



# DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

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**Director:** Wayne Shepard



**NY Connects**  
Your Link to Long Term  
Services and Supports

## Delaware County Office for the Aging Advisory Board Meeting February 27, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Chair W. Outsen at 1:15 pm.

### ➤ Attendance, Greetings/ Regrets

- Present: Joe Cetta, Betty Scott, Steve Finkle, Heather Warner, Terri Tweedie, Lyndsay Komosinski, Peg Hilson, Carol Allen, Tina Mole', Lara Yambor, Wayne Shepard, Will Ousten, Eric Wilson, Ann-lis Glenn, Wayne Marshfield, Jessica Baldi, Shirley Niebank, Robert Henault, Art Merrill, Charlie Piper, Wayne Marshfield, Jamie O'Donnell.
- Absent: Frank Bachelor, David Truscott

#### Introduction:

- Ann- Lis Glenn, Coordinator of O'Connor Center for Community Engagement at SUNY Delhi. She is replacing Michelle DeFreece

#### Regrets:

- Charlie Piper
- Bette Lou Scott
- David Truscott
- Jessica Baldi
- Jamie O'Donnell
- Frank Bachelor
- Heather Warner

### ➤ **Reappoint all 10 OFA appointed members for another two year term ending 12/31/2024:**

These 11 were reappointed for another two year term with a motion by Art and a second by Shirley Niebank. - Carol Allen, Frank Bachler, Steve Finkel, Jessica Baldi, Will Outsen, Charles Piper, Heather Warner, Ann-lis Glenn, David Truscott, and Lara Yambor.

### ➤ Approved October 24, 2022 meeting minutes with a motion by Bob H. and second by Carol A.

### ➤ Personnel

- Assistant to Director of OFA- Joanne Sampson 1/9/23
- NY Connects Specialist Position- Victoria Ladlee to fill position on 3/6/23. She transferred in from DSS.

### ➤ Programs & Services

- EISEP – Expanded in home services for the elderly.
  - Currently 20 active clients receiving EISEP care.
  - Currently 17 clients on waiting list for EISEP services.
  - Possibly lose approximately 13 clients due to changes in Medicaid income guideline requirements. They would be referred to Office of Long-Term Care (OLTC).
  - Consumer Directed- Goal is to have up and available in 2023.
  - Committee meeting scheduled first meeting on Tuesday, 3/14.
  - Committee consist of Terri Tweedie, Lyndsay Komosinski, and Wayne Shepard.

- Goal to have implemented before the end of 2023.
- Billing the first of March for (September, October, November) May pay by debit or credit card, but the client will be paying the card fees.
- NY Connects: Lyndsay
  - Assisted with 8 Medicaid applications in January. As of 2/21 assisted with 8 applications. Increase in the number of Medicaid applications due to the change in Medicaid guidelines. Number went from 27 to 64 applications as income guidelines increased.
  - Completed 2 SNAP and 4 MSP applications in January.
- Link to Life
  - Connect America- New contracted PERS units
  - All Best Buy units were changed over to Connect America by the end of November 2022.
  - Transition went extremely well.
  - Century America was very pleased on how well the transition went. Complimented Terri T. and the agency on doing an excellent job.
  - There are 375 units installed and Contract America goes out in the field for maintenance if needed. This is a great savings on the need for volunteers.
  - Billing is complete through the end of January.
- Medical Transportation
  - Currently have 9 volunteer drivers
  - Talking calls and scheduling transportation between the hours of 8am to 11:30am; Monday through Friday.
  - November 1, 2022, thru January 31, 2023 provide transportation for 127 riders. Denied 55 rides due to unavoidable transportation.
  - Billing January in March.
- Bus
  - Will be starting the week of March 1<sup>st</sup> to take older adults in the Delhi area to grocery shop at Price Chopper for 1 hour twice a month. Request a minimum of 6 shoppers each trip. If this minimum number drops below 6 for a couple of weeks the Price Chopper grocery shopping will be discontinued. The participants have been made aware of this decision.
  - A camera will be purchased and installed on the bus.
  - Wayne S. will check into the cost of purchasing bus cameras. He will contact IT for suggestions.
  - OFA currently has a bus driver that would like to decrease his availability from every other Friday to one Friday.
  - OFA has a second bus driver who is agreeable to work additional hours. However, this driver would work over an average of 24 hours/week. This would then put the driver to permanent part-time. The OFA Board agreed to have his job requirements change to be hired as permanent part-time employee.
- Shopping Assistance
  - Currently providing Grocery Shopping Assistance for 2 individuals.
- HIICAP
  - HIICAP numbers November 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 – February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023
  - Beneficiary Contacts: 371
  - Clients Enrolled in Plans: 302
  - Hosted an information table at the Veterans Resource Day in November
  - Bette and Lyndsay will attend Spring training on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - Virginia will attend Coordinator training in September.
  - Through March individuals can change their Medicare supplemental insurance.
  - Seeing an increased number of older adults applying for Medicare supplemental plans for the first time.
  - Medicaid Applications: 6
  - MSP Applications: 28 (Medicare Savings Program)
- Tai Chi for Arthritis- Terri T.

