



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
June 26, 2023
1:15pm OFA Conference Room

- Attendance: Greetings
- Present: Wayne Shepard, Director OFA, Terri Tweedie, Coordinator Aging Services, Lyndsay Komosinski, NY Connects Coordinator, Stephen Finkle, Heather Warner, Will Outsen, Ann Lis E. Glenn, Charles Piper, Mark Dunlop, Shirley Niebanck, Peg Hilson, Wayne Marshfield, Art Merrill, Tina Mole', Betty Scott, Eric Wilson, Jessica Baldi, Lara Yambor
- Absent: Frank Bachelor, Jamie O'Donnell, David Truscott,
- Regrets: Robert Henault, Joe Cetta, Carol Allen
- Approve April 24, 2023 meeting minutes. Correction on spelling of Masonville. (Betty/Art)

- Programs & Services
 - EISEP – Expanded in home services for the elderly.
 - Currently 25 active clients receiving EISEP care.
 - Currently 17clients on waiting list for EISEP services. Discussed cost estimates to support this waiting list.
 - Consumer Directed Goal is to have it up and available in 2023.
 - Completed the Job classification for PCA-2 position and is at Personnel for approval. Once approved would like to fill the position as a temporary position for the remainder of 2023. Then change to a full-time position in January 2024.
 - Billing complete through March 2023.

 - NY Connects
 - Since January 1st – June 25th NY Connects has completed 50 Medicaid applications.
 - Since January 1st – June 25th NY Connects has completed 18 Medicare Savings Program applications.
 - Current number served under NY Connects for 2023 is down slightly compared to 2022. Partly due to not being fully staffed.
 - NY Connects is exploring new Outreach ideas to increase number. i.e., billboard, full page ad in local newspapers, and etc.
 - On June 20th Haley Young a student through the Youth Program started. She will be once again working with the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition program.
 - The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition program starts on 7/1. OFA was awarded 1,000 coupon booklets this year compared to 800 coupon booklets in 2022.
 - Currently 18 locations are scheduled for distribution, including the weeklong event at the Healthy Delaware IRT and the Delaware County Fair.

- Will be distributing every Wednesday through August at the Delhi Farmer's Market.
 - Coupons are worth a total of \$25.
- Link to Life (Connect America)- Terri – There is about 400 served in the program. Our Link to Life vendor is very responsive to our elderly and does a splendid job on checking in on a regular basis.
 - Medical Transportation
 - Currently have 8 volunteer drivers.
 - After trying close to 3 months having each of the Caseworkers, NY Connects and clerical staff taking NEMT calls once every two weeks, we found this was not beneficial for the staff, drivers and clients. A NEMT committee was formed and has now implemented having Bette, Lyndsay, and Rachel cover all NEMT calls and arrangement of rides. So far this seems to be working. Both drivers and riders like it as there is more continuity, less confusion and better communication.
 - 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.
 - Billing through May.2023.
 - Looking into the possibility of using one day per week for medical appointments.
 - Bus
 - Started on March 1st 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. This has been well received by Delhi participants.
 - A camera may 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 hesitancy to purchase from the County perspective is generally due to a liability issue.
 - Starting week of July 14th one bus driver has turned in his resignation, but has agreed to substitute as needed.
 - 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.
 - Job duty statement for the permanent part-time bus driving position has been signed off by the committee. Is now waiting for the Personnel committee approval. This position must then be added to the 2024 OFA 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. This is being used as a last resort.
 - Picking up prescriptions for one individual as needed.
 - HIICAP
 - Bette and Lyndsay attended a virtual Spring training on April 25th.

