



Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton

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Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Friday, March 25, 2022

The Citizens Advisory Council for the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging met on Friday, March 25, 2022 at the Hopewell Senior Center. The meeting was opened in prayer and pledge to the flag.

ITEM 1 - Approval of minutes. ***MOTION: On a Gordon/Gates motion - The minutes of the January 28, 2022 Citizens Advisory Council minutes are approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.***

ITEM 2 - New members. Connie Brode welcomed Glenn Emerick, a new Advisory Council member from the Hyndman area. Also, longtime member Nancy MacNamara has asked to step down from the Council. Connie said there are several vacancies and she has submitted recommendations for appointments/reappointments to the Commissioners for approval.

ITEM 3 - Financial summary. The financial summary for January was provided and reviewed. A waiting list remains for in-home services due to contracted providers not being able to staff care plans and transportation revenue continues to be under budget due to reduced ridership. In relation to Cart, Mrs. Gordon suggested advertising to let people know that transportation is available. Mr. Emerick asked about the cost to go to senior centers and Connie said it continues to be \$1.00 each way. She said the fare structure will be reviewed in the future due to increasing costs. The Agency is asking PennDOT for considerable additional stabilization money to support Cart.

A request was made to increase the rental agreements with the senior groups. Connie reminded the group that the base allocation for AAAs through the Aging Block Grant was the same for FY21-22 as it was for FY15-16 which makes it difficult to increase rents. As pointed out by Mrs. Blatt the Lottery continues to do well, however, Connie said AAAs have not seen an increase in the ABG for over 10 years. She continues to encourage the public and area businesses to support the senior centers through donations, attendance and programming.

Bobbi Manges, centers director, said the special capital assistance grants provided to senior centers will go back to a competitive base next year, but she is hopeful that a portion will be allocated to all centers who don't need major updates.

ITEM 4 - Transportation - a) Vehicle grants. Tony Molinari, transportation director, said that grants in the amount of \$1,268,796 are available for new vehicles and he is in the process of

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submitting a request for 11 buses and 6 mini-vans. Additional funding will probably be needed due to increased costs of manufacturing. Most of the Agency's fleet will be upgraded within the next couple years and we may have a year where new vehicles will not be needed. There was a recent problem reported by Mrs. Lohr when the phone system was down at the dispatch office. Connie said she will check on this since the new phone system was to automatically rollover to other options for receiving calls.

b) 5310 audit. The Agency received the final results of the federal 5310 audit that was done two years ago. After reviews and corrections were made, the Agency had to return only \$1300 to the funding entity. PennDOT is also requiring a transportation advisory board separate from the Citizens Advisory Council. Mrs. Lohr volunteered to serve.

c) Database changes. Ecolane is doing a statewide update of its database system called Ecolane Evolution. Tony said it is very different from the current database and there have been some preliminary issues and concerns. A training package for transit entities was finally issued last week and the Agency will be requesting onsite training. Connie said the transition should be around July.

d) Stabilization funding. As noted earlier, the Agency will be requesting additional stabilization funds for the Cart system. Ridership is steadily increasing, particularly requests from new riders.

ITEM 5 - Senior Centers - a) Grant status. Bobbi said the Agency hasn't received the current senior center grant funds yet, but will have a 30-day turnaround to get it to the centers. Grant money received last fiscal year must be spent by June 30 and she will need all receipts soon after this date to submit the report to the state.

b) Health promotion classes. Schedules will be coming out soon for the health promotion classes at the centers. Low attendance has slowed the scheduling of programming. Bobbi will be demonstrating the Bingocize program at the upcoming senior expo in Huntingdon.

c) Statistics. Attendance is slowly increasing. Last month there were 3,800 meals served at the centers. Bobbi said center staff is doing a good job encouraging people to come to the centers and the special center trips are beginning again.

d) Health promotion plan for FY22-23. Some of the areas in the new plan will be injury prevention, arthritic and diabetic classes. The state also requires a chronic disease health management program and staff will be going to training for this program.

Bobbi said there are 4 new entrees on the menu for April and she will be interested to know how participants like them. Also, the Young at Heart Games in Bedford County will be

April 25-May 13. She also announced United Way's Day of Caring for May 12 where people can ask for help with a wide variety of chores around the home. Applications must be in by Friday, April 8.

In closing, Connie said the Huntingdon County Senior Expo will be held at the Smithfield Firehall on April 20. The Agency will be providing lunch and Cart will have shuttle service from the plaza to the firehall.

Having no other business, the meeting adjourned.