



Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

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Citizens Advisory Council Friday, July 28, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Prudence Harclerode at 10 a.m.

Prudence turned the floor of the meeting over to Connie Brode, Executive Director of the Agency.

The Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer were led by Prudence Harclerode.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lavonne Lohr, 2nd by Brenda Gordon, motion carried without corrections.

The Agency's financial statements for May were distributed to those present.

Discussion was held on how the current budget not being signed is affecting the Agency.

- Lottery funds are used for the Agency.
- Our Agency money is not part of what is being held up.
- \$15 million in payments will not be coming until the budget is finalized, however. Connie does not expect this to last as long as last time. She has no intention of furloughing employees due to the budget.

Looking at the Agency's spending, we were underspent in HDMs, In Home Services, and Transportation. We overspent in FCSP. For income, Assessments has brought in \$77K over estimated income.

Other AAAs are allowed to share their excess money, and our Agency was able to benefit from that by receiving some extra funding from other AAAs.

Senior Center Updates: September 1 there will be a Senior Expo sponsored by Sen. Pat Stefano and Rep. Jessie Topper at Jordan Hall at the Bedford Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Staffing Issues: There are currently 2 open Care Management positions in Huntingdon County and 1 in Bedford County. The Senior Center Manager position was recently filled with the appointment of Mary Ferrenberg. There are currently open CART driver positions in Bedford.

We are exploring ways to get the word out about the open positions including using social media, Career Link Fairs, in addition to sources already utilized.

With Cindy Harbaugh's retirement, her position will now include more Human Resources and Social Media expectations. There is a need for the Agency to develop a Facebook page.

Transportation Update: Tony

Chanin has left, Kaitlyn Straus is now the Operations Supervisor, replacing Chanin. Missy Cogan is now a scheduler; Dalton Cogan will move into a reservationist position once the driver position in Bedford is filled. Interviews are being held next week for possible drivers.

Kaitlyn Straus attended the meeting and introduced herself to the Advisory Council members and gave a brief update on happenings in the CART program. Schedules will start to be unlocked eliminating driver's arriving too early.

The entire CART fleet has been turned over in 3 ½ years. Reports are generated to update Tony on when vehicles are due for replacement. Tony bases his need for vehicles on this report to determine grant requests. Once those are approved, he meets with vendors to purchase vehicles. He also applies for Federal and State funding to cover some of the costs of the vehicles.

The last replacement of vehicles took a 14 month turn around time. Still waiting for 2 mini vans, hoping for an August delivery on those vans.

This time around he is looking to replace only 6 vehicles.

90% completion of the new radios in the vehicles should be completed in August.

A question was asked if the vehicles are locally serviced and provided. The vehicles are serviced locally once received but are purchased elsewhere.

A fare increase was approved by the County Commissioners. PennDOT felt the increase was too costly. Tony received a proposal back from PennDOT. Consultants will be coming to the area to look at a fare increase that is mileage based. The current fare structure is in place until September/October then it will change after working with PennDOT.

The Agency received \$700,000 in subsidies from PennDOT to cover losses this FY.

Upcoming events were discussed including the Scam programs in Bedford on September 18 and in Fulton on October 17. Master Plan on Aging town hall meetings will be held at various locations in September. The dates and times will be determined.

Having no further business to discuss, the Advisory Council meeting was adjourned.