



Social Services Commission
Sandra Peterkin, Chair
Maira Colangelo
Kathleen Lombardo
Daniel McCabe
Caroline Temlock Teichman

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06901

Minutes for September 16, 2014 Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Commission Members

Sandra Peterkin
Maira Colangelo
Kate Lombardo
Caroline Temlock Teichman

Public Safety Staff

Kathy Ruther, Secretary

Health Department Staff

Anne Fountain, Director, Health Department
Sharona Cowan, Director, Mandated Services

Members of the Public

Martin Levine
Jeanne Franklin – Commission on Aging
Michelle Piskin – Commission on Aging

Meeting came to order at 4:04pm and was presided over by Commissioner Sandra Peterkin. Commissioner McCabe absent.

Commission on Aging Representatives

Jeanne Franklin and Michelle Piskin addressed the group as representatives of the Commission on Aging. Top issues surveyed were 1) housing – wait lists are unorganized, centralized system would be great 2) unaffiliated seniors – not connected to any non-profits or family to assist with emergency services. Database of at-risk seniors is what they'd like 3) making Stamford more liveable for older people and the disabled – i.e. longer crosswalk lights – especially near senior living/housing complexes. 4) Hoarding task force; 5) extra beds during storms such as in nursing facilities; 6) stranded seniors, for example, on 10th floor w/no electricity.

Status of Commission on Aging – Martin Levine addressed question, they are currently defunct and are not in communication. He anticipates that the new Social Services Commission Coordinator will have a hand in re-vitalizing and/or combining the commissions.

The Commissioners discussed adding questions regarding Seniors to the survey.

J. Franklin and M. Piskin depart the meeting.

Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from August 19, 2014 meeting were approved.

Motion – Commissioner Temlock Teichman made motion to accept minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lombardo and motion carried.

Old Business

Status of Commissioner

Martin Levine will call Dan McCabe regarding his intention to resign.

Sharona Cowan, Director of Mandated Services, Health Department

Sharona presented the Interim Investigators Report (Attachment A). There are no hearings scheduled for next meeting.

Update on Survey Projects

- Commissioner Peterkin reviewed feedback from those who filled out the trial survey. Additional questions were suggested.
- Discussion around anticipated action plan once data is collected.
- Discussion around compiling list of names and addresses – Commissioners will compile from different agencies. Discussion of how large the scope of survey – how many recipients?
- Next meeting – cover letter will be done, lists will go to Commissioner Lombardo, updated questions to Commissioner Peterkin. She will have finished at next meeting – goal is to finalize and send out survey.

New Business

Hoarding Task Force

Commissioner Colangelo attended a meeting of the Hoarding Task Force. Anonymous tip-offs are OK. Highly complex issues, highly complex remedies.

More discussion around hoarding issues. Commissioner Colangelo is unable to continue to sit in on these meetings, perhaps another Commissioner would like to. Mental Health services was the biggest challenge that she took away from the meeting.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public present wishing to make comment.

5:41pm – the Commission takes a break in advance of the Fair Rent Hearing.

Fair Rent Hearing

Fair Rent Hearing convenes – 6:06pm

The Chair makes introductions and reads procedures of hearing. Swear-in of the parties in attendance, Ms. Angel Cooper, Mr. Nick Ivalis, and (later) Ms. Denise Ivalis.

Sharona Cowen presents paperwork and documentation of the case. Tenant presents her information. Landlord presents his information. Tenant speaks again. Landlord has his representative sworn in.

Commissioners ask questions of Tenant.

Landlord has opportunity to address concerns, Commissioners ask questions of the Landlord(s).

Landlord makes brief concluding remarks. Tenant is offered opportunity, but does not have any concluding remarks.

6:55pm – brief recess.

6:56pm – reconvened (note: deliberations are not considered Executive Session and members of the public are allowed to remain/attend).

Commission deliberates; section 7-148-D CT General Statutes allows for incremental increase.

Finding – increase rent \$150

Motion – the Commission find in favor of the Tenant for \$150 per CT Statute – motion passed. Commissioner Peterkin will write up the Finding.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Kathy Ruther