THIS AGENCY PARTICIPATES IN A UNIFIED INTAKE PROCESS & DOES NOT ACCEPT INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS FOR SHELTER, CALLERS IN NEED OF SHELTER MUST CALL 211 FOR A REFERRAL.

Emergency housing for single adults, families with children, couple with children and couples without children. Shelter is Wheelchair accessible.

Eligibility:

Individuals; 18+ Single Adults, Couples and Couples & Singles w/ Children. No outstanding arrest warrants or sex offenders.

Hours:

M-F: 9am-4pm

Bristol's Overflow Shelter – Opens Dec. 2nd through March 31st –They must sign up at the Resource Center at SVDP - Contact number: (860) 589-9098. Location of Shelter: The Bridge Church at 43 School Street. Must arrive between 6pm and 7pm and you are not guaranteed a cot, it could be a chair.

DAY WARMING CENTERS & INTAKE RESOURCES

Central CAN Triage Extreme Cold Warming Center

AGENCY: FRIENDSHIP SERVICE CENTER INC. (HOMELESS INTAKE CENTER)

LOCATION: 61 ARCH ST. NEW BRITAIN, CT **CONTACT NUMBER:** 860-894-0762

2024-2025: Triage center is open daily from December 2, 2024 to March 31, 2025: 5-8pm for individuals who report their last place of permanent residency (or the town they are currently in or coming from) is New Britain, Bristol, Southington, Plainville. Emergency housing for single adults, families with children, couple with children and couples without children. Shelter is Wheelchair accessible.

Eligibility: Individuals; 18+ Single Adults, Couples and Couples & Singles w/ Children. No outstanding arrest warrants or sex offenders.

Hours: Mon-Sun (Daily) 5pm-8pm

Extreme Cold Warming Centers

AGENCY: BRIAN'S ANGELS HOMELESS OUTREACH

99 SUMMER STREET, BRISTOL CONTACT NUMBER: 860-261-4411

2024-2025: Updated 12/21/24: Warming Center available December 1, 2024- March 1, 2025, a place to get warm, get a coffee or some much needed gently used winter boots.

Hours: T-Sun: 12noon-3pm

Winter No Freeze Warming Center

AGENCY: SALVATION ARMY - BRISTOL CORPS COMMUNITY CENTER

19 Stearns Street, Bristol, CT CONTACT NUMBER: 860-583-4651

Open as warming center M-F: 9am-1pm during winter months, November through March.

Hours: Office: M-F: 9am-2pm

Extreme Cold Warming Centers

AGENCY: AGAPE HOUSE HOMELESS OUTREACH

43 School Street, Bristol, CT CONTACT NUMBER: 860-261-5733

Open as warming & cooling center, providing a safe, judgement free place that has snacks, clothing and more..... **Hours:** Office: Mon-Sat: 8am-12noon

SOCIAL SERVICES RESOURCE CONTACTS

Community Wellness Bristol Police Officers:

Nicolas Travisano – Works Days – Contact: (860)584-3000 Ext 3043

Monica Finkle – Works Nights – Contact: (860)584-3000 Ext 3043

City of Bristol –Youth & Community Services

STEPHEN BYNUM - Youth and Community Services Supervisor & Fair Housing Officer
Contact Number: (860) 314-4690 Email: StephenBynum@bristolct.gov

AUBREY MINKLER – Community Services Coordinator
Contact Number: (860) 314-4690 Email: Aubreyminkler@bristolct.gov

City of Bristol –Department of Aging - Bristol Senior Center

JASON KRUEGER – Department of Aging – Executive Director
Contact Number: (860) 584-7895 ex 7103 Email: jasonkrueger@bristolct.gov

CARRIE TEDD – Department of Aging – Senior Benefit Coordinator/Social Worker
Contact Number: (860) 584-7895 ex 71112 Email: carrietedd@bristolct.gov

Bristol - Burlington Health Department

JESSICA MASTROPIERO – Community Health Worker
Contact Number: (860) 584-7682 ex 7144 Email: JessicaMastropiero@bristolct.gov

CHRISTIE GANAVAGE – Public Health Nurse
Contact Number: (860) 584-7682 Email: ChristieGanavage@bristolct.gov

Commission on Aging
April 17, 2025
Director's Report

In March we saw 5,727 participant swipe ins for programs, 5,8160 total members, 7 people deceased, 51 new members, and our fundraiser total for 2024-25 is \$19,270.00.

Our upcoming programs include a shredding event and Earth Day grounds cleanup on April 21st, a Senior Prom on April 22nd, Our Opening Ceremony and Olympics kickoff on May 1st, A Flower Arrangement program on May 7th, and our Mother's Day Dinner on May 9th.

The Spring class session begins the week of April 28th. We are offering 41 classes which include 2-night classes. We currently have 6 classes that are full. We saw 558 swipe ins for our night activities in March which is up from 454 the month before.

Our Senior Benefits Coordinator has submitted her report as well. She is currently helping people with renter's rebate, and getting people signed up for CLYNK. We have CLYNK bags to give to people who set up new accounts.

I am waiting on one more invoice for the camera project and that is complete. The Parks Department should be rototilling the Community gardens next week so that they can be planted on May 1st. We currently have 8 ground plots available. We have 5 more Senior Volunteer Tax credits left to give. We have given 75 to date.

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