



Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton AREA AGENCY ON AGING

MAIN OFFICE

Huntingdon Office
307 10th Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652
(814) 643-5115
(800) 528-9155
Fax No. (814) 643-4249

Bedford Office
240 Wood Street, P.O. Box 46
Bedford, PA 15522
(814) 623-8148
(800) 892-7903
Fax No. (814) 623-5929

Fulton Office
182 Buchanan Trail, Suite 145
P.O. Box 59
McConnellsburg, PA 17233
(717) 485-5151
(800) 637-0315
Fax No. (717) 485-5606

Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Friday, January 27, 2023

The Citizens Advisory Council of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging met on Friday, January 27, 2023 at the Hopewell Senior Center. President Prudence Harclerode led the group in the pledge to the flag and prayer.

1. Approval of minutes. *On a Lohr/Meitrott motion: The minutes of the November 18, 2022 meeting are approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

2. 2022 Audit approval. Executive Director Connie Brode provided excerpts of the FY21-22 Audit to Council members. She noted the additional American Rescue Plan funding that was received, but also said that the transportation program had a deficit of \$430,000. PennDOT did provide \$673,000 in extra stabilization money to help with last fiscal year's expenses and the 1st quarter of this fiscal year, but it wasn't received until after the close of FY21-22. The 1st meeting of the newly formed transportation committee is scheduled for February 10. The Agency is beginning to gather data for a fare increase for transportation. The committee and Advisory Council will be asked for input that will be presented along with the proposed plan to the Commissioners for approval. PennDOT asked that the fare structure be changed from zones to mileage-based. Due to timeframes, Connie has asked for a transition time to continue zones, then moving into a mileage base. PennDOT is considering this request.

On a Eisaman/Gates motion: The Advisory Council approves the FY21-22 Audit as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Financial report. The group was given the October financial report which was reviewed and approved at the last Commissioners meeting. The Agency has a \$7 million budget for FY22-23.

4. Program updates. The PA Department of Aging recently completed a Caregiver Support Program monitoring and the Agency scored a 93% compliance rating which is very good. The Department was pleased with the Agency's management of the program. A corrective action plan has been submitted. In response to a question, Connie said the issues were not using the correct form and legibility of scanned receipts, which members felt were insignificant errors.

The Agency has contracted with a couple new in-home service providers, however, there is still a waiting list for service. One provider has taken on 10 new clients which is encouraging.

Connie reported that the Commissioners approved the termination of grab & go meals at the senior centers, as recommended by the Advisory Council. Bobbi Manges, Centers Director, said there has been some increase in center attendance. Persons requesting a hot home delivered meal (HDM) must be assessed by a care manager and have someone pick up the meal at the center. Connie said that years ago Agency drivers delivered the HDMs, but PennDOT doesn't allow CART vehicles to be used for this service. Also, we had trouble keeping the meals hot. Persons not eligible under service guidelines can pick up a hot HDM by paying the full price of \$5.50. Meals must be ordered by noon the day before. If needed due to budgetary constraints, the Agency may work with the senior groups in the future for them to occasionally have fundraiser meals.

February activity calendars for the centers should be on the website soon and Healthy Steps for Older Adults programs (fall prevention) are scheduled. Additional funding has been requested for other center programming including "Get Set Up" which has a large number of trainings and apps that seniors can access.

5. Echo Housing. Lori Heaton, Deputy Director, provided a presentation on the Echo Housing project that is in cooperation with the Center for Community Action. An elder cottage will be coming to the area in the near future and she explained the process and responsibility of each partner. There was good discussion on the obligation, regulation and liability for all parties involved. A press release will be issued providing details of the program.

6. Transportation. Tony Molinari, Transportation Director, said one minivan was delivered from the November 2021 order and 5 more are coming in a couple weeks. The buses are scheduled to be here in March or April. Funding for new radios in the vehicles in the amount of \$67,500 has been approved by PennDOT. Ongoing reviews are being made for various travel lanes based on need, as well as ways to increase trips.

7. Legislation. Connie announced that the new Secretary of Aging is Jason Kaluvich who was director of the Lackawanna County AAA and President of the PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A). She is excited about this since Secretary Kaluvich comes from the aging sector. P4A also has a consulting contract with Roy Afflerbach, a former State Senator, and he has developed a position paper for P4A on "Area Agencies on Aging - Pennsylvania's Lifeline for Older Adults" which was provided to the group. The paper points out the lack of increased funding over the years for aging services, using lottery funds for other programs and the need to take care of our seniors. As a follow up to the position paper, Connie is making appointments with our State elected officials to discuss aging issues and funding. It was suggested that she also meet on the federal level with Representative John Joyce.

Much needed changes to the Older Adult Protective Service Act (OAPSA) are once again being proposed in the Legislature. Senator Judy Ward is Chair of the Aging & Youth Committee and it is hoped she can help get this passed.

In other business, the Huntingdon County Senior Expo, sponsored in part by Representative Rich Irvin and the Agency, is tentatively scheduled for April 20. The Agency will once again have service information available at the expo and will provide the bag lunches.

On an Eisaman/Gordon motion: The January 27, 2023 Citizens Advisory Council meeting is adjourned.