

Minutes of the Social Services Commission
April 12, 2011 – Senior Center – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: David Reed-Brown, Faith Roebelen, Bridget Fidler
Absent: S. Edmonds Van Allen, R. Clark, S. Kozaczka
Directors Paula Pascoe, Janet Frechette, Denise Winiarski, and Peter Black
Recording Secretary Bobbie C. Kling

Acting Chairman Faith Roebelen called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes: The Commission accepted the minutes of the March 10, 2011 meeting as printed and distributed.

Directors' Reports

Senior Center Director Paula Pascoe, distributed copies of the revised Suffield Senior Center Usage Policy and reviewed the changes. The first paragraph states that the Senior Center will be used by and for the older adult population. Programming priority will always be given to those benefiting the Senior Center or senior groups. On occasion and non-recurring basis, civic and non profit community organizations that are not comprised primarily of the older adult population may utilize the Senior Center in accordance with stated conditions. The kitchen use is now restricted to licensed caterers who must obtain a Temporary Food Service permit from the North Central Health District Department. The organization is solely responsible for following guidelines set for by the NCHD. Additionally such contractor must provide a certificate of liability insurance and workers compensation insurance.

David Reed Brown arrived at this time, and assumed the chair.

The Commission endorsed the revised policy as presented and documented by Director Pascoe.

Mini Bus Director, Denise Winiarski, distributed her written report. She reviewed her ridership statistics for March: 884 Passengers traveled 7,660 miles, 868 gallons of fuel used, and the average number of riders per day was 38. She noted that perhaps because due to the higher gas cost of gas, she is getting more riders.

Director Janet Frechette, EAA, Delivery of Town Social Services, distributed her written report. Fuel Aid: She noted that the energy season has essentially ended. Since July 1 and to date, the EAA has spent nearly \$18,000 on fuel aid compared to \$13,700 spent last year during the same time frame.

Meals on Wheels volunteers will be honored by the Community Renewal Team on April 28. Thanks to the Suffield Mini Bus, the volunteers will be shuttled to the Hartford appreciation breakfast.

Ms. Frechette announced two new programs. Money Matters Workshop; best strategies to manage your income with your expenses is a workshop to be held April 25, 2011, 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the EAA Conference Room. A light supper will be provided and childcare will be available to those who reserve in advance. Calls can be made to the EAA to reserve a place. Gift cards (Target or Home Depot) will be available as an incentive to attend this worthwhile workshop, sponsored by the EAA. The EAA is partnering with Masonicare to offer a 6-week grief support group, beginning Friday May 20th. It is offered free with a light lunch provided. Registration is required and the Suffield Mini Bus is available for people need transportation.

Youth Services Director Peter Black distributed his written report. He noted that the service is very busy. A new group, The Teen Safety Committee has met twice. The Juvenile Review Board continues to examine its process and services. He reported that the position of the Assistant Youth Services Director was eliminated in the 2011-2012 budget. However, approximately \$10,000 was added to the budget for programs.

Chairman David Reed Brown reminded the Commission that this was his last meeting as Chairman and member of the Commission, as he was moving out of Suffield. Faith Roebelen will chair the May 10, 2011 meeting.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at the Senior Center at 8:30 a.m. This is a change from the posted schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary