

LANCASTER COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2018

Members Present: Mary Aukers-Endres, Emily Booker, William Brock, Joseph Burchill, *Thomas Kloss, Glenn Knight, Alan Manheim, Meredith Moore, Bob Rudy, Mary Stehman, Joseph Sullivan, and Jon Walker.

Staff Present: Monique Breedon-Goyco, Lynn Smith, and Lon Wible.

Excused: Georgianna Dorm, Jack Enco, Jeffrey Klunk, and Gloria Schleicher.

----- (*Associate Members)

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Emily Booker followed by the pledge to the flag. The meeting minutes from June 4, 2018 were approved with the correction of one typographical error (appointment misspelled - 1st sentence, 4th paragraph of Executive Director's Report).

Chair's Report

The October 1st, 2018 Advisory Council Meeting will begin with the Annual Public Hearing at 12:00 PM. Ms. Booker announced her resignation from the Council due to her upcoming relocation to Philadelphia. She thanked Lon and the agency for the opportunity to work as an APPRISE volunteer and serve on the Council.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Wible acknowledged Ms. Booker for her many years of service to the agency, both as a very dedicated APPRISE volunteer and more recently for her contributions to the Advisory Council.

Lynn Smith the agency's new Deputy Director was introduced to council members. Mr. Wible expressed confidence in her promotion and noted that her 20 plus years of experience working in various agency programs and most recently overseeing the Long-Term Living unit, will be a tremendous benefit to the agency.

As Long-Term Living Supervisor, Mrs. Smith was the agency expert on the level of care assessment process. To assist the Council in better understanding the assessment process and current challenges she provided the following overview. The new assessment tool, Functional Needs Determination (FED) originally set to begin on July 1, has now been postponed to September 1. Until the release of the new tool the workers will continue to use the Level of Care Determination (LCD), with the medical review waived. This was a major concern when the new tool was postponed, as we and many other Area Agencies on Aging had already eliminated nurse staff. As of now the 15-day completion timeframe still applies and the MA 51 form and Physician Certification are required. Once the FED is implemented the Independent Enrollment Broker (IEB) will be responsible to obtain the above documents as well as to make the level of care determination, either Nursing Facility Clinically Eligible (NFCE) or Nursing Facility Ineligible (NFI). The Department of Human Services will review/confirm the IEB decisions since medical assistance funding is used for this program. Additionally, upon release of the FED, the completion time frame will be reduced from 15 to 10 days. Staff have gone through weeks of training for the FED. Director Wible added another major change to the program will be the payment method. Beginning July 1, 2018, the agency will receive \$237.12 per each assessment completed. This will result in a significant reduction in funds that hopefully can be made up in an increase in assessments completed (per worker), attrition, and reallocation of available staff capacity to other program areas. In concluding, Deputy Smith announced that Pre-Admission Supervisor, Patricia Wilkerson, has been selected to replace her previous position as LTL Unit Supervisor.

Mr. Wible informed Council members, the 2017-18 fiscal year close-out was completed approximately two weeks ago with revenue at \$11,200,140 and expenses of \$11,181,125. The costs remained within anticipated levels and the agency's finances are in good standing at closeout. Mr. Wible also presented agency program /

service outcomes for this corresponding fiscal year (see attachment). In response to a question on what the agency is doing to prevent protective service reports of need, Mr. Wible replied that Lancaster is usually 3rd in the state for reports received. Many reports that come in are for situations that involve self-neglect, caregiver neglect, or financial exploitation. In all instances our job is to remove the older adult from the "at risk" situation. If criminal intent is suspected the case is referred on to law enforcement for investigation. For reports involving consumers who are not able to care for themselves, we are able to offer a wide range of home and community based services that can remove the "risk" and permit the older adult to live safely in the community.

