

LANCASTER COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2019

Members Present: Mary Auker-Endres, William Brock, Rev. Joseph Burchill, Georgianna Dorm, Jack Enco, *Thomas Kloss, Jeffrey Klunk, Dr. Alan Manheim, Meredith Moore, Bob Rudy, Mary Stehman, Joseph Sullivan, Dr. Jon Walker

Staff Present: Monique Breedon-Goyco, Lisa Paulson, Lynn Smith, Lon Wible

Guests: Rachel Cox (MU Student), Brian Long (Coordinator- Berks/Lancaster/Lebanon Link to Aging and Disability Resource Center)

Excused: Glenn Knight, Commissioner Craig Lehman, Gloria Schleicher

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The April 1, 2019 Advisory Council Meeting was called to order by Chair, Dr. Jon Walker. Following the Pledge of Allegiance guests were acknowledged and introduced. The meeting minutes from the February 4, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Lon Wible provided welcome remarks and thanked Deputy Director, Lynn Smith for overseeing the February 4, 2019 council meeting. Seniors Center Supervisor, Lisa Paulson, was on hand to provide a Sr. Centers/Health & Wellness update as well as information on the 31st Annual Lancaster Senior Games to be held May 6-10, 2019. Brochures were provided to all in attendance. Ms. Paulson reported that there are 56 events planned, over 900 participants registered, 300 volunteers assisting, and over 40 businesses providing financial support this year. Volunteer opportunities are still available. Ms. Paulson provided contact information and explained some of the duties involved. Director Wible thanked Lisa, Derek and the entire Sr. Games Committee for the countless hours spent in preparation for this year's Games. He expressed appreciation to the 40+ sponsors whose contributions will fully cover the event expenses. To conclude the Senior Games update, a few stories from past years events, were shared by council members and staff.

Ms. Paulson provided the following updates regarding the federally funded Health & Wellness program. After ten years of receiving a grant of \$31,000, with the proposed addition of four new evidenced based programs (Eat Smart, Live More, Weigh Less, Bingocize, Powerful Tools for Caregivers and Wellness Initiative for Senior Education), the Department of Aging (PDA) approved a larger grant this year of \$48,000. Mrs. Paulson is especially pleased with the added funds and most excited about the Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes as the agency has a growing Caregiver Support Program. Mr. Wible noted, under Mrs. Paulson's direction and the hands-on involvement of Derek Bendetti, Health and Wellness Coordinator, the programs and the corresponding level of participation has grown significantly.

In continuing his report, Director Wible informed Council members about the first of two-annual requests for budget adjustments received from PDA in January. At this time, Mr. Wible requested an additional \$725,000 to offset expenditures of in-home services and to cover increasing protective services costs. As a result of this request, the agency was awarded \$525,000. These funds will further support the growing demand for in home services through the end of this fiscal year (June 30).

In preparation for the state's 2019-20 fiscal year, Governor Wolf is proposing the same flat funding structure for AAA's, except in the area of protective services. Earlier this year he proposed an additional 2.8 million dollars be added in 2019-20. This would be in addition to the 2.1 million dollars received statewide in FY 2018-19. Of the first grant Lancaster AAA received \$54,000, only a third of what was requested. Last week, PDA requested Area Agencies submit their request for 2019-20 funds, specifying how much is requested and what the funds would be used for. A response is due back to PDA by April 15th. The maximum amount an Area Agency can request is \$100,000. The agency will request the entire \$100,000 but will also express, that it is not enough to cover the growing protective service costs in Lancaster. This is the 2nd year of a 3 year, 8-million-dollar request. Year three, 2020-21 will hopefully offer a 3-million-dollar allotment, for which Lancaster will make another request.

Mr. Wible shared the results of a recent protective services monitoring visit that took place on March 7th. Last year, the agency received a green rating, however this year, there were a few areas deemed deficient. Because of this unsatisfactory rating the agency is currently working on a corrective action plan. The issues found during this year's monitoring visit were primarily due to incomplete documentation and not meeting timeframes. This results from lack of staffing to support the noticeable growth (approx. 30% over the last 5 years). To address the need for staffing, two additional protective service workers and one supervisor position were approved by the Commissioners. In addition to an increase in staffing, existing staff will receive a protective services re-training related to the documentation deficiency. In the new fiscal year, assuming additional grant funds will be forthcoming for protective services, two additional staff will be proposed.

