



Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton
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**Joint Board Meeting of the Commissioners
of Huntingdon, Bedford & Fulton Counties
Monday, September 11, 2023**

The Joint Board of Commissioners, serving as the governing board of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging, met on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 10:00 am at the Forbes Road Conference Center, Breezewood. Bedford County Commissioner Chair Barry Dallara opened the meeting. Commissioners in attendance included Scott Walls, Mark Sather, Paula Shives, Randy Bunch, Alan Frederick, Barry Dallara, Jeff Thomas; AAA staff Connie Brode, Lori Heaton and Fiscal Officers, Sherry Kovach and Jaime Strombaugh.

ITEM 1 - Minutes. Review of minutes from last meeting yielded no questions.

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Dallara made the motion and Commissioner Frederick seconded. Carried unanimously.

ITEM 2 - Financials - a) FY 22-23 year-end review. Fiscal Officer, Sherry Kovach first introduced Jaime Strombaugh as her successor pending her retirement in 9 months. Sherry went on to review the financial report for year ending June 30, 2023 of which each attendee had a copy. She pointed out that the general ledger account numbers were added. Sherry reviewed the cash flow and balance and how programs including assessment, transportation, HDM/Congregate, PC, HS and PERS, CSP faired during the year and where they stood at years end. Sherry also reviewed other grants during 22/23. There were no questions.

b) Budget Discussion. Sherry Kovack, Fiscal officer reviewed the 23/24 budget report of which all attendees had a copy. Sherry reminded the group that at the last session they had approved this budget all but the fare increase due to the last-minute recommendations by Penn DOT. Sherry reviewed changes in Supplies and Equipment due to Bamboo software being added, she reviewed that there was a line item added due to a PComp Grant for Cyber Security. Sherry reviewed the American Rescue Funds that were carried over and projected what could be rolled into the budget which was less than expected. Sherry reviewed that the big item is the Transportation budget and that while all the numbers have decreased there are good signs ahead due to an increase in MATP. Sherry also reviewed that there is a decrease in our unrestricted reserves and once plugged into transportation we could decrease the amount we supplement from the Block Grant and if the numbers hold it will be positive. However, she reminded everyone that the mileage-based system is coming inevitably. Sherry discussed the carryover of the Guardianship fees income and the PComp grant and that the new grand total revenue is

approximately 7 million. Some assumptions are that there will be a projected deficit in Transportation, but the good news is that Penn Dot will supplement up to 700,000+.

Commissioner Dallara commented that the article in the Bedford Gazette had a headline of 25% increase but did not explain well that the fair for Seniors riding remains very reasonable. Connie explained that coincidentally another reporter called as a follow up to this article and Connie was able to clarify some items and another story will be running in the Gazette.

Commissioner Thomas stated that The Huntingdon Daily News did a nice job of explaining things.

Commissioner Walls asked if CART has any issues with MATP funding and finding out someone is not eligible after they ride and then being out the money. Connie explained we have not had any great losses in this area.

Commissioner Dallara asked for a Motion to accept the 23/24 budget entirely. A Motion was made by Paula Shives and Seconded by Mark Sather. Carried unanimously.

c) July 2023 Financial Report. Sherry Kovach reviewed the July 2023 Balance Report. She explained the reason that the balance was high was because of the Penn DOT Capital money. She reported where things stood on Block Grant, CSP, Health Promotion, American Rescue Fund rollover is on target and must be spent by June 30, 2024. She reviewed other programs and pointed out that the reason that OPTIONS in home services remain so much under budget is due to the ongoing provider issue. She reported that Transportation is still at the current fair and that the deficit is a little more than what was projected, but trips are increasing. Sherry explained that the big overarching concern is the CSP program and that we begin the year over budget due to two large home modifications that were done in Jule, therefore we are starting a waiting list until this evens out and we can ask for more money in December. There were no questions.

Commissioner Dallara asked for a Motion to approve. Motion made by Commissioner Bunch and seconded by Comissioner Frederick. Carried unanimously.

ITEM 3 - OPTIONS a) Waiting List. Connie reviewed the waiting list numbers and pointed out that Bedford has been able to decrease their waiting list because of a new provider that has agreed to take on consumers in that area. However, we have not had this success in Huntingdon.

Commissioner Thomas asked what is being done to recruit new providers for Huntingdon. Connie explained calls have been made to neighboring counties to seek new providers, but this has not been fruitful to date.

ITEM 4 - Caregiver Support Program – a.) Waiting list: Connie explained that we have just started a waiting list for CSP and that the staff were just notified of this the end of last week. We will keep them informed of the status.

ITEM 5 – Protective Services - a) Elder Justice Events: Connie reported that we are holding Elder Justice Events in each of the 3 counties, pointing out that Huntingdon County has already had their event in June. The next event is in Bedford County on September 18th 2023 followed by an event in Fulton County on October 17th 2023. The attendees were given flyers for these events. She also pointed out that the agency has partnered with the CIL and LINK for these events.

ITEM 6 – Senior Centers – a.) current statistics. Connie apologized that she was not able to obtain the statistics in time for the meeting, but shared the September and October menus and activity sheets and explained there is a push to get people to come back out to the centers.

Commissioner Thomas asked if the attendance numbers are still dropping. Connie explained that she feels they are currently maintaining and wanting more. Connie also shared the plans for Wellness Wednesdays coming soon which will include vaccinations for Flu, Covid and Shingles. She also shared the plans for computer classes.

ITEM 7 – Transportation Program – a.) Fare Increase: Connie explained that the CART Fares will increase on October 1st, 2023. It will be \$25 for Zone 1 and \$37.50 for Zone 2. For the eligible seniors it will only be an increase of .25 cents for Zone 1 and .88 cents for Zone 2.

Commissioner Dallara asked if the CART was a public transit system. Connie explained that yes this is a public shared ride system. Commissioner Dallara expressed thanks for the CART program being approved to be utilized for a special event and pointed out this will also be good publicity for the CART program.

b.) vehicle status: Connie reported that we have received all but one vehicle which is a mini-van and then those projects can be closed.

ITEM 8 – Human Resources – a.) Personnel Report: Connie pointed out that in their packets is a list of personnel changes that have been made since July 11, 2023. Connie also shared that we have a new Human Resources staff person starting on Monday, September 18, 2023.

ITEM 9 – Master Plan for Older Adults – i.) Listening Sessions continue through the month. Connie shared information about the listening sessions that have already started throughout the 3 counties and provided the attendees with the schedule. She also shared that we will be doing a private session on September 29th, 2023 with the Advisory Council group.

Commissioner Dallara asked for a Motion to Adjourn. ***Motion made by Commissioner Walls and Seconded by Commissioner Sather. Carried unanimously.***