

# WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICE FOR AGING

## Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

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*Date | time September 12, 2022, 10:12am at Washington County Municipal Building | Meeting called to order by President Max McDonnell*

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### Roll Call/Sign In

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Max McDonnell, Jeanie Mullen, Gerald Foelsch, Michelle Louy, Sandra Lufkin, Julian Hadley, Debbie Mumblo, Dolores Mullen, Renee Rountree, Kristen Hardy, Jodie Smith, Stephanie Raney, Stacey Barcomb, Mindy Dudley, and Gina Cantanucci-Mitchell.

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### Call to Order

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Meeting called to Order by President Max McDonnell at 10:12am.

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### Approval of Minutes

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A motion was made to approve the 6/6/2022 meeting minutes by Stephanie Raney and seconded by Dolores Mullen. Motion to approve the meeting minutes passed with no objections.

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### Program Updates

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- **Staffing & Advisory Council Member Updates**
  - Daisy Ely was hired to fill one of the two Aging Services Aide vacant positions within the OFA Nutrition Program.
  - OFA/ADRC welcomed Heather Frisk to fill the caseworker position vacated by Elizabeth Stowhas.
  - Colleen Maziejka, a former caseworker in our division, has rejoined our Adult Services Unit, through the homeless position in Social Services.
  
- **Covid fund expenditures –**
  - We purchased digital blood pressure monitors, oximeters, and thermometers. They are available for all ages, and we will be able to account for each item through our computer software program.
  - The American Rescue funds we received, purchased 11 new vehicles for our Nutrition Program's home delivered meal routes.
  
- **Prescription Drug Disposal –** New York State Office for Aging and Office for Substance Abuse purchased Deterra packets for prescription medications that are in need of disposal. They can be obtained through our office and are for individuals age 60 and over.

- **Addressing loneliness and social isolation –**
  - Companion Pets – New York State Office for Aging sent us a supply of companion pets. We currently have dogs and cats. If anyone is socially isolated and experiences loneliness or identifies as being isolated, our caseworkers will assess the individual for a companion pet. We are still waiting for the walker squawkers to be delivered. Gina gave a demonstration with one of the robotic cats.
  - ElliQ – We are part of a project for a new device similar to Alexia called ElliQ. They have a memory, store reminders, and will evolve to interact with individuals on a personal level. There is a rollout and eligibility process that involves an in-depth screening process. It comes in English and works off Wi-Fi. Gina showed a demonstration of the device, spoke about the capabilities, and answered questions regarding the device.
  - Telephone Reassurance Program – This program is an informal call from our designated staff.

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## Action Items

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- **By-Laws** – The By-Laws were reviewed and the changes that were suggested. Gerald questioned a way to get representatives for areas not covered. A motion to accept was made by Dolores Mullen and seconded by Debbie Mumblo.

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## Recent Activities

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- The senior picnic – Gina showed pictures and shared that we didn't know what to expect because it was our first in person event since the pandemic shutdown. We served 270 meals and had 20 teams playing the games. New York State and Washington County Public Safety supplied the cooling fans and all the coordination. The ice cream truck was supplied by one of our agencies and Bobby Dick and Suzie Q were the entertainment. We received positive feedback. Dolores shared the game area was crowded and confusing.
- Nutrition Program – The home delivered meals program is experiencing a massive increase in referrals and the congregate sites are at pre-Covid numbers. We purchased 10 – 2022 Ford Escapes and 1 van. DPW purchased a 2<sup>nd</sup> van. Mobile Meal site/Pop-up lunch events are taking place and requests for locations is being accepted. We have them approximately one time per week. For more information regarding dates and locations, they can be found in Community Connections, Facebook and you can call our office.

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## Upcoming Events

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- Health and Wellness Fall Festival – Medicare open enrollment is coming up and plans change every year. This event gives you the opportunity to see what changes have been made. Our office can also do an objective, non-biased insurance comparison that will show what top 3 plans works best for you. Health and wellness agencies will be on site and demonstrations will be taking place. We are also accepting applications for vendors that are interested in setting up a booth selling their goods. The event will be publicized by WCKM radio.
- Public Hearing – Gina reviewed the abstract that is provided at the Public Hearing. This will take place at the Council of Seniors luncheon held in October. We will be collecting feedback and see what we can do better.

- December Advisory Council meeting – at our next meeting we will vote on our 2023 NYSOFA State Senior of the Year awardees.

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## Open

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- The Eagle newspaper did a great job reporting on the picnic.
- *Max McDonnell* – the Council of Seniors will be back to having regular meetings again.
- *Kristen Hardy* – shared they can provide Narcan training for anyone that is interested.
- *RAM clinic* – ADRC has put together a plan to assist people with transportation to the RAM clinic that is being held at the Washington County Fairgrounds.
- *Dolores Mullen* - shared the Gloria Palmer trust fund through St. Luke’s church in Cambridge can assist people in need with vision, medical and dental. It covers Salem and Cambridge school districts, and you can call for an application.

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## Next Meeting

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**Date | time:** Monday, December 5, 2022, at 10:00am, **Location:** Washington County Building – upstairs Board of Supervisors classroom.

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## Adjournment

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Max McDonnell made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:58am and Gerald Foelsch seconded.