- Virginia will attend Coordinator training in September.
- Seeing an increased number of older adults applying for Medicare supplemental plans for the first time.
- Enrolled 234 clients from January through June 2023. Of which 51 clients were enrolled between April through June.
- HIICAP has assisted with 2 Medicaid Applications and 13 MSP Applications.
- 84 Beneficiary contacts
- Tai Chi for Arthritis
 - Terri – currently have 7 classes with 130 participants. Have a class at the DCHS in Delhi with 24 participants and two instructors. Next week a class will start at the Legion in Franklin.
- Farmers Market Coupons
 - On June 20th Haley Young a student through the Youth Program started. She will be once again working with the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition program.
 - The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition program starts on 7/1. OFA was awarded 1,000 coupon booklets this year compared to 800 coupon booklets in 2022.
 - Currently 18 locations are scheduled for distribution, including the weeklong event at the Healthy Delaware IRT and the Delaware County Fair.
 - Will be distributing every Wednesday through August at the Delhi Farmer’s Market. Will advertise availability schedule in the Dispatch and will mail or deliver upon request.
 - Coupons are worth a total of \$25.
- 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, Sunflower Ball, Senior Housing, Roxbury Senior Club, Senior Dining Centers, and etc.
 - Purchased 321 planters from Mt. Vision Gardens at \$20 each. There is a financial requirement in order to get one.
 - The committee meets once a month. The goal is to meet the grant requirements and have the program SHINE!
 - **SNAP-Ed Container Garden Distribution**
 - Choice of either an Herb or Vegetable Container Garden (either contains 3 plants). Herb garden has parsley, thyme and a third herb (variety- chives, tarragon, oregano, cilantro, or sage). Vegetable garden includes tomato, bell pepper, and lettuce.
 - The containers are then placed in SHINE bag for them to carry the container gardens home.
 - Receive a recipe booklet to correspond with the herbs in the container gardens.
 - **Tuesday June 20, 2023** Picked up 36 gardens.

- **Wednesday 6/21** Distributed 7 gardens at Delhi Senior Meals and 13 at Delhi Farmers Market.
 - **Thursday 6/22** Distributed 16 at an ecumenical Bible study in Walton on 6/22.
 - **Monday 6/26** Pick up as many gardens as possible. Andrea Martell RD will also pick up gardens.
 - **Tuesday 6/27** Susan Hammerslag deliver 50 gardens to Downsville meal site.
 - **Wednesday 6/28** Truck to deliver the remainder of the gardens to OFA 97 Main Street.
 - Distribution at Farmers Market, Hamden Senior Club monthly meeting-Hamden Town Hall. Andrea Martell to deliver 8 to Livingston Manor Senior Meals site while she presents nutrition education there.
 - **Thursday 6/29** Susan Sainsbury delivery to Grand Gorge, Arkville, Senior Meal site and housing. (Approximately 35 gardens). Andrea Martell to deliver to Sidney Senior Village, Sidney Senior Meals (Civic Center), and Senior living. Lyndsay Komosinski/Susan Hammerslag deliver to Delhi Senior Housing.
 - **Friday 6/30** Eric Benecke deliver to Deposit Senior Housing. Andrea Martell Hancock Senior Club/American Legion Hall and Read Memorial Apartments.
 - Stamford Senior Housing and Stamford Assisted Living to be scheduled.
- The registered Dietician held Nutrition workshops at Hancock Senior Club from May through August, and Margaretville Dining Center the month of June.
 - Summer Youth Program
 - Abby BoJo through the Summer Youth Program started work on 6/19.
 - She will be: organizing Medical Records Retention room; Farmers Market Coupons; Data entry; revising the TV display for both the office and main street.
 - Both students were awarded 200 hours for the summer.
- Senior Council Report
- *Big Wheels Golf tournament- took place on 5/12; raised close to \$6,000
 - *Pork Dinner and Pie Auction- took place on 6/13 raised over \$1,000; highest bid for “Coconut Cream Pie” was \$400. About 100 people attended the event.
 - *Delaware County Fair- 8/13-8/19
 - *Senior Fun Day Thursday, 8/24 at 4H-Camp Shankitunk; Arbor Hill; 10am-3pm. About 50 vendors will be in attendance. There will be a \$5.00 charge.
 - *Sunflower Harvest Ball Sunday, 9/10 from 2pm- 6pm; at Birdsong Farm. There will be a DJ, catered food with a \$5.00 charge. It is a dress up event with a limit of 300 in attendance.
 - *July 11th, picnic at the Hamden Pavilion, dish to pass.
 - *Senior Citizen of the Year will be selected on September 18th.
- Innovative Readiness Training
- 7/11-7/19/23 at Walton High School
 - OFA/NY Connects will have a table at the event for the entire week.
- Elli Q
- Is a friendly presence in the daily lives in older adults.
 - Requirements must be homebound 90% of the time & have Wi-Fi.
 - Delaware County OFA was originally provided with 10 Elli-Q’s through NYSOFA. Received an additional 5 units the beginning of June making a total of 15 units.
 - Currently 8 units have been installed.

