

## Minutes of COA Board Meeting May 10, 2022 – Via Zoom

**Board Members Present:** Stephanie Becker-Stone, James Bennett, Lois Carra, Jennifer Chisholm, Kathy Dalton, Mary DeCoursey, Lily Owyang, and Eva Paddock,

**Absent:** Beverly Sealey.

**Staff Present:** Lisa Castagna, Alicia Johnson, Susan Pacheco, and Vincent McCarthy

**Call to Order** – President Owyang called meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

**Review/Acceptance of minutes:** Motion made by Kathy Dalton, seconded by Eva Paddock. Minutes unanimously approved.

### Executive Director – Susan Pacheco

De-Escalation Workshop

Tuesday, April 12th (2:00-3:30). VIA Zoom.

The session was facilitated by Marie Mathieu (Library), Elana Klein (Police), and Jamie Barrett (Police). Both teams from the COA and MSC attended jointly. A few Board members attended, and the invitation was extended to members of the Resident Services Team/Cambridge Housing. The hope is that this session assisted all of us in identifying potential issues and how to deal with them. The main objective: to ensure that we all feel safe!

Warming Center

As reported to the Board, Warming Center opened December 1st and closed April 30th.

COA Staff Meeting

ED has been working with consultant Ora Grodsky. A staff “retreat” occurred on May 5th. The purpose of the session was to set the stage for COA reconnection in FY 23.

Human Services Budget hearing is scheduled for May 17th.

COA staff had a preliminary meeting with Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager, Human Services and Sue Walsh, Assistant Director for Adult Services, Human Services on May 4th. This meeting serves as a discussion.

These are the questions addressed:

1. What is something that changed about the way you delivered services due to the pandemic that you intend to continue doing/using?
2. What are you excited about?
3. What problems haven't you been able to solve yet?
4. What, if anything, do you expect will be different next year in the way you operate your programs?
5. Are there any anecdotes or examples that you'd like to share?

CCTV Town Hall May 11

Hosted/Moderated by Councilor Denise Simmons. I will be joining City Manager, Police Commissioner, Chief Public Health Officer, and a few others to address varied senior issues.

Joint programming with Living Well Network

COA and Living Well Network will jointly sponsor Dr. Daphne Schneider on May 19th @ 1:00. The program topic: Osteoporosis and Bone Health.

MA Councils on Aging (MCOA) Board

Public Statement from the Board:

“It is with heavy hearts that the MCOA Board of Directors and MCOA Staff announce the passing of our dear friend and leader, David P. Stevens. As many of you know, David was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in 2021 and he fought a brave fight from the start. David has been an amazing leader of MCOA for over 30 years and he was proud of this agency and this entire network. The work that we will continue to do for older adults across the Commonwealth will always be possible due to David’s tremendous efforts for so many years. We have all been touched by his passion for this work, his infectious smile, his ability to make everyone feel welcome, his honesty, integrity, determination, and spirit. May his legacy live on in all of us and in our centers for years to come.”

I have been on the MCOA Board since 2015 and currently serve as Secretary. We were attending a 2-day retreat and strategizing succession plan, when news of David’s declining health was shared. His passing is a tremendous loss for the Board and the statewide association. I, along with other MCOA Board members are providing support to the staff as well as planning next steps.

### **COA Activities Team – Alicia Johnson**

Update on the David Fichter mural at the NCSC

- Restoration of the David Fichter Mural at the North Cambridge Senior Center was completed in April 2022.

\*The Cambridge Arts Council shared a video they created to publicize the restoration project.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=529770708536219&ref=sharing>

<https://twitter.com/CambridgeArts/status/1519781383085953024>

How Many new participants are Cambridge residents?

- From 4/1/20 to 4/27/22 the COA registered 335 new participants
- 265 were Cambridge residents
- 70 were non-Cambridge residents

- As of Monday May 2nd, on-site cooking has returned on Monday’s and Wednesday’s.
- Crafts and Social Group returned to in-person on Wednesday May 4th.
- In-Person Indian Odissi Dance performance Wednesday May 18th 1:00pm

The event is supported by funding through the Massachusetts Community Health & Healthy Aging Funds.

- In-Person Paint Party Thursday May 26th 1:00pm-3:00pm, cost is \$5.00 for all supplies and refreshments.

### **Client Services – Vincent McCarthy**

Our new Case Manager, Dee Cannon, started on Monday, May 2nd.

Dee brings with him a wide variety of experience and a broad understanding of the needs of our senior population.

He has a strong commitment to the community and a professional background in senior services, housing, and case management.

We are very happy to have found such a well-qualified candidate for the position and excited to have him as part of the COA team.

Dee will join us at the beginning of our meeting on Tuesday to be introduced to COA Board Members.

Men’s Group

Our monthly Men’s Group continues to be well attended. The group will meet on the third Tuesday of the month.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 19th @ 10 am – 11:30am.

Laura Nichols, Executive Director of The Cambridge Consumers’ Council will be at the Cambridge Council on Aging on Thursday, May 26th from 11am – 12:30pm to meet with seniors. She will be available to answer any

consumer related questions that you may have. No appointment is needed. This will be an ongoing meeting that will take place on the 4th Thursday of every month

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Stephanie Becker-Stone noted Middlesex County is having an increase in Covid cases. Cambridge Public schools are back to mask recommendation.

With the end of the Public Health Emergency, there may be more Mass Health terminations. Mass Health recertifications will be required again after two years. COA and SCES case management will be affected.

Mary DeCoursey will introduce Dee to Mt Auburn Social Services via email.

Kathy Dalton motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Eva Paddock. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Castagna.