Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton
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Meeting of the Commissioners of
Huntingdon, Bedford & Fulton Counties
Monday, September 12, 2022

The Commissioners of Huntingdon, Bedford & Fulton Counties, serving as the governing board of the Area Agency on Aging, met on Monday, September 12, 2022 at the Holiday Inn Express in Breezewood. Fulton County Commissioner Randy Bunch opened the meeting at 10:00 am.

ITEM 1 - **MOTION:** On a Thomas/Sather motion, the minutes of the July 11, 2022 meeting are approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 2 - Financial - A financial summary of FY21-22 was provided and reviewed. Cares funding was fully expended and the balance of ARPA will be carried over and can be used through June 2024. In-home services were under budget due to lack of providers to fulfill care plans. $226,000 in Aging Block Grant funds were needed to cover transportation expenses, which is not sustainable. The unrestricted reserve funds carried over will be applied to the next fiscal year expenses.

July's financial report was also reviewed. The Agency has accessed $100,000 from the line of credit due to state payments being delayed. They are now caught up with September's payment arriving on the 9th. The state has already issued two budget amendments. It was explained that actual expenses, without the block grant subsidy, will be submitted each month to PennDOT to project a more accurate accounting of expenditures versus available funding. Commissioner Baughman asked about trips and Connie Brode said they are still down from pre-Covid figures. She said younger seniors are still driving while older persons who regularly rode are passing away. Commissioner Dallara also felt that Community Life may be affecting ridership.

MOTION: On a Bunch/Dallara motion - The financial reports are accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3 - Administration - Connie said the Agency is in need of a fare increase and data is being collected for this process. She reminded the Board that PennDOT wants the Agency to move from a zone schedule to a mileage schedule. In response to Commissioner Dallara, Sherry Kovach explained that fare schedules usually go in a 3-year cycle. Connie said the majority of the data shows a higher volume of short trips.

Connie reported that 6 catalytic converters were stolen out of vehicles at the Bedford Depot. Four of the vehicles are slated to be sold. There had been concern about vehicles sitting at the depot. The Agency's solicitor is to write a letter to the landlord about security and the possibility of the Agency moving to a more secure location. The Agency has been looking at a possible site and this review will continue.

ITEM 4 - In-home services - There are 102 consumers on the 3-county waiting list with another 22 who have been pulled off the list, but waiting to be served. A new provider for Huntingdon County is interested and a contract has been sent to them. Connie attended the quarterly review last week and said all agencies are having trouble getting providers.

ITEM 5 - Protective service - Connie has been in contact with Fulton County's DA about starting a task force. Huntingdon and Bedford Counties have begun meeting. She said the Department of Mental Health issued a directive that older persons cannot be denied MH services based on age. Huntingdon County met last Friday with Secretary of Aging Torres in attendance. A new law states that financial exploitation is now a theft and the Agency is working to get better protection for older persons.

ITEM 6 - Senior Centers - The new center operator in Warfordsburg is working out well. Dates for Healthy Steps programs at the centers was provided to the Board.

ITEM 7 - Transportation - Ridership statistics were provided to the Commissioners comparing FY21-22 and FY22-23 to date.

The Agency is getting ready to sell old vehicles that are out of commission and parked at the Bedford Depot. Connie provided a detailed list of 16 vehicles to be sold by sealed bid. She will be contacting the Bedford Commissioners to set a date to open bids on behalf of the Board.

Customer service training is being completed by all Agency staff and transportation staff is the next group to do this on-line training. Connie said it's a good training and will help staff have a pleasant and professional encounter with consumers.

ITEM 8 - Human resources - Personnel changes after the last meeting were previously emailed to the Commissioners. There is an open fiscal assistant position with interviews scheduled this week. Interviews for service director, following Lori Heaton's appointment to deputy director, have been completed with Belinda Black being selected. Now, the Huntingdon County care manager supervisor vacancy is posted to fill this position.

Connie was asked to review the process for filing a protective service Report of Need. A phone call to the Agency or the State PS hotline is all that is needed. The RON can be anonymous. She said the Agency takes reports for anyone over 18, with the Agency directly responding to and investigating RONs for persons over 60 and forwarding RONs for those under

18 to their regulatory agency. She said reports are on the rise. Sometimes it's just a matter of being appointed representative payee, but if a guardianship is needed the Agency is guardian of last resort if no one else can be found. These are court appointed. In response to a question, the Agency is never allowed to release the reporter's name.

Having no other action and on a Commissioner Baughman motion, the Joint Board meeting of September 12, 2022 is adjourned.