



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
January 29, 2024
1:15pm OFA Conference Room

- Attendance: Greetings Emma Heinz, PHNS
- Regrets: Betty Scott, Steve Finkle, Rebecca Walley,
- Approve October 23, 2023 meeting minutes. (Motion by Shirley and second by Will)
- Discuss to replacements for 3 Advisory Board Members
 - Frank Bachler
 - David Truscott
 - Jessica Baldi
 - It was suggested to ask Sarah Serba, Assistant Director at Walton Mental Health, Jessica Baldi replacement at ARC, Laura Leale a Franklin resident and a representative from FOR-DO. Heather Warner will contact Laura and the OFA Director will contact the remaining three suggestions.
 - Suggested to hand-out with the minutes of this meeting the OFA Advisory Board by-laws.
- Programs & Services
 - EISEP – Expanded in home services for the elderly.
 - Currently 26 active clients receiving EISEP care.
 - Currently 4 clients on waiting list for EISEP services.
 - Consumer Directed- Goal is to have it up and available in 2024.
 - Paperwork for PCA-2 (Personal Care Aid) position has been completed and approved. Currently, this position is on hold.
 - Those becoming eligible for Medicaid, reduces the number of clients.
 - Billing- Will be billing June-August 2023 this week.; February will be billing September- November 2023; March will be billing December 2023-February 2024. March Billing will bring us on target for getting billing caught up.
- NY Connects- Lyndsay – things are relatively slow right now, the first outreach for the year will be held next week.
- PERS
 - PERS- Currently serving 445 seniors. Up 95 units since the August meeting)
 - 6 pending installations
 - A year ago, the agency had 350 units in the home.
- Medical Transportation
 - Currently have 13 volunteer drivers. (7-volunteer drivers that are available anytime. 6 volunteer drivers with a limited days/hrs. available/week.)
 - Mileage rate is \$.67/mile effective 1/1/2024. Previously it was 65.5 cents.
 - Billing done through December 2023.

- In 2023 provided 646 trips for older adults in Delaware County. This is up 7% compared to 2022.
 - In 2022 we provided 602 trips for older adults in Delaware County.
 - Looking into the possibility of using the bus one day per week for medical appointments.
 - Towards the end of 2023 we did provide medical transportation using the OFA bus. 2 trips to Binghamton, and 1 to Albany. The runs are open to those who would like to go shopping.
 - Unable to transport 200 rides in 2023. It was suggested to possibly look into getting a smaller vehicle such as a van or vehicle to be used to transport older adults to their medical appointments.
- Bus
- Bus currently running 3 days/week (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday). Been no cancellations since October 2023.
 - Wednesday the average number of riders is 4-5.
 - Thursday, the average number of riders was 8-14.
 - Friday, the average number of riders is 7-10.
 - In May will once again add trips to the Farmers Market: Frog Pond, Pine Ridge (Bainbridge); Carrot Barn and Apple Barrel (Schoharie).
 - Will be looking into adding in the Spring once a month trip to Cobleskill.
 - Possibly consider adding three different times to Cooperstown.
 - DPW is requiring that the bus have a kill switch installed. This will be installed from the dealership where the bus was purchased.
 - Every other Thursday the bus transports older adults from the Delhi Senior housing to Price Chopper to go grocery shopping. Average between 7-9 riders who take advantage of this trip.
- HIICAP- Lyndsay – 308 served this year, compared to 270 last year. Mailed out 270 surveys and received 107 back and most all them were very satisfied. For the month of January this year, we collected suggested donations of \$2,140 compared to seven hundred something last year.
- Tai Chi for Arthritis/Bingocize- Terri
- Currently all four Tai Chi instructors are holding classes throughout Delaware County.
 - Terri held our first Bingocize class at the Grand Gorge dining center on January 2nd. Started out with 4 participants and currently has a total of 12 participants. Have one volunteer and are looking for additional volunteers. It is an evidenced based program like Tai Chi.
- SHINE (Senior Health Improvement and Nutrition Education Program)
- Awarded \$108,000 for the 2023-2024 program year (9/1/23-9/30/24). This is to cover three counties.
 - 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.
 - Currently, have 11 classes scheduled throughout Delaware County, 1 class in Greene and 1 in Sullivan County.
 - Applied for \$18,000 grant through Rural Health Alliance to purchase food to fill food boxes to distribute.

