

WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICE FOR AGING

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date | time September 9, 2019 10:00am | Meeting called to order by Max McDonnell

In Attendance

Sandra Lufkin, Max McDonnell, Margot Taylor, Gretchen Stark, Gerald Foelsch, Susan Perry, Alice Coldwell, Sharon Dunn, Pat Provost, Jodie Smith, Patty Hunt, Fran Carlson, Craig Phalen, Mindy Dudley and Gina Cantanucci-Mitchell.

Approval of Minutes

June 3, 2019 Minutes approved.

Staffing & Advisory Council Member Updates

- Shane Hogan was chosen as Suzanne Cody's replacement as Caseworker.
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Program Updates

- Gina shared, 15 million dollars was added to the Governor's budget for un-met needs. Each county received a different amount. Washington County has 22 people on a waiting list. Washington County received 56,000 of the 15 million. We now have 42 people on a waiting list adding in ancillary services. It can also be used for ramps, replacing faucets, snow removal, etc. It would also include assistance items such as special phones and air conditioners. We have until March 31st to spend the money or we will not receive it in future years.
- Our annual Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, October 11th at the American Legion in Hudson Falls. If anyone is interested in staying for lunch, tickets are available at our office. Gina passed out a summary for the upcoming Public Hearing and reviewed the information. The feedback from the Public Hearing is also used in our four-year plan.
- To meet federal regulations, we need to seek contributions for programs. The Advisory Council votes on the suggested contributions. Gina asked the members for a suggested contribution for our evidence-based programs – Tai Chi and Savvy Caregiver. Two amounts were suggested, and a vote took place. It was voted that the suggested contribution be \$5.00 per session.
- Medicare open enrollment is October 15th through December 7th. We don't know the changes to the plans for 2020 until the day before open enrollment. Last year we tracked the savings and it was thousands of dollars. Last year during open enrollment, we were extremely busy. All the insurance companies will be at our Fall Festival on Friday, October 4th.
- A summary of the Farmer's Market Coupon program was passed out and reviewed. Each book contains \$20.00. Any un-used books are returned to the state.
- Craig Phalen spoke about September being Falls Prevention month. A schedule of Pop Up events planned all over the county was handed out to everyone.

Recent/Upcoming Activities

Recent Events:

- On July 12th our annual picnic was held at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Easton and 320 individuals were in attendance. Gina received feedback for more benches at game area, food options, and different entertainment; line dancing has been done too many times.
- Recent Pop Up events were discussed.

Upcoming Events:

- New York State will be at our office two days this week for our onsite nutrition evaluation.
- In November, New York State will be doing our evaluation on all our programs.
- Friday, October 4th is the Fall Festival at the Kingsbury Firehouse in Hudson Falls. We partner with the Council of Seniors and it has expanded over the years.
- Thursday, October 11th is our annual Public Hearing and Council of Seniors luncheon at the American Legion on Pearl Street in Hudson Falls. Due to a location change, the day of the week has changed for this luncheon.

Open

- Kingsbury/Fort Edward seniors are hosting a lunch cruise on Lake George with around 80 people in attendance.

Next Meeting

Date | time: Monday, December 2, 2019 at 10:00am, **Location:** Washington County Municipal Building, entrance B – upstairs classroom on 383 Broadway in Fort Edward, New York.

A motion to adjourn was made and was passed unanimously.