

## COA Meeting-December 14, 2020

Though our building is still not open to the public, we continue to provide the following services:

- Transportation for in-town, medical rides and monthly shopping trips (masked and socially distanced)
- Meals: MOW deliveries (Tuesday-Friday) and Community Café (5 frozen meals delivered every Tuesday)
- Wellness Check outreach calls-these are now happening once per month, unless otherwise requested
- Virtual Programming with at least 1 in-person safely distanced special event per month.
- Weekly communications through email blasts and robo-calls to all members
- Management of the office: volume of phone calls have remained steady, paying bills, grant reports, management of social media, etc.
- Building is closed, but people can call in to make an appointment for any one-on-one assistance which cannot be handled by phone. (masked and socially distanced)

Regional Reopening Plan has been approved by the First Selectman and Director of Emergency Management. I conducted a staff training last Wednesday. If we can put it on the agenda next month, I can review it with all CoA members next month.

Colchester remains at a Red Alert status, as far as COVID-19. Once cases begin to trend in the right direction, CHD will be looking for a minimum of 4 weeks of stability before recommending that we reopen the senior center building to the public. The doors remain locked, with information to call in for assistance. A doorbell was also installed at the rear entrance, so we can know if anyone is waiting outdoors for us.

During the recent wind storms, three panes of glass blew out of the windows. One was repaired, but replacement glass had to be ordered for the other two. A piece of plexiglass has been fastened to the window temporarily.

We will offer 2 shopping trips to meet the demand, if needed. To keep the numbers within safe limits for social distancing, the capacity is capped at 5 seated passengers, with 1 passenger in a wheelchair. We have kept these in place through December and will reassess for January, depending on COVID positivity rates.

We served 20 citizens through our 2 open enrollment events. This year Senior Resources assisted Medicare beneficiaries through telehealth type appointments. This seemed to work well, despite not having them onsite.

Last month, I reported that Chestelm was providing a free Thanksgiving Meal To-Go, unfortunately, they had to cancel this meal when members of their dining services department became ill, and it was deemed unwise to proceed. They will be providing another meal in the future and the people who were registered will be prioritized, if space is limited.

The Holiday Stocking Project has been an overwhelming success. We had a goal of collecting enough funding to provide 25 stockings, but through the generosity of the community will be delivering over 60 stockings. We will be making the deliveries on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stockings will contain grocery gift cards, useful items (masks, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, etc.) and fun seasonal items and treats, as well.

We have some fun upcoming seasonal programs scheduled: We offered a Special Black Friday Bingo, with gift card prizes, a Make and Take Holiday Ornament Craft through Zoom with Ruth and a Hanukkah

Party with Rabbi Alter; on 12/16 we are offering a Winter Wonderland To-Go Lunch of Prime Rib, catered by TVCCA; 12/18 there is a Virtual Holiday Party sponsored by CASC, AARP CT and the CT Healthy Living Collective with other senior centers from across the state; and on 12/31 we will be hosting a Farewell 2020 Celebration via Zoom.

Since our shutdown, we've gained 61 new members. Most are reaching out due to transportation needs or to take part in some of the programs we are offering.

There will be COVID drive up testing in the old Citizens Bank parking lot today and December 21 & 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Holiday schedule: The senior center will be closing at 12 noon on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Eve and Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Eve. We will be closed on Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Day and Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Day.

**Attendance & Meals Served:**

- Meals delivered in October: Community Café:152 MOW: 330
- Monthly transports in October: 530
- Monthly attendance in October: 872
- Total Membership: 1,299