



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 Agenda
January 27, 2025
1:15pm OFA Conference Room

- Attendance: Greetings
- Regrets: Laura Leale, Jamie O'Donnell, Margaret "Peg" Hilson,
- Present: Wayne Shepard, Director OFA, Will Outsen, Shirley Niebanck, Wayne Marshfield, Art Merrill, Carol Allen, Heather Warner, Joe Cetta, Rebecca Walley, Terri Tweedie, Coordinator of Aging Services, Romas Bajoras, Tina Mole', Robert Henault, Betty Scott, Glenn, Ann-Lis (SUNY Delhi)
- Absent: Lyndsay Komosinski, Deputy Director, Lara Yambor, Mark Dunlap
- Approve October 21, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion - Scott/Warner
- Discuss to replace 2 Advisory Board Members: Stephen Finkle; Jessica Baldi-ARC (discussed a desire to have someone from the Mental Health sector of the county).

Programs & Services:

- LEGAL AID OF MID NEW YORK – We increased our budget line from \$17,000 to \$30,000 due to a 27% increase usage of the program. We are serving 109 clients. There are no income guidelines and most are using the service for end-of-life legal documents.
- EISEP – (Expanded in Home Services for the Elderly) (non-medical eligibles)
 - Currently 24 active clients are receiving EISEP care.
 - Currently 1 client has requested Case Management only.
 - Currently 5 clients are on a waiting list for EISEP services.
 - Consumer Directed- on hold until mid to late 2025
 - Billing- January Billing is for September, October, and November. February billing will be for December and January. This will then bring us on target for getting billing caught up. The plan is to start in March and will be billing for one month at a time. This is exactly the Directors and agency goal.
- NY Connects- Wayne for Lyndsay
 - Currently, things are relatively slow. This is normal for the month of January. The total number of clients served in the month of December was 104. Long Term Care Committee meeting was held on 12/16. The majority of Lyndsay's time in December was spent on open enrollment, HIICAP and working on the revision process for Caregivers' "Legacy" program.
- PERS (Connect America)- Terri
 - PERS- Currently serving 506 seniors.
 - 8 pending installations
 - Connect America does the installations and encourages testing once a month.
 - Typical cost is \$11 per month with a landline and \$17.50 being the most expensive.
- Medical Transportation (Non-Emergency)
 - Currently we have 24 volunteer drivers.

- Bill Quarterly. Fourth quarter billing for 2024 was completed in January 2025.
 - Possibly considering contracting out NEMT with Get There out of Binghamton in April 2025. Wayne met with Demetra at Get There beginning of August to discuss the plan for Get There to serve our NEMT program. They requested additional information such as clients unable to serve due to no drivers; mileage reimbursement; number of unduplicated clients, funding through OFA and Senior Council donation of \$10,000.
- Bus
- Mechanical Bus Issues-Over Hall engine originally received a quote to cost close to \$20,000. After much investigation into the warranty of the bus, the over hall of the engine was covered under warranty.
 - Rider concerns: inform the board of the Accident Incident report on 10/31/24 and rider concern.
 - VA Bus- Mark has informed the Director Office for the Aging that the VA has purchased a new van and will be taking the bus off the road. He wanted to know if OFA would like the bus as a back-up. Open for discussion by the advisory board.
 - **The board agreed that we should accept the VA bus as a back-up to our OFA bus.**
- HIICAP-Wayne for Lyndsay
- Those enrolled in a Medicare Advantage (MA) plan have until March 31st to switch to another plan or to original Medicare. Advised to call the office to schedule an appointment.
 - 426 served this year, compared to 308 last year. Total contributions received in 2024 were \$3,260 compared to 2023 which was \$1,895. The suggested contribution for 2024 was \$1,365 more than in 2023 and will further support the program.
- Tai Chi for Arthritis/Bingocize- Terri
- Tai Chi for Arthritis currently has 3 active classes going on: Delhi at the Delhi Alliance Church 1/6-3/13 on Monday and Thursday from 10am-11am; Downsview Fire Hall 1/7-3/13 Tuesday and Thursday from 2pm-3pm; Hancock Dining Center 1/7-3/13 Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30am-11:30am. First time holding Tai-Chi for Arthritis at the Hancock Dining Center. Each of the classes are between 20-25 participants. This is the maximum number of participants that at class can adequately hold and manage effectively. There will be one Tai-Chi for Arthritis class starting on 2/4-4/10 at the Margaretville Dining Center from 10:30am-11:30am. There will be two classes starting up starting in March. Trout Creek Schoolhouse starting 3/25-5/29 on Tuesday and Thursday from 11am-12pm. Deposit Christ Church starting 3/25-5/29 on Tuesday and Thursday from 2pm-3pm.
 - **Tai Chi Success story:** in 2022 a participant had bilateral knee replacement. The individual struggled with weakness to the right knee for an extended period of time. The individual took Tai Chi for Arthritis in 2023 & 2024. After the 2024 class of Tai Chi the individual has increased strength in the right knee and no longer has any weakness.
 - We are encouraging a \$20 contribution out of the \$75 cost.
 - Bingocize classes will be starting at the Grand Gorge Dining Center on Tuesday, 2/11 and at the Delhi Senior Dining Center on Tuesday, 3/18.
- SHINE (Senior Health Improvement and Nutrition Education Program)
- The O'Connor Hospital Bassett Board approved an \$60,000 proposal to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for our food box 2025. Last year's proposal was \$25,000. Tentative goal is to be able to serve 200 county residents aged 60 or older to receive fresh produce boxes bi-weekly. An article will be in the March Dispatch with the qualifications and to contact Delaware County Office for the Aging to be on the list to receive bi-weekly food boxes. The plan for 2025 is to add fresh fruit to boxes as well. The fresh produce and fruit will be provided by Schoharie Farms.

