

**Commission on Social Services**  
**Minutes April 14, 2011**  
**Wilton Senior Center**

**Attending:** Sue Chalons-Browne, Roseann De Simone, Beth Mason, Cathy Pierce, Judy Mabley, Betty-Jo Corridon, Judy Zucker, Chris Crain

The meeting was called to order by Susan Chalons-Browne at 5:30 pm. The minutes of the March 10, 2011 meeting were approved as amended.

**Guest Speaker: Chris Crain, Program Director, Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging:**

Chris presented the MFP (Money Follows the Person) program, a federal demonstration project grant of \$56 million awarded to Connecticut in 2007 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She described the project, “slow to start and just now getting under way,” as a “rebalancing of the Medicaid system,” the aim of which is to give people more choice in their long-term care, through: increasing the dollars spent on home and community-based services; increasing the numbers of people able to remain living in their communities; and implementing the transition of increased numbers of people from institutions (hospitals and nursing homes) back to their communities. She outlined the eligibility criteria for MFP, the “target populations” which fall under the aegis of MFP, and the bureaucracy of the “waivers” through which people can gain access to MFP services. She listed the current primary initiatives of the project, and also discussed some of the obstacles and challenges which get in the way of transitioning people from institutions back to their communities. From its \$56 million start in 2007, the MFP project is currently funded at \$400 million.

**New Business**

Nominating Committee: Sue Chalons-Browne, Beth Mason, and Ed Raposa will report at the May meeting.

Cathy Pierce reported that the Women’s Club April 8<sup>th</sup> benefit for several community causes yielded a \$6,000 grant to Social Services.

Plans for the end-of-year dinner for the Commission’s June meeting are underway.

Shelter Operations Training: Cathy reported that a training session for “worker bees and managers” will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. She has sent out emails to recruit volunteers to be trained and hopes to have at least 10 people in attendance.

**Old Business**

**Liaison Updates**

**Trackside** fundraiser: The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Cinco de Mayo Spring Fling is on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Domestic Violence Task Force:** Beth Mason reported that the DVTF met on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer McNamara was introduced as the new chair, succeeding Janienne Hackett. The Task Force will co-sponsor, with the Wilton Library, a community presentation on dating violence awareness, “In Love and in Danger” on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The DVTF is also participating in cooperative events with the 5-town presentation in New Canaan on April 27<sup>th</sup> of “Technology – Friend and Foe: Tips for Teens and Parents,” as well as the Domestic Violence Crisis Center’s annual *Voices of Courage* Spring Luncheon on May 18<sup>th</sup> in Stamford. Beth also reported that Detective Pete Trahan of the Wilton PD presented the year-to-date incidents of domestic violence in Wilton, showing an increase from 13 incidents in 2010 to 39 incidents for the same period in 2011.

**Wilton High School Day For Seniors:** Judy Zucker volunteered to report, on behalf of the 50 senior attendees, on this event at the Clune Center, which was sponsored by the high school PTA and students. It included a buffet lunch, speeches, presentations by student government and student service organizations, music performed by the WHS Madrigals, the strings ensemble, and the WHS band. The program also included the presentation of \$1,000 which the students and PTA raised for the Senior Center for the purchase of new bookcases.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Mason  
Co-Secretary

**NEXT MEETING: MAY 12, 2011  
5:30 PM  
WILTON SENIOR CENTER**