

Office for Aging Advisory Council

Minutes

April 14, 2025

In attendance: Sandy Sanzo, Rene Conklin, Maria Motsavage, John Kang, Suzanne Sullivan, Sue Thrasher, Robert Hoover, Youjung Lee, Jerry Willard, Amy Pessarchick, Sally Hoffman

OFA staff: Mary Turbush, Lucia Esposito

Motion made by Rene and second motion by Sandy to approve previous meeting's minutes.

Director's Report:

- Senior to Senior Dances is scheduled for the month of May at the Broome West Senior Center and JC Senior Center
- We are hosting intergenerational games at centers
- New system called Nex is available to replace the Wii. We are in the process of purchasing this system for the centers
- Easing all site supervisors into My Senior Center Program that allows participants to check in electronically. This will be funded through a grant OFA received. All participants now sign in on paper. Participants will have a key tag to sign in, schedule meals and sign in for activities.
- FGP, we have not heard about any funding cuts.
- CASP: funding ends April 30, 2025, but we will be able to continue this program with unmet needs funding. We have a caseworker and OFA Nurse to provide CM services and supports to clients referred from Endwell Family Physicians. Many of these clients have complex needs including medical needs. OFA staff collaborate work with Endwell Family Physicians on providing services to improve social determinants of health.
- OFA is exploring contracting with UHS for mental health evaluations in the home, connections to mental health services and utilization of their Peer Bridgers.
- OFA 4 Year plan is not approved by NYSOFA yet. We submitted our last corrections and waiting for final approval.
- Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15th. We are setting up an event to celebrate this day. There will be activities at Broome West Senior center and a press conference. This will be on June 4th. The theme is Joyful Aging. 10-noon there will be different tables set up. There will be activities: therapy dogs, drumming etc. There will be a scam presentation by the DA. Flex and Fuel Bingo that will demonstrate healthy eating and exercise while playing Bingo.
- Older New Yorkers Day will be in Albany: Carolyn Price and Lois Root.
- We received more unmet needs funding for 2025/2026. We will continue to fund some projects we started with the last round of money: laundry, clean outs, transportation, leisure time activity leader to do respite, respite care in nursing homes, Memory Maker activities at senior centers etc. New service will be extermination services for those who own their homes. This will focus on clients who need in home services but can get them due to bug or critter infestations.

Updates from members:

- Robert: the LGBTQ group is growing; we have had great speakers.
- Jerry Willard: Vestal Chateau is completed and fully occupied; more housing to be built on Clinton Street and more housing to be fixed up on Front Street. Access to Home: grants are available to homeowners who need modifications.
- Suzanne: Attended emergency planning meeting helping residents prepare for emergencies.
- Amy: bereavement groups are ongoing; Camp Hope for kids is in August.

Next meeting:

- June 9, 2025