- Holding a 10-week series (20 classes) 4/10-6/19/23 at Harpersfield Grange Hall
- Attendance in other trainings: Delhi – 24, Walton – 14, Downsville - 19
- SHINE (Senior Health Improvement and Nutrition Education Program)
  - Awarded \$108,000 for the 2022-2023 program year (9/1/22-8/30/23).
  - The purpose of this grant is to educate to promote healthier lifestyles & behavior to low-income older adults.
  - Registered Dietician and SHINE Coordinator oversee the program.
  - They are collaborating in working with both Sullivan and Greene Counties in promoting the program.
  - Will be doing outreach at each of the Farmers Markets in Delaware County, Delaware County Fair, Senior Fun Day and etc.
  - Committee meets once a month. The goal is to meet the grant requirements and have the program SHINE!
  - Registered Dietician will be holding Nutrition workshops at the Masonville, Walton, Fleischmanns and Deposit.
  -

➤ Senior Council Report

- \* All you can Eat Pancake Breakfast-Saturday, 3/11 at Hamden.
- \*Big Wheels Golf tournament, Friday, 5/12
- \*Annual Pork dinner and pie sale is June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Polly Dellacross is making a quilt for raffle
- \*Due to decline in membership the committee structure has been changed accordingly.

➤ Innovative Readiness Training

- To take place at the Walton Central School (O’Neil High School) on 7/10-7/21/23
- Shelly Johnson-Bennet, Director of Planning is spear heading the event.
- Army Reserves paired with Army National Guard
- Provide free Medical, Dental, Vision, Vet care (Spade and Neut. Pets), well visits, and Mental Health.
- Open to all ages. No appointment needed. Walk-ins only.
- Delaware County Departments participating: OFA, VA, Public Health, Planning, Sheriff, EMS, etc.
- Delaware Valley Hospital, Delaware Opportunities, and many more organizations.
- 7/13 will be dedicating the bridge in Walton.
- Target goal/day is 200-250 people.
- More information to follow.

➤ HEAP

**HEAP Season 2022/23**

- 743 households received Regular HEAP Assistance
- 48 households received Emergency HEAP Assistance
- 174 new households received HEAP Assistance for the first time.
- Regular HEAP assistance was in the amount of \$500-\$1,050.

**HEAP Season 2021-22**

- 724 Households received Regular HEAP Assistance
- 70 Households received Emergency HEAP Assistance

**Comparison:**

- 19 additional households received Regular HEAP Assistance in HEAP Season 2022/23
- 22 less households received Emergency HEAP Assistance in HEAP Season 2022/23
- Total of 791 households received Regular/Emergency Assistance in HEAP Season 2022/23
- Total of 794 households received Regular/Emergency Assistance in HEAP Season 2021/22
- **Closing date for HEAP season is 3/15/23**
- First emergency component benefit was in the amount of \$185.00 to \$900.

- HEAP is offering a second emergency benefit starting Monday, 2/27/2023. In the amount of \$185 to \$900.

➤ Elli Q

- Is a friendly presence in the daily lives of older adults.
- Requirements must be homebound 90% of the time, & have Wi-Fi.
- Elli-Q article was in the January Dispatch to promote Elli-Q
- To help motivate, adopt to healthier habits, and support social, mental and physical well-being.
- Delaware County OFA was provided 10 Elli-Q's through NYSOFA
- Currently, 5 of the 10 units have been installed in homes.
- One consumer what designed Elli-Q stated they are a genius. She takes me around the world to have coffee, aquariums, and safari adventures. "She" is kind and compassionate. Very knowledgeable.
- Elli Q has been compared to Alexa.

➤ Bequest Funds" report

- Savings Account- \$5,998.30

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Opened</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Bank</u>
▪ CD's:	\$25,958.27	3/4/20	3/4/25	2.35%	DNB
	\$16,039.15	12/9/22	12/9/24	4.75%	Wayne
	\$54,271.92	9/2/22	9/2/23	3.35%	Wayne
	\$26,935.03	8/4/22	8/4/24	3.0%	Wayne

**Total                    \$129,202.67**

It was suggested we look at the DNB CD and explore whether it could be cashed in and reinvested for a higher interest rate at another bank. Wayne S. will check it out.

➤ Miscellaneous

- **All Paid**- Clients and residents are now able to make credit card/debit care contributions for services on the OFA website. This information is being provided when client for service. Include an UR code that will bring them directly to the OFA All Pail section on the OFA web page.
- **OFA has a Facebook page**- QR Code is also included.
- **Carol Allen**- Tri-County Senior Center in Sidney is up and running and had a good turnout of about 50. They serve Delaware, Chenango, Otsego counties. Open on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays.
- **Senior Dining Centers**- All dining centers open. January 2023 served a total of 6,376 meals and served 5,848 meals in January 2022. This is up 533 meals in 2023. Delhi and Grand Gorge Senior Dining Centers currently served the most meals in 2023 of 1,220. Delhi is up 23% more meal compared to 2022 and Grand Gorge was down slightly of 4.5% compared to 2022. Total meals served in 2022 was 80,000 meals.

The county committee members, staff and Advisory Committee Chair went into executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 2:05 pm until 2:15 pm. Meeting was then adjourned with a motion by Art M. and second by Joe C.

- Next Meeting: **April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 1:15pm at OFA Conference Room**
- Meeting Dates for 2023: February 27<sup>th</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup>, June 26<sup>th</sup>, August 28<sup>th</sup>, December 11<sup>th</sup>
- Public Hearing Date: Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9am at the Hamden Town Hall

Respectfully Submitted by Wayne Marshfield, Advisory Board Secretary