



*City of Bristol
Commission on Aging*

The regular Commission on Aging Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 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 - 4/17/25
3. Public Participation
4. Mayor/Council Update
5. Correspondence
6. Old Business
 - a. By Commissioner
7. New Business
 - a. Friends Donation
 - b. By Commissioner
8. Committee Reports
 - a. Emergency Fund Committee
9. Any other matter to come before said meeting
 - a. Monthly Statistics
 - b. Director's Report
 - c. Upcoming Events

10. Adjournment

- a. Next meeting June 19, 2025 at 11:00am in Room #109

Jaimie Clout
Secretary to the Commission

**CITY OF BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
Thursday, April 17, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes
Bristol Senior Center – 240 Stafford Avenue
Bristol, CT 06010 – Phone: 860-584-7895 Room #109**

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

Absent: Assistant Director Jaimie Clout

Meeting Called to order: Commissioner Larry Zbikowski called the meeting to order at 11:04am

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

Public Participation: None

Council Update: *Mayor Caggiano* provided an update in regards to the current fiscal concerns of the Board of Education. He clarified some public questions that had come to light in the past few weeks.

Correspondence: Thank you letter from the Mum Festival Fundraising Chair.

Unfinished, "Old" Business: None

New Business: None

Any other business: *Executive Director Krueger* reported the statistics for February, we had 5,727 participants, total membership was 5,816, with 7 members' deceased and 51 new members. Our fundraiser total was at \$19,270.00.

Executive Director Jason Krueger stated that our upcoming programs include a shredding event and earth day grounds clean-up on April 21st, a Senior Prom on April 22, our opening ceremony and Olympics kickoff on May 1st, a flower arrangement program on May 7, and our Mother's Day Dinner on May 9th. Spring classes begin on April 28th. We are offering 41 classes which includes 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 previous month.

The next meeting of the Commission on Aging will be on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 11:00am in Room #109.

Adjournment: *Commissioner Herens moved "to adjourn" at 11:27 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Ricker. All in favor.*

Respectfully submitted, Jaimie Clout, Secretary to the Commission.



Veterans Strong

Community Center, Inc.

Voices of Honor: Honoring All That Have Served

a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Bristol City Hall
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010
860-584-6258
www.vetstronginc.org

April 17, 2025

Bristol Senior Center
240 Stafford Ave.
Bristol, CT 06010

Dear Jason and team:

Thank you very much for being part of our sponsorship group for Bristol's Patriots' Day Dinner and Ceremony. The Patriots' Day Ceremony is in its 6th year of honoring active servicemembers and veterans who continue to give back to the City of Bristol in addition to their commitment to the Armed Forces. We honored 4 Patriots at this year's ceremony and dinner. Events like this honored tradition are very special to both the honorees, their families and their community. Veterans Strong Community Center is honored to host this event for the community we serve.

Through your generous in-kind donation of space we were able to provide dinner free of charge to all of this year's honorees. Organizations like yours make our Patriots' Day Ceremony and Dinner possible. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Amy Wernicki
Finance and Fundraising Director



Veterans Strong

Community Center, Inc.

Voices of Honor: Honoring All That Have Served

a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Bristol City Hall
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010
860-584-6258

www.vetstronginc.org

March 15, 2025

Bristol Senior Center
240 Stafford Ave.
Bristol, CT 06010

Dear Jason and Team:

Thank you for your generous donation of the cafe for our Charcuterie Fundraiser. Without this donation we could not of afford this event. We are grateful for your partnership and support. Without you our work would not be possible.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Amy Wernicki
Finance and Fundraising Director



Helping Those
Experiencing
Homelessness

19 Jacobs Street • Bristol, CT 06010

860.589.9098

www.svdpoofbristol.com

Dear Carrie,

2025

The SVDP team
would like to thank
you and the Senior
Center community for
your generous
donations! We
appreciate all that
you do to make the
community a better
place for all!

Take care,
SVDP Team

Commission on Aging
May 15, 2025
Director's Report

In April we saw 4,844 participant swipe ins for programs, 5,884 total members, 6 people deceased, 36 new members, and our fundraiser total for 2024-25 is \$19,270.00.