Regional Council

Mr. Thomas Kloss reported the Pennsylvania Council on Aging (PCOA) is currently going through a reorganization effort. A new PCOA Executive Director and new Department of Aging Secretary have been appointed. The Council is anxious to meet them. Mr. Kloss also updated council members on the current initiatives being discussed by PCOA which are: Alzheimer's, Social isolation, Abuse, Internet access for Senior Centers, and Transportation.

Old Business

Director Wible began his update by discussing the OPTIONS program, which is the agency's largest in-home care program, currently serving approximately 1,000 consumers. The OPTIONS waiting list which has been in place since October is now at 189 consumers. The agency receives about 50 new service referrals monthly. Statewide, there are about 4,000 consumers waiting for service. Discussions are currently underway with the Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies (PAAAA) to establish a legislative plan to address the funding needs of this program. To continue his discussion on the growing demand for protective services, Mr. Wible noted, five years ago in 2013-14 the agency received 1,552 Reports of Need (RONs) compared to 2,435 in 2017-18 (a 36% increase). Other counties are experiencing the same high level of growth, hence the continued need for additional staff and funding.

Next, Deputy Director Lynn Smith announced after two postponements, the new Functional Eligibility Determination (FED) assessments tool was implemented today. There were already 25 new referrals with 1 completed successfully (out in the field). Initially, there were some concerns related to internet access, however, the program will allow for work to be saved and then completed when internet connection is established. Mrs. Smith noted if the first day is any indication the transition should go smoothly. Director Wible thanked Mrs. Smith for all that she has done to ensure agency staff were trained and prepared.

The agency is embarking on a website redesign in collaboration with design company Civic Plus. Currently, the committee (including council members Joe Sullivan and Mary Auker-Endres) are preparing for the first meeting.

As the last order of old business, Deputy Director Smith reviewed the Calendar of Events including a special Older Americans Month- Senior's Barnstormer Game, May 23rd at 11 AM. There are still about 50 tickets available. Seniors from area senior centers and area retirement communities are expected to be in attendance for the baseball game. A senior health fair and bingo is also planned for this event.

New Business

Contract renewals for the final year of a 5-year cycle, will soon be underway. There are over 60 contracts that will be involved in the renewal process. Renewal letters are currently being developed and will soon be sent out. Contract procurement duties fall under the MIS Supervisor as the Contract Monitor position has been vacant for over 5 years. Mr. Wible plans to seek Commissioner approval in the coming months to reinstate the vacant Contract Monitor position. With preparation for the new 5-year contract cycle to begin in early 2020, the Contract Monitor will play a key role in this upcoming contract procurement and monitoring process.

Director Wible introduced a new Person-Centered Counseling (PCC) service – technically a practice already used by the agency’s I & R staff, which is based on a “no wrong door” philosophy. This service is more than just referring consumers to services/resources, but involves assisting consumers navigate multiple barriers, including bureaucratic processes and applying for services. The PCC service has potential to generate additional revenue for the agency as well. Guest, Brian Long, informed the council that the PA Link to Aging and Disability Resources Center budgeted \$50,000 in funding reimbursements for this service. Mr. Wible plans to explore the agency’s staff capacity to take on PCC as an added service offering.

Continuing with new business, council member Bob Rudy, shared information on a lifelong learning program based in York, PA called Olli. He suggested the agency explore involvement. A few council members were familiar with similar programs, for instance, at locations like Brethren Village, Millersville University, Franklin & Marshall College, and Quest at Trinity Lutheran Church. Many suggestions and the benefits of the program were made regarding the agency becoming involved in a program like Olli or even partnering with locations where the program is already established.

Guest Brian Long informed the council of a new collaboration between Lancaster City and the Lancaster Downtowners Committee to establish Lancaster City as an age friendly city. There will be an announcement of this collaborative effort on June 13th at the Millersville University Ware Center located in downtown Lancaster.


Adjournment

Motioned by member Jack Enco at 1:21 PM; approved by Chair Dr. Jon Walker.

Respectfully Submitted,



Recorder



Executive Director