

WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICE FOR AGING

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date | time March 7, 2022, 10:00am via Zoom | Meeting called to order by Max McDonnell

In Attendance

Max McDonnell, Gretchen Stark, Dolores Mullen, Jeanie Mullen, Gerald Foelsch, Michelle Louy, Patricia Provost, Tina McDougall, Samuel Hall, Kristen Hardy, Jodie Smith, Stacey Barcomb, Mindy Dudley, and Gina Cantanucci-Mitchell.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting called to order and minutes approved.

Staffing & Advisory Council Member Updates

- Introduction were made *I lost connection and it took several minutes to log back on, so I did not get the notes during this section.*
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Program Updates

- **Operational Program Updates** – Our office is still operating under precautions with hand washing and sanitizing. Temperature and sign in sheets have been removed and no mask is required. In person meetings can resume and home visits with permission from the consumer.
- **Staffing Updates** – We have filled one of the Community Services Worker positions with Valerie Courville. She will be doing transportation and assisting our Call Center.

We experienced another loss of Ray Austin. Ray was a home delivered meals driver for the past 5 years.

The Board of Supervisors approved two more part time drivers. One per diem David Jones to a part time driver and Jean Marie Lundgren, retired caseworker, joined the Nutrition team as a part time driver. We have one per diem driver position available.

- **Unmet Needs Funding** – We received \$85,000 late in 2021 and had little time to plan the spending of the funds. NYSOFA granted us an extension through December 2022. We identified gaps in service and services in need. We are planning to allocate the funds by adding an 11th daily route for Putnam. Before they were receiving one hot meal and four frozen. They were missing a daily contact and it will cover a vehicle and personnel costs. Go Go Grandparent for transportation in Washington County for 60+. We are also working on the wait list for in home personal care.

- **Go Go Grandparent** - We went live in January for the Go Go Grandparent program, is expected to end on March 31st. Approval from the board, allowed us to extend the contract until March 21, 2023. We have had a couple of bumps in the road. A gentleman needing dialysis and Uber and Lift can deny a transport so one step to resolving was to add a taxicab. We have served six individuals at this time, and we are going to stick with the pilot program at this time to give it time and make sure it works for our needs.
- **Public Information Updater**- We are changing the quarterly Senior Times newspaper. Our contract expired with Manchester Newspaper, and we are currently seeking three quotes. We are hoping to incorporate our Senior Times with our monthly mailing. We are also going to change the name and are taking suggestion on names to incorporate all ages and populations. Contact Gina or Mindy with any name suggestions.
- **NYSOFA Senior of the Year** – Gina announced the results from the voting for the NYSOFA Senior of the year. Debbie Beahan of Hudson Falls. Debbie was contacted and accepted. We are still in the process of contacting the second individual. We have a runner up if for some reason this person does not accept.

We are accepting nominations for next year. We would also like to know your thoughts about if a person receives more than one nomination, would you prefer them to be kept separate or combine them into one nomination. It was agreed to combine them together and include how many nominations the person received. Gina reviewed the nomination and voting process for the new members.

Action Items

- We vote each year for the Advisory Council officers. The vote has delayed due to not having a quorum. At today's meeting we have a quorum and voted on officers. Max McDonnell was nominated for president. Gerald Foelsch was nominated for vice president. No other nominations were received and both Max and Gerald accepted the positions. All were in favor.
- Senior Picnic – we are not sure if we will be able to have this large-scale event this year. We have close to four hundred participants, and it has been at the Washington County Fairgrounds. We hope if we have it this year it can be at the fairgrounds again. Gina asked the council their thoughts on the date. Dolores suggested later in July because of the fair and it is hotter in August. Gina will check the availability and let everyone know the dates the fairgrounds it available. Max suggested July 2nd or third.
Update: The only date that was available was July 22nd and we still have not received approval from the board.
- In person Advisory Council meetings
 - June 6, 2022 – Kingsbury/Fort Edward Area Senior Center – 78 Oak St. Hudson Falls
 - September 12, 2022 – Gina will explore options
 - December 5, 2022 – Washington County Building – 383 Broadway Fort Edward

Recent/Upcoming Activities

- Recent Activities:
 - Stacey spoke about congregate meal sites. Whitehall will go dine in starting today. We are restarting the mobile meal sites (pop-ups) for areas that may not have access. If anyone has any suggestions of areas that would benefit from a pop-up event, please contact Stacey Barcomb or Gina.
 - March for Meals – this campaign was taken to social media this year.
 - Tomorrow is National Nutritionist Day, and we will honor our own Kristen Stewart.
 - The Salem meal site was closed due to low participation. We started the mobile meal site because our primary goal is to create a bridge for people that may not be aware of our services. We have had remarkable success in Putnam. Gina also shared, there was a great disconnect with the community when the pop-pus stopped. Gina would receive calls with suggestions for pop up locations prior to the shutdown. Michell asked, “How many would need to participate”? Gina said it would depend on the size of the location.

- Upcoming Events:
 - It is still being determined on how to proceed with in person events even with the new guidelines.

Open

- *Chairman Hall* – shared he was happy and proud of the seniors of Washington County with the vaccinations. He said the numbers were impressive.

- *Tina McDougall* – shared they still have vaccines and tests available in addition, they have home test kits and PCR tests on Tuesday and Thursday’s. If you know of anyone in the community that is unable to get to a vaccination location, have them call Public Health. Gina shared, ADRC also has test hits and hand sanitizer.

- *Gerald Foelsch* – suggested the American Legion on Route 22 in Cambridge as a possible location for the picnic.

- *Pat Provost* – shared that there is currently no senior club in Whitehall. She is trying to get with other officers to try to get a club back together.

- Gina and Max have been discussing planning a Senior of Council meeting soon. Pat Provost said she would be interested in attending until they establish a club.

Next Meeting

Date | time: Monday, June 6, 2022, at 10:00am, **Location:** Kingsbury/Fort Edward Area Senior Center

A motion to adjourn was made and was passed unanimously.