

# WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICE FOR AGING

## Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

*Date | time* March 6, 2023, 10am at Whitehall Dining Site

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### Roll Call/Sign In

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Max McDonnell, Gerald Foelsch, Julian Hadley, Dolores Mullen, Antonia Estrada, Val Baez, Sandra Lufkin, Gretchen Stark, Jeanie Mullen, Renee Roundtree, Michelle Louy, Quimby Mahoney, Tina McDougall, Kristen Hardy, Jodie Smith, Stacey Barcomb, Mindy Dudley, and Gina Cantanucci-Mitchell.

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### Call to Order

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Meeting called to Order by Vice President Gerald Foelsch at 10:03am.

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### Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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A motion was made to approve the 12/5/2022 meeting minutes by Sandy Lufkin and seconded by Antonia Estrada. Motion to approve the meeting minutes passed with no objections.

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### Program Updates

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- ***OFA Staffing***
  - Gina reviewed the Office for Aging (OFA) organization chart and explained the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with Department of Social Services (DSS). The ones highlighted in yellow are DSS salaries and the ones in blue are OFA salaries.
  - A new Per Diem driver, George Horwath was hired. There are still a couple of vacancies for Aging Services Aides.
  - Hellin LeClaire, the Whitehall meal site manager, retired after 32 years of service.
  
- ***NYSOFA Senior of the Year***
  - Max called everyone to get their vote. The top two nominees were John Fillmore and Loraine Bowen.
  - NYSOFA is not doing an in-person event again this year. The virtual celebration will most likely take place in the fall.
  - We are currently taking nominations for the 2024 awardees.

- ***Governors Proposed Executive Budget***

- Gina reviewed the letter Association on Aging in New York sent to the governor's office regarding how OFA programs keep people in their homes and off Medicaid. Gina also reviewed the proposed budget and the changes to Lifespan, Patient Rights, Holocaust, and NYSOFA not receiving additional funds, only COLA increases. Gina also explained the Master Plan on Aging and how funding of this project will be funneled through Dept. of Health. Association Director Becky Preve is assigned to all 7 Master Plan on Aging committees.

The Unmet Needs funding that OFA received helped serve individuals in our Nutrition Program, especially in Putnam. Home delivered meals are not income based, but some requirements are needed. The state comptroller is auditing OFA's Unmet Needs funds for a second year.

Tina from Public Health shared that the proposed Governor's Budget reflect hat Long Term Home Health Care may be coming back.

- ***Needs Assessment and Surveys***

- At the end of this year, Gina will write Wash. Cty's four-year plan. This year, NYSOFA is working with Polco, a research firm, and they will manage the surveys for each local OFA's needs assessment. They will select individuals randomly. They surveys are legitimate.
- Wash. Cty. OFA was randomly selected at the federal level for a survey.
- Antonia talked about various scams. Kristen Hardy shared information that they have seen locally regarding scams. She said awareness is key and if any of the towns wants her to come to a group and discuss the various scams, she is willing and will provide information.

- ***Nutrition Program***

- Stacey talked about the March for Meals campaign and its importance.
- Stacey reviewed the Home Deliver Meals Program and the process. She discussed the menu and how it is developed and meeting the state guidance, food supply chain issues and how it can affect the menu and the routes process from start to finish. She also talked about the private company Meals on Wheels and their ads for solicitation for money.
- Mary and per diem staff have been filling in at our Whitehall Dining Site since Hellin's retirement until someone gets permanently appointed.

- ***Adult Services***

- In addition to supervising the adult protective caseworkers, Jodie Smith supervises the caseworkers that do the assessments for home delivered meals. She talked about the increase in referrals for home delivered meals. She also oversees the home care

programs and gave an overview of each program including the increase in Medicaid eligibility and how this will make more people qualified for Medicaid.

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## Action Items

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- ***Advisory Council Officers***
  - President – Max McDonnell was nominated by Sandra Lufkin and Julian Hadley seconded the motion. No other nominations were submitted. Nomination was closed and Max accepted the nomination.
  - Vice President – Sandy Lufkin nominated Gerald Foelsch and Renee Rountree seconded the motion. No other nominations were submitted. Nomination was closed and Gerald accepted the nomination.

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## Recent Activities

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- ***Council of Seniors meeting***
  - Max is president of the Washington County Council of Seniors. He shared, at their last meeting they established the dates, location, and menu for the upcoming events.

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## Upcoming Events

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- Council of Seniors spring luncheon – April 20, 2023, at the American Legion Post #574
- Washington County Council of Seniors – Senior of the Year Celebration – May 11, 2023, at the American Legion Post #574.
- Washington County OFA’s Senior Picnic – July 14<sup>th</sup> 2023, at the Washington County Fairgrounds.

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## Open Discussion

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- Michelle Louy shared Hebron is planning a local emergency response meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.
- Various firehouses with generators are opening as warming stations for people without power.

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## Next Meeting

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**Date | time:** Monday, June 5, 2023, at 10:00am, **Location:** Senior Center of Kingsbury/Ft. Edward – 78 Oak St. Hudson Falls.

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## Adjournment

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Sandy Lufkin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Renee Rountree seconded. Motion accepted and the meeting closed at 11:51am.