

Broome County Office for Aging
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2024

In attendance: Amy Pessarchick, Carolyn Price, Sue Thrasher, Rene Conklin, Maria Motsavage, Robert Hoover, Sally Hoffman, Kathy Bunnell, Carolyn Price

OFA Staff: Mary Turbush, Lucia Esposito

Carolyn asked for a vote to approve minutes from the last meeting. Motion made by Rene Conklin and second motion made by Sally Hoffman. Noone opposed.

Mary asked if anyone had questions about the Director's report shared with everyone via email.

Carolyn asked about additional funding for transportation in rural areas and lack of internet in rural areas.

Director's Report:

- Mary shared that we will continue to fund transportation services through Getthere with unmet needs funding.
- Mary also shared that there are several expanded respite options now available to local Caregivers. This includes a short term respite stay (min of 2 weeks) at Willow Point NH. OFA is looking at other local NH to contract with for short term respite. There are several day respite options that recently opened up at local churches. All of this is listed in the Senior News for review.
- OFA was able to RFB for clean outs and laundry contracts. We are able to pay for clean out services for OFA clients who live in hoarded situations. This will also be available for laundry services for OFA clients unable to do their own laundry.
- Still working on piloting collaborations with medical providers and using OFA caseworkers to provide community-based services. This will demonstrate the value of OFA and how it can support the medical providers. We had 11 cases so far with Endwell Family Physicians office. This project is going really well.
- The volunteer recognition dinner is coming up in September and will be held at the Binghamton Club.

Advisory Council Member update:

- Major Barnett will be resigning from the Advisory Council.
- Kathy Bunnell and Carolyn Price's term expire at the end of December.
- We have room to add new members.
- We received applications from Dr. Kang and Dr. Lee who served on the council previously and took a year break. The third application is for Sandy Sanzo who retired from DSS and is very active volunteering in the community.

- Vote on Dr. Kang: all members in favor and no one opposed.
- Vote on Dr. Lee: all members in favor and no one opposed.
- Vote on Sandy Sanzo: all members in favor and no one opposed.

Updates from Council Members:

- Robert Hoover: still running the LGBTQ older adults group. Annie DePugh came back to talk about the projects she is working at UHS (equity and gender affirmation initiatives). In July we had a speaker about suicide prevention from the BC Mental Health department. In August we were supposed to have Sheriff Akshar but he couldn't make it. Robert was able to email Donna Lupardo's office and Donna came as a speaker last minute. Sheriff Akshar is coming in September. In October it will be Deb Kerins, in November Mary will present to the group. December meeting will be called Winter Fest.
- Amy Pessarchick – Camp Hope for Kids had 27 kids. Bereavement groups are going well and are full.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Next Meeting: 12/9/24-Annual Meeting with a hot lunch