

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, April 4, 2025

Present: Pina Mingace, Daisy Monsalve, Ellen Ellis, Brad Bortner, Tania Medeiros, Edna Murray, and Marian Bremer

Council on Aging Staff present: Ashley Speliotis, Connie Lorenti

Location: This meeting was held in person at the Holland Street Senior Center, located at 167 Holland Street, Somerville, MA 02144. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

The Council's primary responsibility is to advise the Council on Aging in the promotion and implementation of programs and services to address the needs of the community's older population.

1. Call to order: 11:08am
2. Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes approved by Ellen Ellis, seconded by Pina Mingace
3. New Business
 - Elaine Miller, Regional SHINE Program Director.
 - Elaine provided an overview of SHINE services within the State of MA, a program which provides services to over 35,000 people per year. This program is run primarily through volunteers and Elaine works directly for Minuteman Health.
 - The SHINE Program provides services to those new to Medicare, works with low to moderate income individuals, assists people with disabilities and assists with Medicare Savings Programs, which can help cover the Medicare monthly premium, and save on prescription coverage.
 - Both Social Workers at the COA are SHINE certified and we have access to additional volunteers during open enrollment. The Board expressed interest in having ongoing trainings for the community.
4. Directors Report

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- Age and Dementia Friendly Massachusetts Education Program and participatory events at the Holland St. Center.
 - On June 4th the COA will host a training: Essential Skills for working with those with Cognitive Decline. Tammy Pozerycki, Care Manager and Dementia Educator at Clear Guidance will be training staff on: communication strategies tailored for individuals with dementia, creating dementia-friendly environments and legal and ethical considerations in dementia care.
- MA Senior Action
 - Discussion held surrounding recent newsletter published by MA Senior Action. Upon further communication, Tess reported seniors were upset with being told where to park at the Holland St Center and that they were unable to use an emergency exit. MA Senior Action has asked to table at the COA—date planned for May 15, 2025.

5. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm
6. Next Meeting: May 2, 2025 at 11:00am