



# 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 Minutes  
April 24, 2023  
1:15pm OFA Conference Room

- Attendance, Greetings/ Regrets: Robert Henault
  - Present: Joe Cetta, Betty Scott, Steve Finkle, Heather Warner, Terri Tweedie, Lindsay Komosinski, Peg Hilson, Carol Allen, Tina Mole', Lara Yambor, Wayne Shepard, Will Ousten, Eric Wilson, Michele DeFreece, Wayne Marshfield, Jessica Baldi, Shirley Niebank, Robert Henault, Art Merrill, Charlie Piper, Wayne Marshfield.
  - Absent: Frank Bachelor, David Truscott, Jamie O'Donnell, Ann-Lis Glenn
  
- Approved February 27, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion by Betty S., second by Shirley N.
  
- Programs & Services
  - EISEP – Expanded in home services for the elderly.
    - Currently 19 active clients receiving EISEP care.
    - Currently 20 clients on waiting list for EISEP services. Discussed cost estimates to support this waiting list.
    - Medicaid income guideline- NYSOFA has recommended at this time not to discharge clients from EISEP to Office of Long-Term Care.
    - Consumer Directed Goal is to have it up and available in 2023.
    - Committee meeting re-scheduled first meeting in May 2023
    - Goal to be implemented before the end of 2023.
    - Billing complete through December 2022. May pay by debit or with credit card, but the client will be paying the 4% credit card fees.
    - Discussed the possibility of OFA to hire a PCA to help reduce the number of clients on the waiting list. The board has requested that the Director do an analysis as follows: Cost to county and taxpayers, actual cost for a PCA including benefits; funds to support the PCA; and cost of having a PCA vs. the cost of clients placed on Medicaid in a nursing home.
  - NY Connects
    - Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, NY Connects has completed 50 Medicaid and Medicare Savings Program applications.
    - NY Connects serve on planning committee's for BWGT, Senior Prom, SNAP-Ed, Senior Fun Day, Veterans Stand-Down and the Pie Auction and Pork Dinner.
    - We will also host an information booth at the Healthy Delaware IRT and the Delaware County Fair.
    - NY Connects Specialist began March 6<sup>th</sup>. She has completed her online series of training for Options Counseling Certification, and will be attending a Medicare Training this week, as well as an Elder Abuse training in May.

- NY Connects Staff is conducting county wide outreach twice per month, scheduling in person presentations, and preparing for the Senior Farmer's Market Program & Outreach from July – September.
  - June will have a student through the Youth Program, for about 200 hours of service throughout the summer.
- Link to Life – Terri reported they have 378 connected clients with 6 pending. She has weekly conferences with Connect America and all billings are up to date.
  - Medical Transportation
    - Currently have 8 volunteer drivers. Down 1 driver from last meeting.
    - Taking calls and scheduling transportation between the hours of 8am to 11:30am; Monday through Friday.
    - Cross-trained staff. Now covered by 8 staff members. Staff are assigned one day every other week on a rotating schedule with 2 employees covering every week.
    - Been some hiccups in the road with the change. Committee to work through the changes and bring forth the suggestions for change to the staff.
    - Billing through March of 2023.
    - The program is satisfying most clients but it was recommended to run an ad in the Dispatch for more volunteers.
  - Bus
    - Started on 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 5 shoppers each trip. If this minimum number drops below 5 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. Waiting for the IT to suggest what camera to purchase for the bus with an estimated cost of \$1,500 - \$2,000.. The bus is currently in Johnstown for repairs to the wheel chair lift. Veterans Agency is loaning us a bus until ours comes back.
    - Starting April 1<sup>st</sup> one bus driver has reduced his availability to drive the bus to every Thursday and the first Friday of the month.
    - OFA has a second bus driver who has agreed to work the additional hours. The OFA Board agreed to have his job requirements changed to be hired as permanent part-time employee.
    - Contacted Personnel, this position must be put in the 2024 Budget.
    - May through November bus schedule added trips to Farmers Market: Frog Pond, Pine Ridge (Bainbridge); Carrot Barn and Apple Barrel (Schoharie). Schedule change will be in the May Dispatch.
  - Shopping Assistance - Currently providing Grocery Shopping Assistance for 3 individuals.
  - HIICAP
    - Bette and Lyndsay will attend a virtual Spring training on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
    - Virginia will attend Coordinator training in September.
    - Seeing an increased number of older adults applying for Medicare supplemental plans for the first time.
    - Enrolled close to 181 clients from January through March.
  - Tai Chi for Arthritis - Terri reported Delhi just completed a program with 20 participants, Downsville has 17, Arkville 15, Walton 16, Harpersfield 24, a new Delhi class signed up 16

