



Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton
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ON AGING**

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**Citizens Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, July 29, 2022, 10:00 am**

The Citizens Advisory Council of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging met on Friday, July 29, 2022 at the Hopewell Senior Center. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag and prayer.

ITEM 1 - Approval of minutes. Hearing no additions or corrections, the following action was taken:

MOTION: On a Lohr/Roth motion - The minutes of the May 27, 2022 meeting of the Citizens Advisory Council are approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 2 - Election of officers. Connie Brode said that the offices of president and vice-president needed to be elected for a new term. The following action was taken:

MOTION: On an Eisaman/Gordon motion - The Advisory Council elects to retain the current officers of President - Prudence Harclerode and Vice-President - Mary Gordon. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3 - Financial report. May's financial report was reviewed. Connie said the Agency is underspent in some areas due to service restrictions from Covid. Over 100 individuals are on a waiting list for in-home services due to providers not being able to staff the care plans. The special senior center grant funds were received and forwarded to senior groups to complete their projects. Shared ride transportation was significantly impacted by Covid, with revenue being under projections. PennDOT provided CARES money to help offset some of the loss. Trips are up to 200-300 per day which is still below pre-Covid numbers. A fare increase is needed and Agency staff and the transportation advisory board will be reviewing data in preparation of this. Connie said the assessment program, which is a fee-generating service, did well and brought in \$91,000 last year.

Ms. Gordon said that transportation was discussed at the recent PA Council on Aging meeting and said more needs done to let the general public know that people under 60 can ride CART by paying the full fare. Possibly, ads can be run once the new rates are set to bring in more riders.

ITEM 4 - Nutrition service contract. The contract for food service went out for bid due to a 28% requested increase by the current provider. The only bidder was The Nutrition Group/Pittsburgh Companies North (PCN) at \$5.50 for a congregate meal and \$5.98 for a home delivered meal. Connie asked for input from the Council on a new suggested donation noting that persons over 60 cannot be charged for a meal. Donations are very much appreciated and are reinvested into the local agency's services. The current suggested donation is \$3.00 and the average donation is about \$2.75. Some felt it was not a good time to do an increase while others felt that people only give whatever is being suggested. The actual meal cost is on the signs posted at the centers and donations are confidential. A suggestion was made to add a statement about helping to offset the cost of the meal and that any donation is appreciated.

There was lengthy discussion on home delivered meal (HDM) donations and Connie said that delivery costs are added to the meal cost. Persons are informed of the cost when signing up for a HDM. It was felt that, like in-home services, letters should be sent out quarterly to HDM recipients reminding them of the cost and that donations are accepted. It was also suggested putting an envelope with the box of meals when delivered to send in donations.

Comments were made on the recent quality of the meals and Connie said some of this was due to PCN not being able to get the products they used to and, hopefully, with the price increase this will change. New items are being added to the menus and it was noted that people have their favorites and that is when they come to the center. Bobbi Manges said last year 873 individuals received 40,437 meals and, of that, only 578 meals were not served. Federal reimbursement for agencies for each qualified meal is 55¢ and she noted that a Nat-e form must be completed by participants to get the federal reimbursement.

MOTION: On an Eisaman/Gordon motion - The Advisory Council recommends changing the suggested voluntary donation for meals to \$4.00, with emphasis that this level is not required. The motion passed 7-4.

The signs will be revised and posted effective August 1.

Bobbi also encourages people to return to the centers for the meal, socialization and activities. Connie said the take out meals were approved by the state to serve people during Covid and a decision hasn't been made if they will continue in the future. She is also hoping when school starts to begin partnering again with students on various programming. In response to a question, Tony said the minivans are 4 passenger, transits are 9 passenger + 2 wheelchairs and the buses are 12 passenger + 3 wheelchairs.

ITEM 5 - Transportation service. Tony Molinari reported on the status of new vehicles which have been ordered, with delivery delayed for most of them due to shortage of parts. Eight

transit buses are ordered, six minivans and 11 buses. Another 4 buses and 5 minivans or transits were requested through another grant. He said 18 vehicles will be sold probably in August.

He reported on PennDOT's new Evolution software system and said staff went through a week long training and it is up and running. There were a lot of changes, but it seems to be working pretty well. Connie said she and Lori Heaton, the Agency's new Deputy Director, went through the training and she is encouraged with the new system.

ITEM 6 - Virtual dementia training. Bobbi and Tawnya Creager are trained in and providing virtual dementia sessions and Lori is trained in the dementia friends. Staff continue to be trained and sessions are scheduled for August 24 in Huntingdon and August 25 in Bedford. Training will be opened to businesses and the public in the future. Connie said that staff can provide this training to advisory council members and said it was very good and insightful for dealing with persons with dementia.

Having no other business, the Advisory Council meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.