# **St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging (OFA)**

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **November 5, 2018**

**Meeting called to order:** 10:00 AM by Patrick Rourk, Chairman

**Present:** *(voting members):* Roger Bennett, Linda Wilkinson, Patrick Rourk, Russ Backus

 Gail Teele, Bob Mead, Kathy Skelly, Larry Denesha

**Present:** *(non-voting members):* Vicki Clark, Michael Boprey, Barb McBurnie

 Brenda Sanderson, Chiara Delosh, Andrea Montgomery

**Present:** *(New Members/Pending BOL approval)*

**Excused**: Gail Bisonette, Frank Carter, Peg Walrich

**Absent:**

**Public Attending:** Patti Beckman

**Meeting Location:** Clifton Fine Community Center

**♦Introductions:** Meeting brought to order by P. Rourk. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Reflection. Welcome and introductions.

**♦Guest Speaker –** no speaker

**♦Public Comment** – no public comments

♦**Approval/Minutes** – motion to approve minutes by R. Bennett, seconded by K. Skelly, all in favor.

#  Motion passed.

♦**Correspondence** *(L. Wilkinson)* – Sent out thank you card to Carrie Conger for being a guest speaker at the September meeting.

**♦Old Business**– no old business

**♦New Business** –

**County Council of Senior Citizens Report** *(Brenda Sanderson)* In the process for finding a slate of officers for next year.

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report** *(Barb McBurnie)* Attended a conference in Saratoga Springs last month. Statewide is looking at NY State single payer health care. There will be a large grant coming in for Senior Medicare Patrol. There will be volunteers that will help prevent and stop Medicare fraud through this program. Individuals that are looking to volunteer will need a brief screening beforehand. The next meeting will be the first Thursday of the month at the Lobster House. At this meeting they will be doing elections. The dues that you pay for your membership will cover the whole year. If you want to renew or sign up for a membership, the payment is due at the end of the year.

**Veterans Services Report** *(Mike Boprey)* VA pensions in the pass weren’t based on net asset. Income driven needs based pension is changing how things are going with pensions. Veteran’s that qualify for the pension will receive help with supplement medical bills. He encourages veterans to go and see him regarding questions.

**Public Health Report** – *(Dana McGuire)* A. Montgomery gave the report in D. McGuire absence. The Walk with a Doc was held on October 27 @ 10 A.M. at the Ogdensburg Maple Trail. Walk with a Doc continues to gain momentum. Walks range from ½ mile to 2 miles. Rest stops and refreshments are available while interacting with our ‘Docs’! The next Walk with a Doc is November 24 @ 10 A.M. The Public Health Department has been awarded $75,000 to work on the opioid crisis. Currently putting together the work plan and budget. Our main strategies will be to increase providers offering Medication Assisted Treatment (or MAT) to assist those with addiction safely, reduce their use, and perform a county wide assessment to learn what is being done, what interventions and resources are available, and what is needed. Flu season is here. Please get your flu shot. November lunch and learn will be held on November 14. The topic this month is Diabetes Awareness. Please stay tuned and let us know if you’d like to receive notices of education.

**County Legislator’s Report** *(Larry Denesha)* This evening is the public hearing for the budget @ 5:30. Taxes will go down again for a second year in a row. This is the first time in 11 years not having to borrow money. At the Services Committee Meeting A. Montgomery spoke about needing a van for HDM runs. He called David Blevins regarding needing a van and David will get a good used van to donate for the HDM runs.

**AARP Report**- *(Peg Walrich)* V. Clark gave the report in P. Walrich absence. They have met 3 out of the 4 goals for this year. The last goal they are trying to meet is raising finances 50%. They were awarded $700 out of $1,000 for the Community Outreach Program. This year they have done 10 lunches with presentations and 9 open to the community free presentations. The last presentation was in October and it was regarding the impact of 2017 tax law under 2018 tax return. The town of Potsdam is in the middle of a 6-8 month process to create a 5 year comprehensive plan. There are posters at the town hall until November 27 if you are interested.

**Office for the Aging Report** *(Andrea Montgomery)*

* Tomorrow, November 6, is Election Day.
* We are no longer fully staff. Nutrition Services Aid went to county jail, and our Advocate worker went to town clerk’s office. We are hiring for these two positions.
* In this month’s Mature Living on page 4, we have listed the Friendship Volunteer Program. This program extends friendship and companionship to older adults living in their own homes or other independent living communities in Colton, Pierrepont, Parishville and South Colton. Volunteers help the elderly with almost anything one friend might do for another.
* Holiday baskets donations are due by the end of this week. Last year we were able to give away 100 baskets.
* Nutrition is expanding bout 25%, and we are looking for it to expand another 30-35%. Due to this growth we are spending more money on nutrition. Home delivered meals are up 16,000 since last year. Congregate dining is going down in certain sites. Gouverneur site is doing well. We encourage individuals to come out for congregate meals.
* HEAP season begins November 13.
* Open enrollment for Medicare is going on right now. If you want to make a change to your plan, now is the time to do it.
* Annual update for funding with NYSOFA is that we need more money for the state budget.
* Political representatives have been coming to the Long Term Care Council meetings.

**♦Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by R. Bennett, seconded by R. Backus, all in favor.

 P. Rourk adjourned meeting at 11:00 AM.

**♦Next Meeting** – February 11, 2019, Human Services Center, Canton: 2nd Floor Conference Room at 10 AM

*(Minutes respectfully submitted by Chiara Delosh)*