



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

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**Meeting of the Commissioners of
Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Counties
Monday, May 2, 2022
Holiday Inn Express, Breezewood, PA**

The Commissioners of Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Counties, serving as the Joint Board for the Area Agency on Aging, met on Monday, May 2, 2022. The meeting was opened by Huntingdon County Commissioner Chair Mark Sather. In noting the lack of a quorum, the meeting will proceed under discussion only.

Item 3 - b) Health insurance proposal. Connie Brode said that Highmark has requested a 15.9% premium increase for July 1, 2022. This follows an 18-month coverage period in order to switch the renewal date to the Agency's fiscal year. She has contacted CCAP's Health Alliance (Aetna) program and Benecon for quotes. Most reported renewals have been 10-12%. Commissioner Thomas said the other 2 programs base premiums on usage. Commissioner Dallara said CCAP will look at the entire group and not just the Agency.

c) PComp. The Agency received a refund from PComp for just over \$2,000 as well as a recent dividend check.

ITEM 4 - Administration - a) Transportation Public Participation Plan. The 5310 audit requires the Agency to complete a public participation plan, which Connie said is almost done and will need Commissioner approval. Part of this was looking at minority statistics over 5%, however, our 3 counties are under this number.

b) Transportation Committee. Another requirement is creation of a transportation committee. The Advisory Council currently serves as the committee, but PennDOT wants a separate one. The committee will provide public input on transportation service and needs.

c) Advisory Council appointments. Some appointments have been made to the Advisory Council with Bedford County being fully staffed. Connie will send out information on the remaining appointments for Commissioner approval. There is one vacancy each in Huntingdon and Fulton Counties.

d) Nutrition RFP. The Nutrition Group (PCN) has asked for a 28% increase in the congregate and home delivered meals, so the Agency went out for bid on nutrition services. The

Department has allowed for a 2% increase without a waiver for years. A bidder's conference is scheduled for Friday. Bids are due May 23 and opened by the Bedford County Commissioners on May 24. The congregate meal cost is currently \$4.11 and frozen home delivered meals are \$4.24, with the Cart drivers delivering the frozen meals. Compared to other agencies, our meal costs are still less. In response to a question, Connie said PCN uses Grace Meals for frozen meals. Commissioner Thomas asked about using the Huntingdon prison. The Agency would have to pick up the meals and deliver them. Connie said she can check on this. Commissioner Frederick asked how many meals are served and in the first 9 months 37,367 frozen and 29,393 congregate meals have been served.

f) Resolutions. New resolutions are needed for Fiscal Year 22-23 to authorize Connie to sign various documents on behalf of the Agency. The resolutions will be emailed to each county to approve at a regularly scheduled meeting.

ITEM 5 - IT. Connie said that recently there was an attempt at hacking the Agency's line of credit account and wanting to add a name to sign for the account. The bank contacted Connie immediately and the issue was avoided with nothing lost. She said a secondary line of security was put in place by the bank on the line of credit.

ITEM 6 - In-home services. There are 83 persons on the waiting list and 29 removed from the list, but 'on hold' waiting for an available provider. Commissioner Shives asked about those taken off the list and Connie said it's a budgetary procedure to account for the money.

ITEM 7 - Protective Service. Connie said that PS is getting busier with some very complex financial exploitation cases. County task forces are being formed with DA's, sheriff departments, attorneys, state police, behavior health, etc. to educate them on what we do, the investigation process and prosecution.

ITEM 8 - Senior Centers. The Agency will distribute the \$61,000 (\$4750 per center and \$1000 per satellite) in senior center grants as soon as the money is received from the state. The Manns Choice and Breezewood Satellite centers are not meeting under Agency guidelines anymore and their share may be distributed among the remaining centers if allowed. Connie said the centers are doing pretty well now.

ITEM 9 - Transportation - a) Ridership. Connie just received statistical information this morning and will email it to the Commissioners. Ridership continues to increase.

b) Vehicle status. New minivans have been delayed and should now arrive in June. Other buses and transits have been ordered and should be here by the end of 2022. The grants total about \$1 million and the entire fleet will almost be replaced and updated. Used vehicles will be sold in the future.

c) Bedford Depot. The Agency wants to relocate the Bedford Depot due to some security concerns. The attorney sent a letter to the landlord, but he won't let us out of the lease. The attorney is sending another letter asking for him to secure the vehicles with fencing or the Agency will negotiate to buyout the lease.

d) Ecolane Evolution training. The state is switching to an Ecolane Evolution program for Cart and the Agency has to purchase onsite training which is about \$10,000. This will be for all Cart drivers and office staff. The Agency's quality assurance worker does regular phone contact with riders and there have been virtually no complaints. Discussion on travel lanes, coordination of rides and increasing gas prices. PennDOT will be providing service stabilization funding to help with expenses. Connie said we will still have to look at a fare increase in the near future and this will include moving from a zone based to a mileage based system which will go from pick up to drop off locations.

ITEM 10 - Human Services - a) Personnel report. The personnel report was emailed to the Commissioners. There is one opening for a Senior Center Operator in Warfordsburg and an additional Cart Driver in Bedford.

b) Health & Wellness. Connie said the employee Health & Wellness benefit has not been active for several years, but we now have the money to provide this benefit again. It is for employee out of pocket medical expenses and reimbursement is based on years of service ranging from \$325 to \$475 per fiscal year.

ITEM 3 - Financial updates - a) March 2022 financial report. The March financials were reviewed, with Sherry Kovach saying that Amendment #3 has been received and the Agency was awarded \$108,000 that was requested for caregiver support, personal care, meals, IT upgrades and interest expense on the line of credit. Also received \$5,687 in MIPPA funding for low income PA Medi program. The Agency has requested \$684,000 in PennDOT stabilization money to cover fiscal year deficits in the Cart program. Some services are still running under budget. Cares money of \$370,514 will all be expended prior to the June 30 expiration date. The \$106,327 ARPA grant for the current year can be rolled forward 2 years, with the total award for 3 years of \$775,000. Commissioner Sather asked about using ARPA funds for Cart fares and Sherry said PennDOT money will be used first, but this could be reviewed.

At this time the following action was taken:

MOTION: On a Thomas/Walls motion - The Joint Board moves into Executive Session.

Coming out of executive session, the following action was taken:

MOTION: On a Frederick/Dallara motion - The Joint Board meeting of May 2, 2022 is adjourned.

Those in attendance include:

Commissioner Mark Sather	Huntingdon County
Commissioner Alan Frederick	Bedford County
Commissioner Jeff Thomas	Huntingdon County
Commissioner Barry Dallara	Bedford County
Commissioner Paula Shives	Fulton County
Commissioner Deb Baughman	Bedford County
Commissioner Scott Walls	Huntingdon County
Sherry Kovach	Regional Cooperative
Cindy Harbaugh	AAA Staff
Connie Brode	AAA Staff