- The most recent unit install the older adult was extremely excited to have received the unit.
 - Received a demo unit. This will allow staff do presentation on how the unit works.
 - Representative will be at the 2023 Senior Fun Day. Hopefully, at that time the remaining 7 units will be able to be installed.
- Vehicle
- New Vehicle that was ordered in the Fall of 2022 supposedly should arrive in August.
- Personnel
- Current bus driver has resigned. Last day will be in July.
 - Necessary paperwork presented to Personnel for following positions:
 - PCA-2 Full time position
 - Part-time bus driver position
 - Permanent Part-time bus driver position
- Bequest Funds” report
- Need to discuss CD for \$54,271.96 that will be maturing on 9/2.
 - Savings Account- \$6,008.16
- | | <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 | \$129,212.53 | | | | |

Mr. Shepard will bring rates to the next meeting for a decision on the future investments.

- Miscellaneous
- **Senior Dining Centers**- All dining centers open. Through May 2023 served a total of 31,789 meals. Meals are down 500 meals compared to those served through May 2022. The reason for a decline in the number of meals is due to the Hancock Congregate meal site not open related to staff being out on medical leave. Still serving HDM's but just not congregated meals currently. Delhi and Grand Gorge Senior Dining Centers currently continue to serve the most meals for 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.
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- **Ricks response regarding using Aluminum vs. Plastic** The question of which type of tray is best for home delivered meals (aluminum or plastic) lies with which is best for the recipient. When we register a senior for home delivered meals, we take into consideration their ability and resources to reheat meals along with the frequency of delivery. There are pros and cons to each type of tray.
- Aluminum trays** are inexpensive but are single use. A tray currently cost 23 cents, seals tightly as they are crimped and retains its hot temperature longer in the heated carriers. They are not microwavable but can be reheated in a traditional oven or toaster oven. 14 meals can fit in our standard heated carriers.

Plastic trays currently cost \$10.50 each but are reusable. They do not seal tightly as the lid sits on top of the tray and does not hold its hot temperature as long as an aluminum tray but does stay within safe temperature ranges for hot food. They are only microwavable and cannot be used in any type of oven. 12 meals can fit in our standard heated carriers. With plastic trays we also rely on the recipient to clean and return the tray with the following delivery which has rarely happened in the past.

- In closing, the “ideal” tray is the one that works best for the senior. The fact that a plastic tray **does not seal, only 12 fit in a carrier and the senior is technically required to clean and return** the plastic trays are a few of the reasons we have opted to use aluminum for the vast majority of our deliveries. Yes, reusable trays create less trash as they are not disposable but there are other factors to be considered such as spillage, freezing of weekend and emergency meals and the number of meals to be delivered.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

- Next Meeting: **August 28, at 1:15pm at OFA Conference Room**
- Meeting Dates for 2023: December 11th
- Public Hearing Date: Monday, October 23rd at 9am at the Hamden Town Hall

Respectfully, Wayne Marshfield, Secretary