



Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton AREA AGENCY ON AGING

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Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Friday, September 30, 2022

The Citizens Advisory Council for the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging met on Friday, September 30, 2022 at the Hopewell Senior Center. Connie Brode, AAA Executive Director, opened the meeting with pledge to the flag and prayer. She also welcomed new Council member Virginia Cooper.

ITEM 1 - Approval of minutes. *On a Meitrott/Lohr motion: The minutes of the July 29, 2022 meeting are approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

ITEM 2 - PA Medi. Deb Holland, PA Medi supervisor, reviewed the Agency's insurance counseling service and the group viewed a related video. She noted that open enrollment begins October 15 and provided the schedule of Agency events being held throughout our 3 counties. 2023 Medicare premiums are decreasing from \$170.10 to \$164.90 and the Medicare deductible is going down to \$226. They are raising the donut hole from \$4,430 to \$4,660. Annual deductible for Part D will be \$505. Annual review of your insurance is recommended, including eligibility for PACE. Call one of the Agency's offices to schedule an appointment with the insurance specialists (Bedford - 814-623-8148; Huntingdon - 814-643-5115; Fulton - 717-485-5151).

ITEM 3 - County Assistance Office presentation. Leslie Ritchey from the Bedford County Assistance Office provided a very informative presentation on a number of programs relative to older persons. There is a temporary program through October 31 to assist with not have your drinking water or waste water shut off due to nonpayment, with a one-time maximum of \$1200. LIHEAP and SNAP are popular programs and you can apply online, in person or do a phone application. LIHEAP begins November 1, 2022 and is cash assistance to help with any type of deliverable fuels (oil, propane, pellets, etc.). Included is a crisis program to provide assistance to avoid shut off of your heat supply. Minimum allocation is \$300 and maximum is \$1,000 based on a sliding fee scale. Funds are sent directly to your fuel provider. Applicants must use the updated 2023 application form. She noted that referrals may also be made to other programs such as Love, Inc. and Weatherization through Community Action.

ITEM 4 - Financial report. The final financial report for the 2021-2022 fiscal year (July) was reviewed. Connie said the Agency has a budget of just under \$7 million which has changed very little over the past 10+ years. She is hopeful the legislature will increase allocations from the Lottery in the future and said the Advisory Council may be asked to do some advocacy for

additional funding. Receipt of funding at the beginning of the fiscal year is always slow, even though it's not directly connected with the State budget. Due to just recently receiving July's and August's payments, with September's being received this week, there is \$550,000 outstanding on the Agency's line of credit.

ITEM 5 - Senior centers. Bobbi Manges, Senior Centers Director, said Healthy Steps for Older Adults activities are beginning and will be listed on the Agency's website. They are centered on falls prevention. She said the next round of center grants from the State will be a competitive style and applications should soon be available. In the last couple years, the State provided funds to all centers, however, this year senior groups must make application for funds.

ITEM 6 - Transportation. Tony Molinari, Transportation Director, said 6 mini-vans are to be delivered the end of October. There are 11 buses scheduled for delivery next February. In response to a question regarding the 6 catalytic converters that were stolen, the 2 taken from vans still in service have been repaired. The other 4 vehicles slated to be sold will be sold "as is". Connie said the Agency is looking to possibly relocate the Bedford depot to a more secure site. In regard to new vehicles for the shared-ride program, it is mostly federal funding and PennDOT issues a list of 1-2 eligible vendors. The funds received from selling used vehicles goes back into the transportation service.

Concluding the meeting, the following motion was made: ***On a Eisaman/Meitrott motion: The Citizens Advisory Council meeting of September 30, 2022 is adjourned.***

At this time, Lori Heaton, Deputy Director, provided the Dementia Friends training to the group. This is a very good training that Agency staff has gone through and is now being offered to various community businesses/organizations. The group viewed a video developed by the Alzheimer's Society. She explained that dementia is an overall term related to memory decline and thinking skills, with the video explaining what is normal aging and what may be dementia. It was noted that persons living with dementia need the understanding and support of the community.