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

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **April 8, 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, Bob Mead

**Present:** *(non-voting members):* Barb McBurnie, Chiara Delosh, Andrea Montgomery, Peg Walrich

Dana McGuire, Michael Boprey

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

**Excused**: Gail Teele, Larry Denesha, Brenda Sanderson, Kathy Skelly

**Absent:** Frank Carter, Carlton Doane

**Public Attending:** Myrtle Regan, Christiana DeForge

**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. Bennett, seconded by R. Backus, all in favor.

# Motion passed.

♦**Correspondence** *(Linda Wilkinson)* – Sent a card to Bob Mead and sent a care wish to Larry Denesha.

**♦Old Business**– no old business

**♦New Business** –

**County Council of Senior Citizens Report** *(Brenda Sanderson)* No Report

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report (***Barb McBurnie)* Had a Statewide meeting this month at the Best Western. The next Statewide meeting will be the first Thursday in May and June and that will be held at Best Western. On April 23 there will be a telephone teach. May 14 is the Grass Roots Action Day with local representatives. The bus will be leaving at 5:30 AM from the Price Chopper parking lot. There is no cost to the individual and lunch will be provided. The Statewide Senior Action Council will be advocating safe staffing in nursing homes and hospitals at this event. There aren’t enough people in these places to care for the patients. Call Barb at 315-261-2980 to pre-register to go to Albany, or get a hold of Statewide to pre-register so they have a head count of individuals that will be attending.

**Veterans Services Report** *(Mike Boprey)* Court decision has granted veteran benefits to Blue Water Veterans. Spread the word about this. Pension is life or death for people needing home health care. P. Rourk stated that the VA has published a community care regulations. There are stipends through the VA for caregivers. Also, veterans are going to be allowed to go to Urgent Care. The first two visits are free, and then the third one is $30 copay.

**Public Health Report** – *(Dana McGuire)* There is going to be a Chasing the Dragon event held at Clarkson tomorrow from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM. “Chasing the Dragon” is a documentary film depicting both the harsh reality of opioid addiction and the path toward addiction. There will be a panel discussion after the video on the Opioid Epidemic. There is going to be a task force meeting held this Friday at the Best Western. This month is STD Awareness Month, and there are a lot of awareness activities going on this month. National Small Infant Awareness is this month. Get the whopping cough shot if you are going to be around infants. Hoping to bring the lead survey to the nutrition centers. There is going to be community opioid forums in Massena and Canton regarding the barriers and gaps in the community for opioid treatment access, recovery, and prevention in St. Lawrence County. To register for these forums call 315-755-2020 ext. 13. Dana has information regarding Hepatitis C and the Baby Boomer population. If you haven’t been tested for Hepatitis C, you should be.

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

**AARP Report**- *(Peg Walrich)* AARP is an advocacy group to inform and educate the elders. There will be a luncheon next week at the Potsdam Town Hall @ 11:30 AM. This luncheon will be talking about a college student that is living at Maplewood. April 24 is donate life month. There will be guest speakers talking about organ and tissue donations at the Potsdam Town Hall. On May 8 Nancy Green will be talking about Medicare. In June there will be a discussion and tour of the Donaldson Funeral home in Potsdam. All the events are free and open to the public. There was a flyer that was passed out regarding of getting a hold of the Governor and State Legislators on family caregivers needing more support.

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

* Still hiring for temporary Nutrition Aid.
* Received permission to hire a Nutrition Services Assistant at the Gouverneur Nutrition Site.
* Classes going on for Tai Chi in Morristown right now.
* Computer classes at the Canton Boces are going on right now for tablets and smartphones.
* Cindy Ayer is going at the end of this month to be trained for Tai Chi. Tai Chi is a low impact exercise that is good for balance.
* May is Older Americans month.
* May Festival is on May 3, 11:30 AM – 7:30 PM, at the Pierrepont Fire hall. From 11:30 AM – 4:30 PM the event is free. The Senior Awards dinner will be at 5:00 PM. The tickets for the dinner have to be bought in advance.
* Will be going to Albany to honor Older Americans. Will be leaving about 5:00 AM and won’t be returning until 9:00 – 10:00 PM.
* Volunteer Appreciation Reception will be this Wednesday.
* Looking at using Renzi as a food supplier. Looking for next year to keep our food quality the same but cut the cost.
* About 30 new clients a month sometimes 40 a month for home delivered meals.
* Great partnership with Boces in Norwood. We buy bulk product and Boces makes the baked goods for Potsdam Nutrition Site.
* Looking to do a 4 year needs assessment survey.
* 2020-2024 4 year plan for local OFA.
* In the NY State budget there were increases this year. The last few years have been staggering. HIICAP is an area that is frustrating when it comes to funding. We are planning internally for Nancy’s retirement. We will be having one of our staff members training with Nancy once a week.
* We have a new member, Andrea Smith, and hopefully she will be talking at our next meeting.
* There is a Social Security scam that is going around. There have been a lot of phone calls from individuals saying that they are receiving a call from Social Security telling them that they need to pay for Social Security. Social Security won’t call the individual, they will send out letters regarding things.
* Robotic pets continue to go well with our clients. We received two dogs and two cats.

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

P. Rourk adjourned meeting at 11:00 AM.

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

*(Minutes respectfully submitted by Chiara Delosh)*