- Delaware County Office for the Aging 50th Anniversary
 - Open House- Friday, 2/9 from Noon-5pm at the 97 Main, Delhi, office.
 - Several different events are taking place throughout 2024. NYSOFA will represent on May 30th as a speaker.
 - Main 50th Anniversary Celebration will be held at SUNY Delhi, on Thursday, May 30th. (details to follow) DCOFA was organized in May of 1974.
- HEAP
 - 2023-2024 HEAP season first emergency allotment started January 2nd, 2024.
 - It appears that there will not be a second emergency allotment at this time.
 - Currently, there is only 1 HEAP employee through Delaware Opportunities working at the OFA office. One employee took a full-time job with a different entity.
- Senior Council Report
 - Pancake Breakfast- 3/16 at the Hamden Town Hall from 8am-Noon
 - Big Wheels Golf Tournament – Friday, May 10th
 - Pork Bar-B-Q and Pie Auction - June 11th
 - Senior Fun Day- Wednesday, 8/21
 - Sunflower Harvest Ball- Sunday, 9/15 at Birdsong Farm.
 - Looking for applications for Citizen of the Year in September.
- Blooming Health
 - OFA entered into an agreement with Blooming Health in the fall of 2023.
 - It allows the agency to be able to communicate more effectively with the older population in Delaware County. Decrease personnel time and cost for doing surveys.
 - No cost to the agency. The program is funded through NYSOFA.
 - Notify those receiving meals through the senior meals program when a dining center is closed, bus run is cancelled, able to do surveys, remind older adults of upcoming events, remind PERS clients once a month to do their monthly unit check, and etc.
 - Used the program for 2 surveys, monthly PERS checks and delay of a bus run. Each event showed excellent response.
- Elli Q
 - Is a friendly presence in the daily lives of older adults.
 - Requirements must be homebound 90% of the time & have Wi-Fi.
 - Currently have 16 units installed out of 25 units.
 - NYSOFA will be providing an additional 5 units within the next couple of weeks.
 - NYSOFA and Elli-Q are pleased with the response to the number installed with Delaware County Office for the Aging.
 - No monthly cost currently. The monthly fee is waived to those currently having Elli-q units installed during the trial period. Down the road those receiving installations after the trial period may have a monthly service fee.
- Personnel
 - Deputy Director OFA- Lyndsay Komosinski, was promoted from the NY Connects Coordinator to the Deputy Director OFA. Will not be filling the NY Connects Coordinator position.
 - Permanent part-time bus driver- Tom Batson has accepted the position. Will be starting on 2/4.
 - Aging Services Representative (ASR)- was filled by Victoria Ladlee, on 1/7/24.
 - NY Connects Specialist- This position is currently vacant as Victoria Ladlee was promoted to ASR.
 - PCA-II position has been approved. The director decided not to fill this time due to only 4 older adults waiting assistance.

➤ Bequest Funds” report

- Savings Account- \$6,024.45

	<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
	\$56,105.47	9/5/23	9/5/25	4.9%	DNB
	\$26,935.03	8/4/22	8/4/24	3.0%	Wayne
	Total				\$131,062.37

➤ Miscellaneous

➤ Next Meeting: April 22nd at 1:15pm in the OFA conference room

➤ Meeting dates for 2024: June 24th, August 26th, December 16th

➤ Public Hearing Date: Monday, October 21st at 9 am at the Hamden Town Hall

➤ The Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Marshfield, Advisory Board Secretary