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

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **September 9, 2019**

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

**Present:** *(voting members):* Patrick Rourk, Roger Bennett, Linda Wilkinson, Bob Mead

Gail Bisonette, Gail Teele, Larry Denesha, Carlton Doane

**Present:** *(non-voting members):* Chiara Delosh, Christiana DeForge, Andrea Montgomery

Dana McGuire, Brenda Sanderson, Michael Boprey, Barb McBurnie

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

**Excused**: Peg Walrich, Kathy Skelly, Russ Backus

**Absent:**

**Public Attending:** Vicki Clark, Kay DePerno, Myrtle Regan

**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 –** A. Montgomery introduced speaker, Kasey Stewart from Catholic Charities. She has just been recently hired to start an Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Team Initiative in all of the North Country, and what that means is getting lots of individuals together who want to combat elder abuse. She already has 3 teams going which are located in Clinton, Essex and Franklin County, and the reason she is at the meeting is to engage us to see if we would want to be part of the meetings. A handout was given to everyone at the meeting. She is what is called a coordinator. She has been hired to help organize different groups of people all to a common goal. She is from Plattsburgh and she just recently got her doctorate in Illinois and part of her expertise is working with different groups with many disciplines. What she would like to start in our county is a NDT and she would love people to approach her about this. She has been given grant money from the Department of Justice who has given that money to NY State and a group called Lifespan in Rochester to fund this initiative. She is here to try to get members from APS and from OFA to help stop domestic violence. Definitely anyone from law enforcement and hospitals can join, so they can come together towards this common goal. She has means to pay for forensic accountants and civil attorneys. Also, she has the means to pay for geriatric psychiatrist, so if you have someone who you feel has been taken advantage of and need to get them assessed, it is no cost to that person. She passed out cards with her name and phone number on them to the group. Anyone has any questions she will answer them. This is a new initiative. This is still developing and one of these teams will be helping to create it. She is here to help facilitate and organize groups to help stop elder abuse.

**♦Public Comment** – No public comments

♦**Approval/Minutes** – motion to approve minutes by R. Bennett, seconded by B. Mead, 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)* Hasn’t had a meeting since July. Senior Picnic in July was successful. It was held at the Gouverneur Community Center. Registration was over 200. Three of the nursing homes sent clients. Will be starting up first meeting in September.

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report (***Barb McBurnie)* Had a very successful Seniorama in August. Had about 450 people there between the vendors and individuals that were registered. It was about 50 more people there this year than last year. She is still trying to get a prize to an individual that lives in Plattsburgh. Had a raffle draw and did have a winner from the Rochester area. Went to the Bassmasters this year and sold about $500 worth in dollar tickets. Had a meeting in September and Olivia from, Watertown Association of Visually Impaired, was the guest speaker. There is a convention in October and it looks like there will be 13-14 people from this county that will be going. The next meeting will be the first Thursday in October.

**Veterans Services Report** *(Mike Boprey)* There is an increased need for advanced healthcare as we get older. Financial need due to increase care cost. If anyone has a need refer to Veterans. D. McGuire asked about veteran clients that need modifications to homes if they need to call his office and Mike said yes. They have to submit the form for the modifications first to get it approved through the VA.

**Public Health Report** – *(Dana McGuire)* This Friday there will be a Task Force meeting @ 10 AM. Will be talking about the event that was held two weeks ago in Waddington. Had a very diverse population that came to the event. The speaker that came had a nice presentation, and stayed afterwards to talk to individuals. They are just starting the second year of the grant that will be focusing on working with school and law enforcement. They are trying to get an application called ODMAP, so they can map out where the overdoses have been happening. They continue to work on the Lead Grant. They are still trying to get some surveys back from the schools. If you know of any groups that would like some education regarding lead that is what they will be doing over the next year. She has a lot of things that are going on particularly with the hardware stores. They have paint stirrers that has their phone number on them. They are trying to do some partnerships with them, so when people do their home changes they have some kind of education. High in vaccination season make sure all kids have them. Kids have 14 days after school starts to get vaccinated. Will be doing flu shots in the office, but the shots aren’t out yet. September is Awareness to Prepare for Emergencies.

**County Legislator’s Report** *(Larry Denesha)* On August 14th there was a picnic at the Waddington Pavilion for Veterans in St. Lawrence County that were in nursing homes. Had about 52 veterans at the picnic. The State mandated early voting for this year. Voting will be on Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, November 3, and will be held at the Board of Elections. It’s going to be very difficult and expensive to accomplish this in St. Lawrence County. At the August meeting the 2018 audit results for finances for the county showed that there were no findings.

**AARP Report**- *(Peg Walrich)* V. Clark gave the report in P. Walrich absence. AARP has held a Board Meeting every month (January through December), offered seven FREE open-to-the broader population Community Outreach Programs led by professionals, held nine luncheons with presenters, received their second grant from the National Office, and nearly doubled their membership since January. Upcoming events include and require an RSVP to Karen at 315-265-6705: 9/10/19 National Day of Service in honor of firefighters, rescue squads and law enforcement; 10/15/19 Luncheon (catered $12 or bring your own) from 11:45 to 1:30 at the Potsdam Town Hall Community Room. A Commissioner front of Board of Elections will present Election Security (why we don’t have to worry about being hacked); 11/8/19 in partnership with CPH and Alzheimer’s Awareness Month. Presentation titled Know the 10 Signs can Create Healthy Living for your Body and Mind! and 11/12/19 Luncheon (catered $13 or bring your own) 11:45 to 1:30 at the Potsdam Town Hall Community Room. We are recognizing Native American Heritage Month.

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

* Will have the results in November for the 4 Year Need Assessment Survey.
* Had a Nutrition Audit last month. Also, individuals that are receiving HDM is going up.
* Have Annual Evaluation and Fiscal Audit this month.
* Hired permanent Nutrition Aide in Gouverneur.
* 2020 Budget has been submitted.
* Put in a request for additional vehicles for HDM.
* Cyber Seniors starts 9/26. If you have any questions please contact Christiana DeForge at the office.
* Medicare 101 session will be held on 9/12 @ 10:00. The presentation will be held at the Gouverneur Community Center. Also, Cindy Ayer will be going to a HIICAP training this week.
* Eat Smart Program is being held at our nutrition sites right now.
* Cindy Ayer is trained in Tai Chi in Arthritis and is finishing up a class in Hermon.

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

P. Rourk adjourned meeting at 11:16 AM.

**♦Next Meeting** – November 4, 2019, Human Services Center, Canton: 2nd Floor Conference Room at 10 AM

*(Minutes respectfully submitted by Chiara Delosh)*