

WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICE FOR AGING

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date / time March 1, 2021 10:00am via Zoom | Meeting called to order by Max McDonnell

In Attendance

Sandra Lufkin, Max McDonnell, Gretchen Stark, Gerald Foelsch, Dolores Mullen, Jodie Smith, Kristen Hardy, Mindy Dudley and Gina Cantanucci-Mitchell.

Approval of Minutes

Due to pandemic, there was no minutes to approve.

Staffing & Advisory Council Member Updates

- Due to Patty Hunt retiring, Kathy Jo McIntyre, from Public Health will soon be appointed to the Advisory Council as her replacement.
 - Kristen Harty represents as a community liaison role at the Sherriff's department. A proposal and vote was made to invite the Sherriff's Department to participate in future Advisory Council meetings.
 - Staffing changes: Jean Marie Lundgren retired after 20 years of service at the end of January. Jean Marie was replaced with Stacey Barcomb. Stacey was previously at SUNY Plattsburg Initiative program.
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Program Updates

- **Nutrition Program** – currently, we still don't have any public events and no congregate meals. The home delivered meals are in full force. Washington County residents age 60 and over are eligible for home delivered meals due to the waiver that is in place for eligibility.

Since the pandemic started, CWI has suspended service to deliver meals. We have hired per diem drivers to assist in covering 9 daily routes and 1 additional route on Friday's.

The Nutrition Program has moved to space located at our Burgoyne Ave building. Mary Fenton, Peggy Lindsey and Liz Humiston have temporarily relocated to Burgoyne Ave due to our office taking social distancing measures for employees at the office.

March for Meals will look different this year given the pandemic. We will post information on our Facebook page and county website.

Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, we planned ahead and partnered with the Sherriff's Department to prepare 2,000 frozen meals. The meals are being stored at Golden Goal's freezers in Fort Ann.

The Incident Management Team determines when we can restart congregate and event meals again.

The following feedback was given - Gerald shared, "Washington County has the best system for home delivered meals". Dolores inquired about the availability of the restaurant dining tickets.

- **New York State Local Plan** (Annual Update) – the state still has not posted any information for submission access. When we can access, the annual update will include the following:
 - Opening home delivered meals to caregivers of all ages serving individuals age 60 and over.
 - Ancillary services (example: repairs, assisted devices) will be suspended. LEAP terminated our contract because they no longer have handy man services. We are using the allocation of unmet needs funds for our Personal Care wait list.
 - We learned that when staff were calling consumers to check on them during the shutdown, consumers were struggling with isolation. We found that people with no support wanted us to continue to call and check on them. We now provide telephone reassurance to those consumers through our In-home Contact and Support program.
- **NYSOFA Senior of the Year**- We are collecting nominations for our 2022 state Seniors of the Year. Even if you have submitted a nomination in the past, and they didn't receive the award, you can re-submit the nomination. We only received 2 nominations for 2021. The nominees were Joan Degener and Terry Barber, both from Fort Ann, New York.

The state is postponing the virtual celebration in May and looking to do something in the fall. Hopefully, it will be in person.

- **Budget** – the last update included a 20% cut in OFA programs. A few weeks later the governor removed the cuts for OFA programs. We have been operating well within our budget. We have been using stimulus funds first then our regular allocated funds. We have been helping the county operated vaccine pods and assisting with the vaccine help line to register people without the internet. We have approximately 400 + on the standby list. We are also working with Hudson Headwaters and linking people to their clinics. Eventually, we will have more options for vaccine locations.

Action Items

- We vote each year for the Advisory Council officers. A motion was made by Sandy to suspend the vote for officers due to lack of quorum, Gerald, seconded the motion.

Recent/Upcoming Activities

Recent Events:

- The companion pet initiative has benefited a few people. We have a small supply of companion pet., If you know someone that could benefit from a robotic pet, please contact our office.

Upcoming Events:

- Public events have been suspended.

Open

- Gerald asked about tax services. Gerald was given the phone number for VITA through United Way. 1-800-211-5128.
- Max shared: the Kingsbury/Ft. Edward Senior Center re-opened today with limited activities. They are excited to be reopening and will do a small lunch program with limited people on Tuesdays consisting of soup and sandwiches with to-go meals available.

- We are facilitating a free caregiver training called “Powerful Tools for Caregivers”. It starts on April 5th. The training is virtual and will be held from 1pm to 3pm on Mondays. A total of 8-12 participants are needed.
 - Gina, Liz and Peggy will be doing a live Facebook interview with the Director of NYSOFA and the Director of NY Aging on March 4th. They will focus on how the home delivered meals is more than just a meal and the various scenarios we have come across over the years.
 - Gina shared her experience with the vaccine.
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Next Meeting

Date | time: Monday, June 7, 2021 at 10:00am, **Location:** Via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81942148128?pwd=cXhENW81RzEvU0lQbnZDNTlqL0FwZz09>

Meeting ID: 819 4214 8128

Passcode: 117847

A motion to adjourn was made and was passed unanimously.