

**Meeting of the Commissioners of
Huntingdon, Bedford & Fulton Counties
Monday, December 6, 2021**

The Commissioners of Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Counties, serving as the Joint Board of the Area Agency on Aging, met virtually on Monday, December 6, 2021. Bedford County Commissioner Chair Barry Dallara opened the meeting at 10:05 am. Noting lack of a quorum Connie Brode, Executive Director, moved to discussion on agenda item #3.

ITEM 3 - Administration - a) Update on relocation of Huntingdon Office. Connie said the offer the Agency put in for the old Sears building in the Huntingdon Plaza was not close to what the owner was wanting and it was denied. A former auto store was checked out, but another auto dealer took it. Connie asked if anyone knows of a building to let her know.

b) Guardianship program. There has been discussion on the guardianship program, particularly in Huntingdon County. There have been issues with more complex cases and Connie informed the Huntingdon County Courts that other alternatives are needed aside from the Agency to take the difficult cases. Subsequently, a meeting was held and Huntingdon County Pride, a nonprofit, is willing to take on a case on a trial basis. The Agency will train their staff and see how it goes. In Bedford County some cases have been deferred to family with little success.

Connie said the Agency has a passion for this work, but it needs to be better funded. Commissioner Dallara asked about the cost and Connie said it is supplemented by the Dept. of Aging, but is not a mandated service. In our 3 counties the courts pay attorneys to represent the consumer. In some cases a \$100 per month fee can be charged to the guardian if included in the Judge's Order. The person must be on Social Security and a nursing home resident.

c) Advisory Council appointments. Connie said she will be sending out information for new Advisory Council appointments. A couple people are interested in filling vacancies and, if anyone know someone to represent Fulton County, Connie asked that they let her know.

At this time, it was noted that there is a quorum to continue the meeting.

d) 2022 Meeting Schedule. The 2022 meeting schedule for the Joint Board was emailed and Connie asked for approval on the dates.

MOTION: On a Frederick/Bunch motion - The Joint Board approves the meeting dates for 2022 as follows: March 7, May 2, July 11, September 12, December 12. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 1 - Approval of minutes. The minutes from the September 13, 2021 meeting were previously emailed. Commissioner Dallara asked for additions or corrections and hearing none the minutes stand as presented.

ITEM 2 - Financial updates - a) October report. Connie provided an overview of the October financial report noting a negative balance of \$15,050 due to drawing on the line of credit. The Agency has accessed \$650,000 from the line of credit due to the State not releasing money to AAAs. The Agency is due just over \$500,000 and has not received any Cares or ARPA money. \$145,437 in block grant funding was needed to balance the Cart program. Connie said assessment continues to do well with a balance of \$31,528. Commissioner Dallara voiced concern with the State not making payments and asked that Connie review this with Sherry Kovach and, then, draft a letter to the Board outlining what is paid and due. The Commissioners can follow up on this with our legislators. Connie said most of the funding is from the Lottery and should be able to be released.

MOTION: On a Sather/Ulsh motion - The October financial report is approved. Motion carried unanimously.

b) Audit. Completion of the audit has been delayed due to some personal emergencies. Boyer & Ritter needs to select a specific service area to review and, then, complete the audit.

ITEM 4 - In-home service waiting list. Connie reported 113 individuals on the waiting list for personal care and home support: 47 Bedford County, 59 Huntingdon County and 7 Fulton County. Providers continue to have problems filling care plans due to staff shortages and there is concern this will get worse if the vaccine mandate is upheld. It was noted that some nursing homes are closing wings and Connie said Community Life has stopped enrollments.

ITEM 5 - Senior Centers - a) Operations. All full-time centers are open, with a 1-week closure at one center following a vaccine clinic held there. If satellite centers choose to open the Agency is providing meals. Attendance continues to be down, with home delivered meals increasing. The Agency continues to do grab & go meals as well.

b) Grants. The Department is providing grants to full-time centers again this year, with each center getting a set amount of money. As last year, the Agency will oversee the grants.

ITEM 6 - Transportation - a) Ridership. Connie reported that ridership is increasing and is better than last year, i.e., Completed trips - Sept. 2020 - 3,710; Sept. 2021 - 4,800; PWD trips - Sept. 2020 - 376; Sept. 2021 - 479; MATP trips - Sept. 2020 - 85; Sept. 2021 - 126.

b) New vehicles. The Agency received 3 new vehicles last week, with the other 5 being delivered this week. Upgrades include 4-wheel drive, back-up camera and a built-in sanitizing system. Connie said, after the driver cleans out their vehicle, they push a button and have 30 seconds to exit before the sanitizing system sprays the inside.

ITEM 7 - Program updates - a) Caregiver Support Program. The Department issued new regulations for the CSP which aligns federal and state requirements. The Agency will be able to serve more individuals. The monthly reimbursement has increased as has the maximum \$2,000 one-time renovation (ramps, handicapped bathroom, etc.).

b) Protective Service (PS). The PS program has numerous changes mostly involving timeframes for entering data and supervisory review. All data from a Report Of Need must be entered within 24 hours which is a concern with multiple reports the Agency receives some days. This also includes reports received on weekends and will require staff to have their computers at home. Connie said the Department will begin monitoring AAAs for compliance in July 2022.

ITEM 8 - Enrollment. The Department of Human Services (DHS) has denied all protests filed by the PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A) on enrollment. P4A is filing a motion in court of our concerns with DHS selecting Maximus for enrollment/assessment which DHS appears set on doing. It is well known that getting service through Maximus has been an ongoing problem. It is not known who the main person is driving the selection. Connie said AAAs still have a very strong presence with the Legislature and advocacy groups, with none thinking Maximus should be doing this work. The attorney for P4A has filed suits in the past with successful resolutions and she is hopeful this will be the case again. Commissioner Mark Sather said it would be in the best interest of the Board to make a formal statement in the minutes that Connie can use to show support for P4A's position of fighting against DHS' selection.

MOTION: On a Sather/Bunch motion - The Joint Board authorizes Connie Brode to send a letter to the State on behalf of the Commissioners challenging the selection of Maximus as the enrollment/assessment entity. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 9 - Human Resources - a) 2022 Holiday Schedule. The Agency's proposed 2022 Holiday Schedule was emailed to the Commissioners and they are the same number of holidays as the current year.

MOTION: On an Ulsh/Shives motion - The Agency's 2022 Holiday Schedule is approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

b) Personnel report. The personnel report was also emailed to the Board. Connie pointed out several new appointments since the last meeting. We have a couple new vacancies to fill.

MOTION: On a Walls/Frederick motion - The personnel report is approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: On a Bunch/Ulsh motion, the Joint Board moves into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Coming out of Executive Session and having no action to take or business to discuss:

MOTION: On a Walls/Ulsh motion, the December 6, 2021 Joint Board meeting is adjourned.

Those in attendance included:

Commissioner Mark Sather	Huntingdon County
Commissioner Alan Frederick	Bedford County
Commissioner Stuart Ulsh	Fulton County
Commissioner Barry Dallara	Bedford County
Commissioner Randy Bunch	Fulton County
Commissioner Paula Shives	Fulton County
Commissioner Deb Baughman	Bedford County
Commissioner Scott Walls	Huntingdon County
Cindy Harbaugh	AAA Staff
Connie Brode	AAA Staff