



## TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

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### **Foxborough Committee for Disabled Citizens (FCDC) Minutes of September 21, 2011**

**Meeting held at Council On Aging, 75 Central Street, Foxborough, MA**

Present: Sue Collins, Cindy Curran, Margaret Chaisson, Richard Biggiari, and Bill Casbarra

Guests: Vicki Lowe, Council On Aging & Human Services Director Noreen Sherys, Social Worker

#### **Introductions and explanation of Human Services Director's jobs.**

**Vicki Lowe as Human Services Director** oversees the WIC Program and "SNAP" for Seniors, transportation programs, Bereavement Groups, Low Vision Support Group and much more.

The **Social Worker** is an outreach worker for Seniors. A Friendly Visitor is paid and has volunteers to support the Seniors in town. The Social Worker also networks with the other Department Heads in Foxboro. She connects people with resources, manages their care, helps with insurance questions and refers people who are in need to the Discretionary Fund.

For a full description of all the services or information that is available, go to [www.townfoxborough.us/Pages/FoxboroughMA\\_Human/programs](http://www.townfoxborough.us/Pages/FoxboroughMA_Human/programs)

**Regarding Transportation:** Margaret C. wants to fill in the gaps where services are needed for people who are disabled. We were informed that **Foxfield Taxi** has been taken over by Kiesling Transportation.

**"Miles for Health"** is a GATRA Program that is a long distance medical transportation serving Foxboro, Franklin, Norfolk and Wrentham. It is a shared ride program to Boston facilities for Seniors and disabled citizens. Most **Veterans** go to the VA in West Roxbury. Not enough veterans have asked to go to Brockton so the van doesn't go there.

**Kiesling** goes to **Norwood Hospital** and to many places on Route 1, along the way to the hospital, but will not go to Sturdy Hospital. **The services want to move the most number of people.** If the majority of people want to go in one direction, the transport will not go in another direction.

Margaret was wondering if the **contract** with Kiesling expires in 2012. Can we write a new contract with Franklin, Norfolk and Wrentham? Perhaps there is another group of people with different needs at this time.

**Van Go** is paid for by the Foxboro Senior Citizens. If a person who is disabled can board the van, they could use it.

Vicki Lowe suggested speaking to the **Town Manager and Finance Director**. More money is needed to get more services because there is a huge gap for providing transportation for the disabled. GATRA is feeling budget cuts. **Foxboro has a budget from the state for a certain amount of money**. Vicki Lowe also suggested contacting State Rep. Jay Barrows.

Margaret stated there are only 4 GATRA buses that are handicapped accessible from 8 AM to 3 PM. Cindy noted that a person in a wheelchair was unable to fit on the ramp of a GATRA bus.

Vicki Lowe stated that **HESSCO has contracted with Community Care-A-Vans** that will service seniors and disabled seniors. It is a shared ride program that will go into Boston for medical appointments.

**FISH** is a service run by volunteers. The drivers use their own vehicles. They do not go into Boston.

The **Doolittle Van** was brought up for use by Veterans. Sue will contact Joanne Pratt who will know the details about the van.

**Vicki Lowe suggested that we have another joint meeting and invite Frank Gay**. He is from GATRA's Regional Transit Authority. He would know about GATRA's contract with Foxborough.

**Minutes of July 20, 2011** – Cindy made a motion to accept the Minutes. Second by Richard. Motion passed.

Motion to **Adjourn**- Margaret. Second by Cindy. Motion passed.

**Next meeting: November 16, 2011, Wednesday at 3 PM at the Council On Aging, 75 Central Street.**