

WASHINGTON COUNTY

OFFICE FOR AGING

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date | time December 16, 2019 10:00am | Meeting called to order by Max McDonnell

In Attendance

Sandra Lufkin, Max McDonnell, Gretchen Stark, Gerald Foelsch, Sharon Dunn, Jodie Smith, Patty Hunt, Antonia Estrada, Val Baez, Mindy Dudley and Gina Cantanucci-Mitchell.

Approval of Minutes

September 9, 2019 Minutes approved.

Staffing & Advisory Council Member Updates

- Due to Craig Phalen's untimely passing, his position is being restructured. The Sheriff filled the Dietetic Supervisor position with Tony Scarlotta provisionally. Office for Aging is implementing a Nutrition Program Coordinator upon the Board of Supervisors approval.
- April Basset in our NY Connects call center retired after 32 years. We are currently budgeting to fill that position. The backfill process is lengthy.

Program Updates

- On October 10th, at the American Legion on Pearl Street in Hudson Falls, the annual Public Hearing was held for 165 attendees. We received a broad variety of topics in the feedback. The feedback included: Transportation, Pop Up events locations with ample parking and a bigger space, serving hot tea, buy local milk and water, prescription disposal, "keeping us moving" is important and program eligibility. Based on the feedback, our office will not be changing any programs drastically, but we are taking the items into consideration. Gerald suggested, adding odd job requests would be helpful as well (i.e.: shoveling and salting).
- Gina summarized the Needs Assessment that was sent out to Washington County residents 60 and over. A total of 2,509 assessments were mailed out and 693 surveys were returned. Everyone received a breakdown of the results and Gina reviewed the survey findings. Sharon Dunn shared "we are inundated with health insurance mailings." "It is confusing and overlapping." Gina will check into a flow chart type of mailing that will give people a better understanding of the dates.
- Patty Hunt, from Public Health, reviewed a community health assessment that was conducted. If you are interested in a full report, contact Patty at Public Health (518) 746-3400.
- Gina reviewed the Annual Implementation Plan:
 - Caregiver Support Group participation has decreased. Currently, we are looking at not doing the program but supporting agencies that already offer the service. We will also expand caregiver training without duplicating the service.
 - Ancillary services expansions.
 - Transportation expansion

Gina needs approval from the Advisory Council before the submission of the 4-year plan. A motion to approve and was seconded.

- The 2020 State Senior of the Year nominations were read and voted upon. Candidate #4 with 7 votes and Candidate #1 with 6 votes will be this year's awardees.
- Dates and locations were established for the 2020 Advisory Council meetings:
 - March 2, 2020 – Whitehall Meal Site – 148 Main Sr. Whitehall, NY
 - June 8, 2020 – Kingsbury/Ft. Edward Senior Center – 78 Oak St. Hudson Falls, NY
 - September 14, 2020 – Cambridge Senior Center – 5 Park Place – Cambridge, NY
 - December 7, 2020 – Washington County Municipal Center – Downstairs Training Room
- The 2-year term has ended for the appointed Advisory Council members. Either members will be appointed for another 2-year term if they are interested or new members will be appointed. Sharon Dunn, from Jackson, shared she has been actively looking for a replacement and nobody is interested.

Recent/Upcoming Activities

Recent Events:

- The Fall Festival was held at the Kingsbury Firehouse in October and we served 207 meals and 192 people checked in to the event. It was a successful event.
- The fall Council of Seniors luncheon was held at the American Legion in October with 165 in attendance.
- Medicare open enrollment went smoothly this year.

Upcoming Events:

- April 2, 2020 – Senior Council luncheon at the American Legion in Hudson Falls.
- May 8, 2020 – Senior Clubs Senior of the Year Celebration at the Kingsbury Firehouse in Hudson Falls.
- The Argyle School Senior Dinner Theater – TBD

Open

- Senator Little's office is sending out a mailing regarding resources available in our area.

Next Meeting

Date | time: Monday, March 2, 2020 at 10:00am, **Location:** Whitehall Meal Site – 148 Main St. in Whitehall, New York.

A motion to adjourn was made and was passed unanimously.