



## **Meeting Notes**

**Date:** October 1, 2025

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**In Attendance:** Mairead Painter, Nora Duncan, Lara Stauning, Liliya Vynar, Joann Peterson, Kelli Lefler, Laura Snow-Robinson, Erin Leavitt-Smith, Michael Martone, Nancy Becker, Alison Dvorak, Kathleen Titsworth, Kathy Nguyen (Public).

### **Welcome and Opening**

Chair Mairead Painter opened the meeting at 10:04 a.m. and confirmed that a quorum was present. Members introduced themselves and shared brief updates from their respective agencies and organizations.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were circulated in advance. A motion to approve was made by Nora Duncan and seconded by Alison Dvorak. The minutes were approved unanimously, with no corrections or abstentions.

### **Voting for a New Co-Chair**

Mairead began the meeting by recognizing and commending Lara Stauning for her significant contributions to the coalition, particularly her leadership in finalizing the Bylaws and Charter. Lara has officially transitioned out of her Chair position.

A few meetings ago, the coalition nominated Nora Duncan for the Co-Chair role. Mairead formally reintroduced Nora as the nominee, and a vote was held. All members were in favor, with none opposed. Nora Duncan was confirmed as the new Co-Chair, succeeding Lara Stauning.

### **Voting for a New Secretary**

Mairead then acknowledged Liliya Vynar, who has been serving as Secretary. She commended Liliya for her continued contributions to the coalition, including managing communications and ensuring FOIA compliance.

Since Liliya had not been officially nominated while the Charter and Bylaws were pending, Mairead opened the floor for formal nomination. All members agreed, with no opposition. Liliya Vynar was confirmed as the coalition's Secretary.



## **Member and Alternate Designations**

Members were reminded to identify and submit the name and contact information of their designated alternates prior to the next meeting. Maintaining an updated roster of both primary and alternate representatives is essential to ensure quorum and continuity for voting sessions.

## **TEARS Conference**

Beverly Kidder from AOASCC announced that the TEARS Conference is tentatively scheduled for April 9, 2026. The upcoming conference will focus on Elder Rights and the Violation of Rights, with particular attention to self-neglect and hoarding topics that have generated significant interest in past years.

Beverly is seeking a keynote or expert speaker who can address autonomy, safety, and the ethical balance between independence and protection. Several possible collaborators and speakers were discussed, including:

- A former State Prosecutor experienced in hoarding and self-neglect cases.
- Dr. David Tolin, Institute of Living at Hartford Healthcare.
- Dr. Hannah Levy, also of Hartford Healthcare, who recently presented at the Newington Senior Center.

Members also discussed reconnecting with Milford's Hoarding Task Force, if active, and exploring participation from Probate Court Administration to highlight issues related to guardianship and capacity.

## **Action Items:**

- Alison Dvorak will contact a probate judge affiliated with her board for possible participation.
- Lara Stauning and Nancy Becker will reach out to Dr. Tolin and Dr. Levy regarding availability.
- Laura Snow-Robinson will share past conference contacts and probate connections.
- Beverly Kidder will continue coordinating outreach and provide progress updates to the Coalition.

## **AARP Fraud Initiatives**



Nora Duncan reported that AARP Connecticut is planning a statewide “Fraud Blitz Month” in April 2026, focused on financial fraud, exploitation, identity theft, and scams targeting older adults. Events will take place across the state, with priority regions including Greater Hartford, Greater Bridgeport, and Fairfield County.

Each event will be a half-day session featuring short, engaging “speed-dating-style” presentations. Topics will include banking security, tax scams, and law enforcement collaboration, supported by vendor/resource tables, press outreach, and participation from partner agencies such as AARP, DSS, SMP, and the Department of Banking. Potential venues include the Stamford Museum and Nature Center or other accessible community spaces.

Nora will coordinate the series and share a preliminary outline at the next meeting. Coalition members were encouraged to assist with outreach, promotion, and speaker recruitment.

### **Residential Care Homes (RCH) and Continuum of Care Discussion**

The Coalition discussed the importance of improving understanding and access to Residential Care Homes (RCHs) within Connecticut’s continuum of elder care. Members noted that confusion remains among the public regarding distinctions between RCHs, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities.

To address this, members suggested outreach to Councils of Government, zoning boards, and chambers of commerce, as well as leveraging AARP’s “Coffee & Tea” series to host educational segments explaining care levels, Title 19 funding, and resident eligibility.

The group emphasized the need for a more flexible care system that allows smoother transitions between home care, RCHs, and nursing homes. Nursing home operators were encouraged to explore RCH models that align with changing population needs. A “boot camp”-style training was proposed for providers and communities interested in developing new RCH options.

Members also identified local zoning, transportation, and fragmented communication as ongoing challenges and areas where the Coalition could support advocacy and education efforts.

### **Administrative Items**

The 2026 meeting schedule must be submitted to the Secretary of State by January 31, 2026.

### **Public Comment**

Kathy Nguyen, a member of the public, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend the meeting. No additional public comments were received.



### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Alison Dvorak and seconded by Michael Martone and Nancy Becker. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:28 a.m.