



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, March 6, 2023

The Joint Board of Commissioners, serving as the governing board of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging, met on Monday, March 6, 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, Cindy Harbaugh.

ITEM 1 - Minutes. Commissioner Shives noted that Commissioner Bunch's name was omitted from the attendance at the last meeting.

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting with the addition of Commissioner Randy Bunch being in attendance. Carried unanimously.

ITEM 2 - Financials - a) Audit acceptance. Connie Brode, executive director, provided copies of the FY21-22 Agency audit as prepared by Boyer & Ritter, CPAs. She pointed out the notation that the \$430,000 PennDOT payment for FY21-22 did not arrive until the new fiscal year. Otherwise, there were no issues or findings in the audit.

Motion made by Bunch/Sather to accept the Agency's FY2021-2022 audit as presented. Carried unanimously.

b) January financial report. This report was emailed to the Board. The Agency has not yet received its February or March block grant payments from the State and some services areas are over budget. Additional Caregiver Support Program funds have been requested and until received the Agency has a waiting list. Transportation revenue is under budget due to continuing to recover from the Covid pandemic and less trips. Connie explained that the PennDOT payment was \$673,000 which includes money for the current year, as well as the referenced \$430,000 for last fiscal year. Another \$431,000 in PennDOT funding has been requested, with no response yet. Connie pointed out that this is just to help cover costs for the current fiscal year and a fare increase will be needed.

Commissioner Dallara asked for clarification on fares and Connie said each stop a person has scheduled is a new fare. Commissioner Bunch asked about trips to other counties and Connie said that doctors are usually cooperative in adjusting appointments to match the day Cart goes to

that county. Commissioner Walls asked about unscheduled stops. Connie said the person would pay the full fare, however, when scheduling a doctor appointment, dispatch staff suggest that the person also schedule a pharmacy stop so the trip would be covered for the co-pay.

Motion by Walls/Shives to approve the January financial report. Carried unanimously.

c) \$2 million line of credit limit. Based on Commissioner recommendation at the last meeting, the bank approved a \$2 million line of credit for the Agency when funding from the State is delayed. Also added was Lori Heaton, deputy director, as a signer on the line of credit in Connie's absence.

Motion by Thomas/Frederick officially approving the \$2 million line of credit. Carried unanimously.

d) Transportation deficit. The new transportation advisory committee has been formed with representation from various areas of service, as well as ridership. Two meetings have been held. The next meeting is mid-March and the committee will review fare increase proposals and make a recommendation to the Commissioners. This fare structure will be set by zones, but future ones will probably go to mileage based as encouraged by PennDOT. Commissioner Dallara suggested the Agency have their auditors write a letter to PennDOT outlining the status of transportation funding based on the audit to provide more emphasis on the situation.

e) Cooperative payment/Title XIX payment. As previously noted, the Agency is waiting for February and March payments from the aging block grant. Connie said we may have to access the line of credit if they are not received soon.

ITEM 3 In-home services - a) New service providers. We have contracted with a couple new in-home service providers. This has allowed the Agency to provide more service and lower the number of consumers on the waiting list.

b) Waiting list. There are 72 individuals on the current waiting list.

c) CSP waiting list. As previously stated, a waiting list has been started for the Caregiver Support Program until the Agency gets approval for and receives the additional funding.

Commissioner Sather asked about the status of Maximus and Connie said they continue to do enrollment. AAAs were able to retain the Assessment portion of enrollment which was great. Hopefully in April there will also be a new reimbursement rate.

ITEM 4 - Senior Centers. The Agency is overspent in senior centers due to the increase in the cost of food and low attendance. Senior groups are doing alternate meal days once a week as a fundraiser for their groups. The Agency is collaborating with various organizations on

March 6, 2023

special programming, including Center for Independent Living, ministeriums, fire companies, etc. Dementia friends and virtual dementia training sessions are being scheduled, with one at the firehall in Saxton in April. The Agency is hoping to once again start up collaborations with area schools for activities with the centers as were begun prior to the Covid pandemic.

ITEM 5 - Transportation - a) Status of fare increase. The Board reviewed 4 scenarios for a fare increase, as well as projected revenue based on the last 6 months of trips. PennDOT reimburses 85% of the full fare (through Lottery funding), with the Agency and passengers making up the remaining 15%. The full fare 1-way is currently \$20 in Zone 1 (HBF Cos.) and \$30 in Zone 2 (contiguous cos.), with 1-way fares for eligible riders being \$1.75 and \$4.50, respectively. PennDOT doesn't reimburse for riders age 60-64, with the Agency covering these rides. The Agency is eliminating the \$1.00 fare to ride to a senior center. In reviewing the budget, the Agency can't go above a maximum of \$350,000 in supplemental funding.

The majority of trips are dialysis and medically related. Discussion was held on coordinating trips and wait times for seniors due to the shared-ride nature of Cart. Special senior center trips must be generated through each senior center operator, using volunteer drivers. Commissioner Dallara asked for data on how much more it will cost a rider for each of the fare increase scenarios.

b) Vehicle status. The Agency has received 1 new mini-van and 5 more are coming. The 11 new buses should be here this month. Used vehicles were sold through sealed bid and all but 2 have been transferred to successful bidders.

ITEM 6 - Human Resources. The Board was emailed the personnel report. There are a couple vacancies in the Huntingdon office.

ITEM 7 - Events. A virtual dementia training is being scheduled in April at the Saxton Volunteer Fire Company. An Elder Justice event is scheduled in Huntingdon County on June 15. These may be held late-afternoon or early-evening to attract more people. The annual Senior Expo in Huntingdon County is April 20.

Motion made by Thomas/Walls to enter executive session. Carried unanimously.

Coming out of executive session no action was needed and a motion was called for to adjourned at 11:15 am.