so far to be held at the Historical Society. Franklin has 15 that would like a class but they currently have no place for it.

- BINGO SIZE – This is another program meant for balance. It is a lot like Tai Chi, is about an hour in length and involves playing Bingo with chair exercises. Trainer certification is needed and can be done virtually.
- 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.
  - The 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.
  - The committee meets once a month. The goal is to meet the grant requirements and have the program SHINE!
  - The registered Dietician held Nutrition workshops at Jasonville, & Walton in March., and in April in Fleischmanns and Deposit.

➤ Senior Council Report - Peg

\*Big Wheels Golf tournament, Friday, 5/12

\*Senior Fun Day Thursday, 8/24

\*Senior Prom September 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> at Birdsong Farm

\*Annual Pork Dinner and Pie Auction, June 13

Bylaws were amended lowering quorum for meetings and lowering attendees to the advisory board meeting from 7 to 4.

➤ Innovative Readiness Training

- 7/10-7/19/23 – Plans are in progress and Delaware Opportunities is seeking over 1000 volunteers and have between 100 – 200 signed up to date.

➤ Elli Q

- Is a friendly presence in the daily lives in older adults.
- Requirements must be homebound 90% of the time & have Wi-Fi.
- Elli-Q article was in the May Dispatch to promote Elli-Q
- To help motivate, adopt healthier habits, and support social, mental, and physical well-being.
- Delaware County OFA was provided 10 Elli-Q's through NYSOFA
- Currently 7 have been installed.
- Comments:
  - “After having ELLI-Q for a day or two she was hooked.”
  - “ELLI-Q is very knowledgeable, and her abilities have exceeded my expectations. ELLI-Q is kind, compassionate and has a good sense of humor.”
  - Sometimes ELLI-Q invites me to have a cup of coffee with her in all different place of the world It's a real trip.”
  - An elderly man in Sidney Center was struggling to remember to take his medications prior to ELLI-Q. Since having ELLI-Q he now always remembers to take them.”

- “Whoever invented ELLI-Q is a genius.”

➤ Bequest Funds” report

- Savings Account- \$6,003.15

	<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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,207.52</b>				

➤ Miscellaneous

- **All Paid**- Clients and residents are now able to make credit card/debit card contributions for services on the OFA website. This information is being provided when clients are billed for service. A UR code is provided on all bills. This will bring them directly to the OFA All Paid section on the OFA web page to allow them to make a credit card payment. Noticing that clients are paying their suggested contribution or EISEP Cost share in a timelier manner. Older adults are utilizing the credit card payment system for all program contributions.
- **Senior Dining Centers**- All dining centers open. Through March 2023 served a total of 19,307 meals. Meals are gradually increasing between 500-550 meals per month compared to 2022 meals. Delhi and Grand Gorge Senior Dining Centers currently served the most meals in 2023. If the meals continue to increase at the current rate per month, in 2023 OFA will have served between 82,000-83,000 meals. In 2020 served 80,000 meals. Discussion pursued on the importance of senior meals, especially the meals on wheels program and the importance in keeping seniors comfortably in their homes. Board is asking that the senior dining centers consider using reusable containers vs. the aluminum containers. Wayne S. will discuss this at the next Nutritional Committee meeting.

➤ Next Meeting: **June 26<sup>th</sup>, at 1:15pm at OFA Conference Room**

➤ Meeting Dates for 2023: 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

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm with a motion by Heather and second by Shirley.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Marshfield, Secretary