Our upcoming programs include our Olympics Closing ceremony on 5/30/25 at 1:30pm, A Boutique Fashion Show and Art Show on June 2nd at 1:30pm, a Father's day Dinner on June 11th, a CTRides trip to Hartford on June 17th, and our Volunteer dinner on June 26th at 4:00pm.

The Spring class session is in full swing with 40 classes being offered and 11 of those classes are filled. Night time swipe ins were 508.

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. We will be starting handing out the farmer's market vouchers again in June.

The Community Gardens are up and running. We sold out all of our areas. A big thanks goes to the Parks Department for rototilling and moving some dirt around for us. We have 2 more Senior Volunteer Tax credits left to give. We have given 78 to date.

Our Wii Bowling team won the CSWBL State Championships yesterday making it 8 consecutive years.

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

Bristol Senior Center- Senior Benefit Coordinator Report

Submitted by: Carrie Tedd

Reporting Period: APRIL 2025

Services	Total Count
Phone Calls	301
Appointments	161
Walk Ins	8
Home Visits	0
	Total 169
SNAP Applications/Renewals	44
Medicare Savings Program Apps/Renewals	29
Husky C Applications/Renewals	17
Miscellaneous Medicare Assistance	0
SNAP Toiletry Program	26
Lifeline Program Applications	0
Housing	31
Energy Assistance Applications	6
Eversource Discount Programs	55
Transportation	24
Title 19/Probate Court Paperwork	4

Appointments: The month of April 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 such as homelessness and Bristol Burlington Health Department cases that I need to assist with.

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 26 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 7 new clients to the program through verification of DSS SNAP benefits and or income.

Housing: I continue to research available privately owned apartments for rent for the many seniors looking for a place to live. I feel the homeless situation will continue to rise due to the increased number of evictions and increased numbers of evictions that get processed within 30 days due to the warmer weather. When the warmer weather hits, more people who end up homeless end up sleeping outside or in their vehicle if they have one due to the winter overflow shelters all closing by March 31st.

Energy Assistance: I continue to process applications and set new appointments for energy assistance. It has slowed down now that the deliverable fuels portion of the program is closed until November 1st, 2025. The energy program will close out May 31st, 2025 and re-open September 1st, 2025.

Eversource: I continue to sign 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. This is a great program for those seniors struggling to meet their financial needs through out the month, every penny counts, so every discount is helpful in the long run.

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 month of April the Senior Center collected wash cloths & hand towels for the Saint Vincent De Paul Shelter. Christine Theborge the SVDP Executive Director mentioned to Jason and I that they often run out or really low due to individuals taking them or not returning them. The Case Managers said the homeless are often dirty due to living & being outside 24/7 and feel ashamed about returning the wash cloths all soiled. Although they have no need to feel ashamed, SVDP is a non-judgmental environment, people still often have a sense of being ashamed, even though many of them did nothing wrong to end up in this situation, such as not paying rent, often it is something simple like the landlord needed the apartment back for their family due to the high cost of rentals in this economy. I received over 23 calls regarding seniors being pushed out of their privately owned apartments either due to major increased rental increases or that they want the apartment back for family or friends. Some of these seniors have lived in these apartments paying their rent on time for over 20 plus years. Where is the loyalty to good tenants? I have negotiated with landlords who have sent notices to increase the rent to the average market rate for the area. One landlord was increasing the rent by \$410 a month and the senior did not even make enough in SSA benefits to pay it, I then called and asked why he was raising it so much, he said I haven't raised it in 2 years and that's what the rents are going for on this street, I then explained that I called Assessor's office and he does not have a mortgage and did not do any upgrades since the day she moved in 18 years ago, but replace normal wear & tear items and

that he was creating a situation for his tenant who will end up homeless due to the 4-5 year waitlist for subsidized senior housing, she had no family or never had children, so she would end up on the streets. I said could you work with us and maybe do a \$175 increase and leave it that way for next 2 years and re-negotiate in 2 years? He said I appreciate you calling and I never thought about it like that and just assumed she had a pension in addition to her SSA benefits and I explained that maybe 25% of my clients have a pension, majority strictly have SSA only. The landlord then said, well I am glad you are there to advocate for seniors which I will be in 5 years and I do not mind negotiating or meeting a tenant half way. Attached is a Thank you we received from SVDP for doing the collection and donating all the wash cloths and hand towels.