



Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton  
**AREA AGENCY  
ON AGING**

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**Citizens Advisory Council Meeting  
Friday, May 27, 2022**

The Citizens Advisory Council of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging met on Friday, May 27, at the Hopewell Senior Center. Council President Prudence Harclerode opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag and prayer.

***Motion: On a Gates/Imgrund motion - The minutes of the March 25, 2022 meeting are approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.***

ITEM 1 - Welcome and introduction of new members. Connie Brode, Executive Director introduced the new Council members in attendance from Bedford and Huntingdon County. A couple vacancies remain to be approved to bring us to a full Council. Officers will be elected at the next meeting.

ITEM 2 - Advisory Council Bylaws. Members were provided binders of Agency-related information, including Council bylaws which were reviewed. Council terms are for 2 years and duties include review and approval of the Agency's 4-year area plan, along with Commissioner approval, input on services and advocacy. Funding sources were reviewed with 95% of the Agency's allocation coming from the PA Lottery and some from federal and local governments. Aging Program Directives (APD) set the mandates and regulations on specific program allocations and it was noted that the base aging block grant allocation has not increased in over 10 years. In response to a question, there are 52 AAAs throughout the 67 PA counties, with several like ours being joiners.

ITEM 3 - Agency programs. Tony Molinari, transportation director, provided an overview the Cart transportation program which provides trips throughout Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Counties and counties bordering our 3 counties. It is a shared-ride system with trips being coordinated. Trips must be reserved at least 1 day in advance. The Agency is reimbursed for eligible trips, as set by PennDOT, with lottery funds. In addition to Agency support, other funding includes Medical Assistance Transportation, Persons With Disabilities. Certification for the special funding is done by entities under contract with the Agency. The general public may access Cart by paying the full fare of \$20 one-way within our 3-county area and \$30 one-way for contiguous counties. Eligible riders have a \$1.75 copay per stop each way. The Agency will be reviewing the fare structure in the near future, switching from a Zone 1 & 2 system to mileage based. Vehicles and equipment are funded by grants, 80% from the federal government and 20% PennDOT.

Bobbi Manges, Senior Centers Director, gave an overview of the Agency's senior citizens centers. A list of centers is included in the binder. It was noted that the centers are community centers and in 2015 the Agency assisted the private groups within the centers to form non-profit corporations so they could solicit and accept donations from businesses and community organizations. As outlined in the APD for centers AAAs are not to be the sole source of support for senior centers and, in light of the referenced stagnant block grant funding, additional resources were needed to support the centers. Covid did have a negative affect on center attendance, but the numbers are starting to increase. Meals are catered by The Nutrition Group including congregate and home delivered meals. Centers provide a wide range of activities under the State's Healthy Steps program, special speakers and entertainers, bingo, etc. An excellent video to show how important senior centers are is "Junk Mail" and Bobbi recommended members to view it.

Lori Heaton, Services Manager, reviewed various services with particular emphasis on protective services as mandated under the Older Adult Protective Service Act (OAPSA). Anyone can make a referral if they feel someone is being abused, exploited, abandoned, etc. However, some facilities and agencies are mandated to file reports as necessary. Agency staff are trained to investigate reports and to ensure that people are not victimized. It is the goal of the Agency to keep people in their homes with services if possible. Many recent cases involved financial exploitation and self-neglect. The process for categorizing cases, reporting requirements and other entity involvement were reviewed. The PS annual report is in the binder and it was noted that the State does an annual review of the PS program.

A related service is guardianship and, if a person can no longer care for themselves the Agency may request to be guardian as appointed through the courts. It was noted that the Agency is guardian of last resort, after no one else can be found to take on the guardian. The only money the Agency gets for being a guardian is \$100 from the State if the person is in a nursing home. We have about 70 guardians in the 3 counties. The Agency has been looking for other organizations who would take on some of the guardians in place of the Agency.

In closing, it was noted that the Agency's total budget is just under \$7 million per year. Connie said we are very frugal with our funding and spending as mandated.

Having no other business, the Advisory Council meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.