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

Joint Board Meeting of the Commissioners of

Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Counties

Monday, December 12, 2022

A meeting of the Commissioners of Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Counties, serving as the Joint Board of the Area Agency on Aging was held on Monday, December 12, 2022. Huntingdon County Commissioner Chair Scott Walls chaired the meeting.

MOTION: On a Bunch/Thomas motion – The minutes of the September 12, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial updates - Connie expanded on the financial struggles due to delay in funding by both PDA and PennDOT. The Agency received a few base funding payments at the beginning of the fiscal year and without notice they stopped. Due to this we had to utilize our line of credit and, since we were running close to our limit, we requested an additional $300,000 from the bank which had been approved by the Commissioners in previous emails. Additionally, PennDOT stated they would provide us $430,000 for last fiscal year to stabilize the CART program, however, to date we have not received that money. Connie requested discussion on increasing our line of credit due to the delay in funding that can occur at the beginning of a fiscal year.

Commissioner Thomas questioned why it was difficult to expend the ARPA funds. Connie explained that there was an error on PDA's calculation and, due to their staff shortages, it is expected that the delay could last until January. Sherry explained in a typical year we expect delays in supplemental funding, but the base payments can be made unless there is a budget impasse. It is her understanding as well that it was due to understaffing on PDA's side and it is expected that tomorrow we should receive the Oct/Nov payment of $780,000. Sherry explained also that we have used $880,000 of our line of credit with a maximum level of $1 million.

Additional discussion was held on the PennDOT issue. PennDOT had promised $430,000 in an email, therefore, it was put on the books. PennDOT has agreed to pay the $673,720 as of Wednesday of this week, which does not include the $430,000 and this leaves us with a deficit.

PennDOT told the Agency to leave this as an unfunded deficit and they also realize that the $673,720 will not carry us through. It was discussed that we will need to request more funds. Sherry stated that we will be talking with our auditors about this issue after today's meeting. Commissioner Dallara asked if the Agency would be made whole. Sherry said that PennDOT indicates we will get the money. She will do additional projections and request an additional amount for FY22/23. This will cover the deficit from last fiscal year.

Connie explained that there was discussion about a fare increase for the CART program. However, PennDOT instructed her to stop all efforts for the fare increase and PennDOT has indicated they are considering restructuring the shared ride program. Sherry added that PennDOT is looking at different models of funding. She explained that costs are up and trips are down. Commissioner Dallara expressed his frustration with the funding available from PennDOT and the flat funding of the AAAs and Mental Health.

Sherry said that the CART program has no reserves and is being subsidized by block grant funds. Commissioner Dallara asked what the Association is doing to help this issue. Connie explained that P4A has contracted the services of Roy Afflerbach, who was a Senator for many years. In fact, he was serving at the time the Older Americans Act was passed. AAAs are also requesting meetings with their senators and representatives to express the needs of the AAAs across the state and in their local areas. The Association is reaching out to Governor Shapiro to explain the challenges of the AAA Network.

Sherry reviewed the October financial statements and pointed out that $4,000 is being expended on interest. We are requesting additional funds to cover this cost. The Agency currently is over budget on the congregate meal program. Discussion was held on Grab & Go meals at the senior centers. The grab & go meals were discussed at the recent Advisory Council meeting and it was the Council's position that they be terminated in hopes of encouraging people to attend the senior centers. Connie explained that the Agency had a policy in place to address the nutritional needs of seniors prior to the grab & go program and there is a mechanism in place to meet needs of seniors within our regular programs. Commissioner Thomas asked how many grab & go meals we provide, but Connie did not have that data.

MOTION: On a Dallara/Shives motion – The Joint Board accepts the October financial report. Motion carried unanimously.

Further discussion was held on the need to increase the line of credit and that $1 million is not enough and that the $300,000 was temporary. Sherry suggested that $1.5 million would be an appropriate request. Commissioner Bunch suggested a possible $2 million line of credit and

Commissioner Dallara asked about the additional interest. He also encouraged the AAA to advocate with possible letters to the editor and to the Legislature. The recommendation was that we seek a $2 million line of credit. Commissioner Thomas suggested that we ask for $1.5 million if we don't get approved for $2 million.

MOTION: On a Bunch/Dallara motion, the Agency is authorized to request a line of credit in the amount of $2 million. Motion carried unanimously.

Caregiver Support Program Monitoring – Connie explained the new CSP Chapter and Policy. The Agency was monitored by the state on our implementation of the changes. She said the Agency received a 93%.

In Home Services – The Agency continues to recruit providers to fill our care plan needs. Providers are requesting additional hours per consumer visit versus multiple visits throughout the week in order to offset travel costs.

Protective Service Task Force Meetings – The Agency has successfully implemented task forces in Huntingdon and Bedford and are trying to plan a public event for Fulton County. The Commissioners will be kept updated on future plans.

Senior Centers – Further discussion was held on Grab & Go Meals. Connie explained that the Advisory Council had asked that they be discontinued as noted above. The Agency will go back to offering takeout meals at full price, as well as the hot home delivered meal for those who are eligible through the Options program.

MOTION: On Frederick/Shives motion – The Joint Board approves the Agency to discontinue the grab & go meals. Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Programs – Connie explained that there are 15 vehicles up for sale and the bids will be opened tomorrow at the Bedford County Commissioners public meeting. The Agency continues to anticipate delivery of our 6 mini vans and 11 buses. We also continue to recruit drivers which has been difficult.

Personnel Report – Connie reviewed the personnel report which had been previously sent.

The proposed 2023 Holiday Schedule was discussed, noting that Juneteenth had been added.

MOTION: On a Dallara/Bunch motion – The Agency 2023 Holiday Schedule is approved as presented, including the additional holiday of Juneteenth. Motion carried unanimously.

The 2023 Joint Board meeting schedule which had been previously sent out was reviewed.

MOTION: On a Frederick/Bunch motion, the Joint Board enters executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Re-entering the regular session and having no other business:

MOTION: On a Thomas/Bunch motion – The Joint Board meeting of December 12, 2022 is adjourned.

Those in attendance include:

Commissioner Jeff Thomas
Commissioner Scott Walls
Commissioner Barry Dallara
Commissioner Alan Frederick
Commissioner Paula Shives
Commissioner Stuart Ulsh (via phone)
Commissioner Mark Sather (via phone)
Sherry Kovach
Lori Heaton
Connie Brode