The 2018-19 Pennsylvania State Budget was passed before the July 1 due date. The allocation to the Department of Aging was approved as anticipated with one small surprise, an increase in funds for protective services. While efforts to request an increase of 8 million dollars in new protective service funds failed, the legislators did approve a 2.1 million dollar increase to be split among the 52 AAA's. With the continued increase of protective service reports, Lancaster will plan to use the new funds to increase staffing. More to come on this matter once we learn how the funds will be distributed. The other area of the budget we anticipate receiving additional funds is in Health and Wellness programming. Our local success in this area last year has encourage staff to request additional funding for more wellness classes. Preliminary conversations with the Department have been favorable. Once again, we will need to wait until we receive our 2018-19 Funding Allocation to know how much has been earmarked for our Health and Wellness budget.

Regarding staff vacancies, Mr. Wible reiterated the promotions of Lynn Smith to Deputy Director and Patricia Wilkerson to the Long-Term Living Supervisor position. This leaves six vacancies to fill in the following units: clerical, care management, information & referral, protective services, and ombudsman.

Regional Council

Mr. Thomas Kloss, provided information on the annual regional meeting scheduled September 14th & 15th in Gettysburg. Topics on the agenda include: the implementation of Community Health Choices (CHC), the benefits of the recent lottery expansion (where gambling is now legal in some public places), and concerns involving and the Opioid crisis (a problem affecting senior's medications).

Old Business

The Southwest Region Phase 1 transition to CHC is complete. The three Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) have taken over all Waiver consumer care needs. They are also in the process of selecting service coordination providers. Comprehensive Care Connections (C3), the service coordination entity made up of local AAA's, was one of the first groups selected. CHC is now beginning to hold information sessions in the Southeast Region in preparation for Phase 2 (January 2019). The 3rd Phase (including Lancaster County) is scheduled to begin January 2020. We are currently evaluating the feasibility of providing service coordination under this new model.

The findings of the 2017 County Compensation Study were introduced several days after our last meeting. The findings recommended transitioning from the current broadband system to a traditional structure with established minimums, midpoints, and maximums. All county positions have been assigned a new grade so "like" positions across the county will be consistent in pay structure. Employees' salaries were evaluated with increases going to those whose current salaries were not in line with the new structure. Within the agency- over half of our staff received a positive adjustment.

Due to new Ombudsman Program standards the Department of Aging is requiring each AAA to have one full time equivalent for every two thousand nursing faculty beds. Given Lancaster County has almost eight thousand beds, we are required to have four full time staff equivalents (FTE's). Our current staff and volunteer coverage equates to 1.8 FTE's. As a result, we are in the process of expanding our Ombudsman team by hiring an additional full and part time Ombudsman.

A Calendar of Events for August/September 2018 was reviewed by Mrs. Smith. She mentioned the National Senior League Wii Bowling event and the all-inclusive Lancaster Senior Centers Picnic at Long's Park on Wednesday, September 26, 2018. To RSVP, please contact Senior Centers Program Director Lisa Paulson, 717-299-7979.

New Business

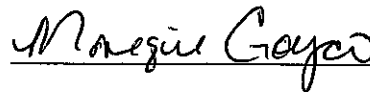
The Department of Aging is submitting a proposal to Administration for Community Living for a grant involving music and memory for consumers affected by dementia. If it is approved local AAA's will be able to submit a proposal to establish individualized music programs to include the purchase of iPods and music playlists. This program has been successfully implemented in the nursing home setting where caregivers report a reduction in the consumer's level of agitation and a gradual reduction in the need for medication.

Plans are underway to redesign the agency website this fall. It was developed four years ago and is now in need of updating. A committee will be established to work through the redesign from start to finish. Council members were invited to assist in the project. Members Mary Aukers-Endres and Joseph Sullivan volunteered.

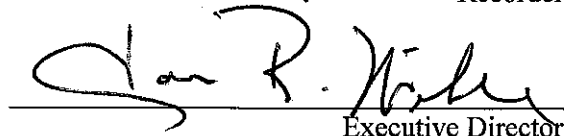
Council Vice Chair, Jon Walker requested members submit a short bio summary to learn more about each other since many are new members. Clerical Supervisor Monique Breedon-Goyco will email members to compile this information then distribute it to council. The decision not to include photos was made.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Recorder



Executive Director