- Still waiting for NGA from NYSOFA on the dollar amount for this program. Wayne did speak with the Program Director at NYSOFA and was informed that the funding for Delaware County this year will be \$148,000. \$40,000 more than 2024.
 - The plan for the 2024-2025 program year was submitted to NYSOFA.
 - “10 Tips” workshops will be held throughout Delaware County. See attached list and watch for classes nearest you in “The Dispatch”.
- Legacy (Caregivers program)-Wayne for Lyndsay
- As of 1/1/25 the agency is in the process of revamping the program.
 - Writing new policy and procedures.
 - Will be case managed was Jonathan Moore, Case Worker
 - Lyndsay will be overseeing the program
 - No longer contracted out through DS & S (Delaware Support and Services)
 - Will be scheduling a time to meet with the volunteers.
 - Providing respite services and etc.
- HEAP
- 2024-2025 HEAP season first emergency allotment started January 1, 2025.
 - From September 2024 to January 2025-670 applications have been processed for HEAP. 627 applications have been approved, and 43 applications have been denied. Since January 1st 48 emergency applications have been approved.
 - 1/21/25 was the last date for enrollment for HEAP. After this date they will only be able to enroll for emergency HEAP. Enrollment period for HEAP usually goes through middle of March. As of 1/24 the enrollment period has changed again. This time no date has been set.
- Senior Council Report-Shirley Niebanck
- March 15 Pancake breakfast at Hamden, 8 am to noon. No set price, donation only.
 - Sent \$5,000 to Hancock Senior meals center for a dishwasher.
 - Polly DellaCrosse has donated a full-size quilt for the 2025 quilt raffle.
 - A flower arranging class was held for Thanksgiving and Christmas arrangements. The cost for seniors at least 60 years of age and older was \$50/person. The Senior Council agreed to contribute \$40 per senior in attendance.
 - Senior Council has two additional members.
- 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 we have 15 units installed.6 on waiting list. Returned 8 units for program updates. When a client requests a unit, the caseworker can now order the unit on line. The unit will be sent directly to the client’s home. Once the unit arrives at the client’s home the caseworker will then schedule an appointment to install.
 - No monthly cost currently.
- Personnel
- Case worker for Caregivers program “Legacy”- Jonathan Moore, effective 1/1/25.
- Senior Meals
- In 2024, the senior meals program served over 88,000 meals. This is over 11,000 meals served in 2023.
 - The goal for 2025 is to serve 92,000.
 - Anniversary meals have resumed effective 1/1/25.
 - Evening meals will be starting again starting April 2025. (they were on hold ever since COVID-19).
 - The dining centers that have shown the greatest increase of meal being served are: Grand Gorge, Walton and Sidney.
 - Looking at relocating a couple of the dining centers when their contracts come up for renewal. Hancock and Margaretville. Walton, Sidney and Grand Gorge very busy.
 - Need to discuss the possibility of increasing the suggested contribution for meals served to older adults 60 years of age and older and to those guests visiting with an older adult. Due to the increase in food cost the cost per meal has increased from \$7.49 to 11.52 per meal. The nutrition committee

discussed this concern at the last meeting in January and would like to see that the cost for those 60 years of age and older be increased from \$3.00/meal to \$3.50 and the guest price be increased from \$4.00/meal to \$9.00. Chenango is charging \$9/meal; Otsego is charging \$10/meal, Montgomery is charging \$11.50/meal. **It was agreed to increase the meal charge to \$5 for a senior and \$10 for guests.**

- Delaware Opportunities has a new program manager for the Senior Meals Program. Her name is Patty Warfield. She replaced Rick Angerer who was the long-time program manager before he retired in 2024.

➤ Bequest Funds” report

- Savings Account- \$6,046.30

	<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
	\$17,639.78	12/9/24	12/9/25	4.21%	DNB
	\$56,105.47	9/5/23	9/5/25	4.90%	DNB
	\$28,580.00	8/7/24	8/7/25	4.74%	Wayne
	Total				\$134,329.82

➤ Miscellaneous

- **Discussed plan for the CD that matures on 3/4/25. It was agreed to seek out rates and that probably over one-year CDs would pay the most.**
- Fiscal- Joanne Sampson reported that as of the end of 2024, we were “on budget”.
- Dispatch RFP was discussed in Executive Session.

➤ Next Meeting: April 28th at 1:15pm in the OFA conference room

➤ Meeting dates for 2025: August 25th, December 15th

➤ Public Hearing Date: Monday, October 27st at 9 am at the Hamden Town Hall

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Marshfield