



*City of Bristol
Commission on Aging*

The regular Commission on Aging Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26, 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 - May 15, 2025
3. Public Participation
4. Mayor/Council Update
5. Correspondence
6. Old Business
 - a. Facility Update
 - b. By Commissioners
7. New Business
 - a. Department postings
 - b. By Commissioners
8. Any other matter to come before said meeting
 - a. Monthly Statistics
 - b. Director's Report
 - c. Upcoming Events
9. Adjournment

- a. Next Meeting September 18, 2025 11:00am

Secretary to the Commission

**CITY OF BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
Thursday, May 15, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes
Bristol Senior Center – 240 Stafford Avenue
Bristol, CT 06010 – Phone: 860-584-7895 Room #109**

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

Absent: Assistant Director Jaimie Clout, Commissioners Sheila Herens, Chris Leigh, and Dolores Ricker.

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

Approval of Minutes: *Commissioner Duck moved to accept the minutes from the April 17, 2025 Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McCusker, All in Favor.*

Public Participation: None

Council Update: *Mayor Caggiano* provided an update on the Budget process and the deficit that the City is currently facing. He explained that the City Council is the final

Correspondence: **We have 2** thank you letters from Veteran's Strong for allowing them to use our building for 2 fundraisers, and a thank you letter from St. Vincent DePauls for collecting washcloths for them.

Unfinished, "Old" Business: None

New Business: Executive Director Krueger thanked the Friends of the Bristol Senior Center for their generous donation of exercise chairs for our stretching classes.

Committee Reports: The Emergency funds committee approved \$400.00 for the purchase of a used washing machine for one of our members.

Any other business: *Executive Director Krueger* reported the statistics for April, we had 4,844 participants, total membership was 5,884, with 6 members' deceased and 36 new members. Our fundraiser total was at \$19,270.00.

Executive Director Jason Krueger stated that 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 CT Rides trip to Hartford on June 17th, and our Volunteer dinner on June 26th at 4:00pm

The next meeting of the Commission on Aging will be on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 11:00am in Room #109.

Adjournment: *Commissioner Duck moved "to adjourn" at 11:18 a.m., seconded by Commissioner McCusker. All in favor.*

Respectfully submitted, Jason Krueger.

Commission on Aging
June 26, 2025
Director's Report

In May we saw 5,509 participant swipe ins for programs, 5,973 total members, 7 people deceased, 36 new members, and our fundraiser total for 2024-25 is \$19,320.00. Our new appeal will go out in August.

Our upcoming programs include our Volunteer dinner on June 26th at 4:00pm, a Pasta Supper Fundraiser on July 9th at 4:30pm, a Jukebox Bingo on July 18th at 1:30pm, our summer picnic on August 13th at 4:30pm, and our Magical Mystery Tour on August 24th at 9:00am.

The Spring class session is ending this week. We have a spattering of drop in classes over the summer.

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 started handing out the farmer's market vouchers again in June.

We explored the public transit system by taking the city bus from Lake Ave to Hartford. We had 19 people take advantage of this opportunity. We will be doing another ride in September to New Britain.

The Assistant Director position is our for applications and closes on July 8th. Jaimie resigned as of the beginning of June. We are also looking for a night monitor and we interviewed someone yesterday for a temp custodian position at night. I want to commend Carrie and Taylor for picking up the slack at our busiest time of the year to make sure that our programs or services did not suffer.

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: MAY 2025

Services	Total Count
Phone Calls	291
Appointments	141
Walk Ins	14
Home Visits	0
	Total 155
SNAP Applications/Renewals	49
Medicare Savings Program Apps/Renewals	35
Husky C Applications/Renewals	21
Miscellaneous Medicare Assistance	0
SNAP Toiletry Program	21
Lifeline Program Applications	0
Housing	41
Energy Assistance Applications	0
Eversource Discount Programs	19
Transportation	17
Title 19/Probate Court Paperwork	8

Appointments: The month of May was pretty consistent and steady as the month of April. I have days of non-stop work and walk ins and some days a steady flow, it is just a different day every day.

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 21 SNAP toiletry bags and over 44 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 5 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. The homelessness situation is not getting better, but getting worse and we need to fight for more Government funding to subsidized senior and disabled housing. I was able to get a senior male client who was currently homeless housed at Meridian Towers on Sheila Court. I have a great working relationship with the residential housing coordinator at Meridian Towers and he called me about the application I submitted 3 months ago for my homeless client and he stated he was going to be having a larger than normal apartment openings in the next month and he was going to do me a favor since it was a senior who was homeless and not due to his actions, but due to the property changes ownership and the new owner raising the rent beyond what the client made in SSA per month.

Energy Assistance: The Federal Energy Assistance Program has officially closed as of May 31st, 2025 and will re-open September 1st, 2025.

Eversource: I continue to sign up so many senior residents with the Eversource tiered monthly discount program. There have been some changes to this program when it comes to the amount of the discount the individual is getting, the program discounts now consist of 5%, 15%, 20%, 40% & 50% depending on their income.

Transportation: The Encompass Transportation Program is in jeopardy of ending due to Federal funding cuts. June 4th is the Legislative session they will be voting on renewing the funding for this program, fingers crossed it be in our favor. I have written to our local legislators about the importance of these vital senior programs such as transportation and that we need their backing to continue fighting for the funding to keep these programs in place. I heard back from 2 out of the 5 legislators I wrote.

Advocacy: I was invited by the City of Bristol's Grant Manager to attend the 22nd Annual Training Institute – Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness Event at the CT Convention Center on the 21st of May with the Community Services Department, CERT Team and the Community Liaison Police Officers. The attendees were community & social service departments for municipalities from all over the State of Connecticut, non-profit social service agencies, shelters and work force/employment agencies. I was great to learn what other cities and towns are doing to combat homelessness, such as taking unused city buildings and applying for HUD subsidy funding and turning them into senior & disabled subsidized housing. Westport

has turned 2 city buildings into supportive housing and is in the process of transforming 5 more city buildings into affordable housing. Westport gets a ton of homeless individuals from Norwalk that find their parks much nicer as well as safer. The town of Hamden used ARPA funding to start a warming center, to add social services positions and give increased salaries/raises to the current social services positions, because the increased case loads in general for all of social services had tripled since before the pandemic. The Town of Hamden is also converting town buildings into 1000 subsidized units for low-income individuals. These are great examples of just 2 other towns in Connecticut, we need to follow by example, we need to strive to end homelessness in our city of 68,000 people. The town of Middleton is also providing bus tours to town residents and businesses to tour the shelter and warming center in order to educate the residents of this increased issue of homelessness in our towns and cities.

Across the country, older adults are facing real, growing challenges. Rising costs are stretching fixed incomes, essential programs are harder to access, and too often older adults are left navigating it all alone. When older adults have access to trusted resources, benefits, programs and support they can age with dignity, health and financial security. I aim to provide the latest information on current assistance programs, changes and new programs. With all this uncertainty with our government programs such as Social Security, Medicare & Medicaid, we need to dispel the myths and aim to find the bottom line. I want to house every senior into affordable housing, I want to end their worries about which bill to pay this month or what groceries not to buy. I feel ashamed that in the 2nd richest state that we have seniors that are suffering, scared where their next meal will come, afraid they will end up homeless due to the shortage of affordable housing as the average wait for senior subsidized housing is 4 to 5 years throughout the entire state. I am willing to do whatever it takes to ease the worries of our seniors, from research, to reform, to develop proposals to state officials to fight for funding, seek funding from non-profits, churches and local charitable businesses. We need to educate our residents of crucial needs of low-income families and seniors.