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

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **June 10, 2019**

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

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

Gail Bisonette, Gail Teele, Kathy Skelly, Frank Carter

**Present:** *(non-voting members):* Chiara Delosh, Cindy Ayer, Christiana DeForge, Peg Walrich

Dana McGuire, Brenda Sanderson

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

**Excused**: Larry Denesha, Bob Mead, Andrea Montgomery, Michael Boprey, Barb McBurnie, Carlton Doane

**Absent:**

**Public Attending:** Vicki Clark

**Meeting Location:** Human Services Building

**♦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. Backus, seconded by K. Skelly, all in favor.

# Motion passed.

♦**Correspondence** *(Linda Wilkinson)* – No report.

**♦Old Business**– no old business

**♦New Business** –

**County Council of Senior Citizens Report** *(Brenda Sanderson)* Brenda is planning the Senior Annual Picnic on July 12th at the Gouverneur Community Center. There will be a band and bingo at this event. Brenda is hoping that the nursing home will be able to transport individuals to the event like how they did last year. The lunch menu for the picnic is BBQ Beef Brisket, Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans, Broccoli Salad and Blueberry Cobbler. The next meeting is this Thursday, and Jerry Manor from Seacomm Federal Credit Union will be speaking about scams. County Council meets the second Thursday of every month at 10 AM.

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report (***Barb McBurnie)* L. Wilkinson reminded everyone that Seniorama is on August 12 from 10 AM – 3 PM at the Akwaseasne Mohawk Casino.

**Veterans Services Report** *(Mike Boprey)* P. Rourke gave the report in M. Boprey’s absence. Blue Water Navy are Veterans that were stationed on ships 12 miles away from Vietnam. People weren’t covered by the VA for Agent Orange and the result of this was a significant number of losses. The Navy ship would suck in water from the Ocean and change it from salt water to drinking water, bath water, and to wash clothes. The U.S. Government sprayed about 12 million gallons of Agent Orange over the country. When the Navy ships would suck in the water, they would suck in the Agent Orange chemical too. A significant number of Navy Veterans sued the VA and the U.S. Government. Either they won or the VA won going through each level. Veterans finally prevailed at the 10th Circuit Court. This means 800,000 people were affected by this or could be affected. If you were in the Navy and think you could have a hiccup, file a claim. When P. Rourke was Director of Veteran Services he received a call from a client saying he received 2 checks in the mail and thought that the checks were a scam. The client filed a claim in 1992 due to a heart ailment from the Agent Orange chemical. This was the result of him filing a claim.

**Public Health Report** – *(Dana McGuire)* Lead Surveys are at the Nutrition Centers. These surveys are trying to see individual’s knowledge about Lead. Narcan training will be held this summer at local libraries. Opioid task force meets this Friday at Best Western.

**County Legislator’s Report** *(Larry Denesha)* No Report

**AARP Report**- *(Peg Walrich)* This Saturday, June 15, there will be a tour at the Donaldson Seymour Funeral Home in Potsdam from 1 PM – 3 PM. Next Tuesday, June 18, there will be a luncheon at the West Potsdam Fire Hall @ 11:45 AM. To RSVP for this luncheon please call 315-265-6705. Becky Allen from Gardenshare will be presenting. The cost will be $12 for the luncheon. V. Clark stated that AARP has a Livable Communities Committee and they just had a meeting with the Potsdam Planning Board. There is 1 in 3 Americans that are 50 or older. In 2030 there will be 1 in 5 Americans that will be 65 or older. In 2035 there will be more individuals over the age of 65 in the U.S. then there will be of individuals that are under the age of 18. NY State is identified by AARP as the first age friendly state. There will be substantial changes on how things are addressed in townships, villages, organizations, agencies, etc. This will be a driving force of what NY State will expect individuals to fit in their matrix and their mandate. NY State just recently posted a mandate of health services that must be provided to seniors. OFA will be very busy.

**Office for the Aging Report** *(Andrea Montgomery)* Cindy Ayer gave the report in A. Montgomery absence.

* At tonight’s Services Meeting, Andrea will present a resolution to hire a Nutrition Services Aide. This position is vacant due to a promotion of Paul Trombley, to Nutrition Services Assistant. The base location of this position will be at the Gouverneur Nutrition Center.
* Plans are in the works for the Annual Senior Picnic – which will be held at the Gouverneur Community Center on July 12th. The event goes from 9 AM – 2:30 PM. Music by Marty Robinson will be at 1 PM. Lunch is served at 12 PM. There is free bingo from 10 AM – 11:30 AM. We hope you will all join us!
* The 4 Year Needs Assessment Survey is almost completed and will be sent to print this week. We plan to have an online survey this year; as well. Andrea will forward you all the survey as soon as it is done. We hope to have the surveys in by August and will have results presented to you all at the November meeting.
* Andrea will use the results of the 4 Year Needs Assessment Survey to complete the 4 Year Plan which is due in December.
* There will be 3 audits this year from the New York State Office for the Aging – A Fiscal Audit in August, a Nutrition Audit in August, and the regular Annual Evaluation in September.
* Andrea and John are working now on the 2020 Office for the Aging County budget. It is due to the Board office by mid-July.
* We are already planning for Medicare Open Enrollment which begins October 15th. This year, we plan to hold more Medicare 101 information sessions; as well as workshops to train clients on how to use Medicare.gov.
* We recently had a staff member trained in Tai Chi for Arthritis to expand our health promotion offerings. We are still contracting with Cornell Cooperative Extension to provide this class; as well as Walk with Ease.
* If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email Andrea.

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

P. Rourk adjourned meeting at 10:21 AM.

**♦Next Meeting** – September 9, 2019, Human Services Center, Canton: 2nd Floor Conference Room at 10 AM

*(Minutes respectfully submitted by Chiara Delosh)*