



Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton AREA AGENCY ON AGING

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Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Friday, November 19, 2021

The Citizens Advisory Council for the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging met on Friday, November 19, 2021 at the Hopewell Senior Center. President Prudence Harclerode opened the meeting at 10:00 am with the pledge to the flag and prayer. She and Executive Director Connie Brode welcomed Lee Markosky and Marty Singer from Pittsburgh Companies North.

MOTION: On a Gates/Imgrund motion - The minutes of the September 24, 2021 meeting are approved as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

ITEM 1 - Discussion with Pittsburgh Companies North. Mr. Markosky has been with PCN for 21 years and said he has never seen a time like the current situation, with prices going up and supply going down. He said fortunately PCN has a wide range of suppliers. He recently attended a food show and noted that the chicken breast PCN uses was 89¢ and is now \$1.55. They receive daily notices of 'out of stock' items and asked for understanding from participants if they menu changes. He asked that Bobbi notify Fallon at the McConnellsburg Kitchen when there is a problem so PCN can follow up with their vendors.

He said the CPI has just increased to over 5%, with labor going to 6.5% and is appreciative of the recent extra increase from the Agency for meals. PCN is also experiencing staff shortages including delivery drivers. Mr. Markosky noted that center participation has declined everywhere and said, like for school districts, the federal government needs to provide extra funding for senior meals. This was met with agreement from Mrs. Harclerode and others. Mr. Singer has been at the McConnellsburg Kitchen the past couple days to review the staffing situation and has posted large hiring signs outside the facility. He said it has been a difficult time and they, too, are also increasing wages.

Bobbi Manges asked about the time to get meal counts into Fallon and Mr. Singer said it should be earlier than the current 1:30 or center operators can email Fallon. She also asked about a winter menu and Mr. Markosky said they go April-October and October-April. Discussion on the Agency possibly starting a breakfast program and said that PASC is going to have a presentation on this. Everett Center tried it for a short time and had a fair number attend. PCN has hot and cold breakfast items available and they would come with the lunch meal the day before the breakfast.

Connie thanked PCN for continuing to keep the meals coming through the pandemic and with all the shortages. Bobbi said last month our congregate and home delivered meal counts were pretty close. Mrs. Harclerode again thanked Mr. Markosky and Mr. Singer for taking time to come to the meeting today.

ITEM 2 - PAMedi (formerly Apprise) update. Connie provided handouts that Deb Holland, PAMedi coordinator, furnished on this service. Open enrollment continues through December 7 and counseling is free through Agency staff who will review all the options a person has to choose from for their health insurance. Persons need to call to set up an appointment.

ITEM 3 - Financials. Connie said the audit had been delayed due to Covid and is still being worked on. There is one more area to review and it should be ready for draft form. The Agency is also going through a fiscal audit by the PA Department of Aging. So far there were no concerns and it should be completed in a couple weeks.

ITEM 4 - Transportation. The Agency has hired 2 drivers in Bedford County and 2 in Huntingdon County, with one starting in Fulton County later this month. We will be reassigning a Huntingdon driver to Fulton County to fill a final vacancy. Tony Molinari, transportation director, said some routes outside of our 3 counties had to be adjusted or temporarily suspended due to lack of drivers. In response to a question by Don Eisaman, Tony said they were mostly medical trips. The Agency is reviewing trips to Chambersburg, which have been currently suspended and we are working on this with the Fulton County Partnership who also has a driver shortage. Connie said the need seems to be shifting from Chambersburg to Blair County.

Paperwork is being completed for 8 new vehicles which were ordered in the Spring and are finally coming. They are 11-passenger transit buses, slightly smaller than the previous buses. Mrs. Harclerode asked about the effect of gas prices and Tony said this has a big impact. He and Connie are reviewing this to see if we need to ask for a fare increase from PennDOT. PennDOT wants the Agency to go from a flat fare to a mileage-based fare which Connie said will impact the program since most specialists are out of our 3-county area. She said this will be closely reviewed and looked at for feasibility. Tony said trips continue to slowly increase and Joanne Mellott said this may continue as winter comes and more people wanting to ride Cart rather than drive in the snow.

Fulton County Commissioner Paula Shives asked if the Agency will be fully staffed with drivers in Fulton County with the referenced hiring and reassignment. Tony said we should be, but there will be continued review dependent on the Chambersburg trips. The Agency is still doing morning runs, but not afternoon runs. Connie said part of the issue is that Peck's Transportation in Fulton County went out of business.

ITEM 5 - Program changes. Lori Heaton, services director, reviewed changes to the protective service program as issued by the Department of Aging regarding reviewing cases and

how they are resolved and challenging timeframes to have everything done. All reports of need must be immediately entered into the computer, whether taken on a workday, evening or weekend. Our workers do have laptops for work at home. Other changes affect clarification on conflict cases, notifying the Department when an alleged victim dies whether or not it relates to the case and writing some additional policies for the PS program. PS cases have increased dramatically and Lori said the Agency took over 300 reports of need last year, with all required to be investigated and most of them were substantiated. A lot were financial exploitation cases and they take a lot of time to gather the needed documents and financial reports.

Lori also reviewed changes to the Caregiver Support Program which focuses on the caregiver as our client, helping to keep them healthy and supported so they can continue to care for the consumer. This program reimburses caregivers for various supplies and home modifications. Lori said the good news is that the State has increased the maximum reimbursement from \$200 to \$600 per month based on need. The lifetime home modification cap has increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for items such as ramps and is also based on need.

Bobbi announced that another round of senior center grants is being issued, with the Department providing \$1,000 to satellite facilities and about \$4,500 to senior centers. These awards of money should be out in January and groups have until 2023 to use them. Connie said we will have a meeting like before with senior center operators and group presidents to review the grant process and requirements.

With no other business, the Citizens Advisory Council meeting adjourned at 11:20 am. Those in attendance included:

Mary Gates	Huntingdon County
Prudence Harclerode	Bedford County
Don Eisaman	Fulton County
Joanne Mellott	Fulton County
Doris Imgrund	Bedford County
Ron Morgan	Daily News
Lee Markosky	PCN
Marty Singer	PCN
Paula Shives	Fulton County Commissioner
Tony Molinari	AAA Staff
Bobbi Manges	AAA Staff
Lori Heaton	AAA Staff
Cindy Harbaugh	AAA Staff
Connie Brode	AAA Staff