

WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICE FOR AGING

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date / time September 13, 2021 10:00am via Zoom | Meeting called to order by Max McDonnell

In Attendance

Pat Provost, Max McDonnell, Gretchen Stark, Debbie Mumblo, Dolores Mullen, Kristen Hardy, Stacey Barcomb, Mindy Dudley and Gina Cantanucci-Mitchell.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting called to order and minutes approved.

Staffing & Advisory Council Member Updates

- The Chairman revised the guidelines for in person meetings.
 - Elizabeth Stowhas has filled the vacant caseworker position that was vacated by Stacey Barcomb.
 - Stephanie Ball, Training and Resource Development Coordinator and the supervisor for our Call Center, retired in August and her position was filled by Stephanie Raney.
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Program Updates

- **County Budget** – We received \$85,000 from the state for unmet needs funds. The money will be used for people on the waiting lists and home care services. Home care agencies are struggling to fill home care aid positions.
We are also looking to explore transportation options for older adult services. We contract with LEAP and it is on a first come first serve basis. Gina has investigated other options; she has explored the Go-Go Grandparents and Uplift programs. Uplift is a voucher program utilizing local taxi companies, currently they are no longer operating due to funding and were asked to share their model behind the program.
 - **World Elder Abuse Awareness**- Suzanne Cody presented information about World Elder Abuse Awareness day (WEAAD) that is in June. WEAAD is to bring awareness because it can happen anywhere to anyone. Every year 1 in 10 are victims of elder abuse. If you suspect someone is a victim of elder abuse, anonymous reports can be made to (518) 746-2578. The process is anonymous and confidential. Additional information about WEAAD is attached to the minutes.
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Action Items

- We vote each year for the Advisory Council officers. A motion was made by Max McDonnell to suspend the vote for officers due to lack of quorum. A quorum constitutes 9 voting members.

Recent/Upcoming Activities

Recent Events:

- **Nutrition Program** – Stacey Barcomb oversees our Nutrition Program. We restarted the operations of our meal sites in July. Due to Covid rates increasing, Chairman Hall has suspended in person gatherings. Kingsbury/Fort Edward Center and Cambridge site are independent contractors and will continue to run. Whitehall meal site is suspended until further notice. If you know of anyone in Whitehall who is struggling with food resources, have them reach out to our office.

Upcoming Events:

- Public events are currently suspended.
- Usually, we have our Fall Festival in the fall but that is suspended as well. Our office still provides health insurance counseling.

Open

- Get Set Up is a program offered through the state and offers various online classes for 60 and over. There is still licenses available for anyone that is interested in online classes.
 - We are still collecting nominations for the 2022 State Senior of the Year recognition. The deadline for submissions is November 19, 2021.
 - Max shared: the Kingsbury/Ft. Edward Senior Center continues to be open. They have had a great attendance and the folks are enjoying it. They continue with safety protocol precautions. Tomorrow at 2:00 pm, there will be their ukulele orchestra at the Little Theater on the Farm. On Sunday, September 26, 2021 from noon to 4:00pm they will have a Moby Dick's Fish Fry fundraiser with curbside pick-up only. The center also hosts the Mobil Market, a community program, on Thursday's and it has been very successful.
 - The 2022 event dates are still to be determined due to suspensions.
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Next Meeting

Date | time: Monday, December 6, 2021 at 10:00am, **Location:** To Be Determined

A motion to adjourn was made and was passed unanimously.