

LANCASTER COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
June 3, 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.

Staff Present: Monique Breedon-Goyco, Tom Martin, Lynn Smith, Lon Wible

Guests: Brian Long (Coordinator- Berks/Lancaster/Lebanon Link to Aging and Disability Resource Center)

Excused: Glenn Knight, Commissioner Craig Lehman, Gloria Schleicher, Dr. Jon Walker.

----- *(Associate Member)

The June 3, 2019 Advisory Council Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Mary Auker-Endres, in the absence of Chairman, Dr. Jon Walker. Mrs. Auker-Endres led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes for the April 1, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved. There was no Chair's Report for this meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Lon Wible introduced Program Supervisor, Tom Martin who offered an overview of the agency's Employment Workshop, 55+ Job Bank, and Title V Employment Training programs. Mr. Martin shared details of the programs' success, mentioning that it is, in part, due to the Program Coordinator, Donald Jones, who has presided over the programs since 2002 (17 yrs.). The Employment Workshop, held twice monthly, focuses on older workers' preparedness while providing an opportunity for networking. The 55+ Job Bank, originally identified as the Job Brokerage program by the State in the early 1980s, is a database of local job vacancies. It is also available on the agency website for participants to view. Lastly, the Title V Job Training Program is an "on the job" training program. It is funded by the Department of Labor, with a total of 15 positions (participants) who are paid minimum wages (\$7.25 per hour) for a total of 20 hours per week. To qualify, candidates must live in Lancaster County, be 55 years of age or older, and have an income less than 125% of the poverty level. Through training, participants learn soft skills and are assigned to local non-profit host agencies for up to 4 years. Some are hired by the host agencies upon completion of the program. Dr. Alan Manheim expressed concern about age bias in the job market and the need to do more education and outreach to employers. According to Mr. Martin, common stereotypes are slowly breaking down and employers seem more open to employing aging workers. The key is making potential employers aware of the older workforce while explaining the benefits of the already established skills many older working adults possess. Member Bob Rudy suggested collaborating with local theaters for advertising and possibly including recognition programs for both employees and employers. Mr. Martin noted an annual statewide recognition does occur. We were fortunate last year to have one of our workers recognized as "employee of the year".

Mr. Wible announced the Lancaster County Office of Aging will discontinue providing Aging Waiver services on or before September 30, 2019. This phase-out will also include the Nursing Home Transition component. The service coordinators will begin working with the agency's 147 Waiver consumers to transition them to other providers. There are currently 77 other service coordination entities for the consumers to choose from. The discontinuation of this service will allow the agency to focus on mandated Department of Aging OPTIONS and Protective Services programs. Mr. Wible also reported, on May 1st he was notified that two of the agency's senior centers were awarded Senior Community Center grants for programming and marketing. The Lancaster Recreation Center received \$36,743 for classes (computer technology, Art, Tai Chi, and Yoga) and funds for marketing (billboard, newspaper, radio, & television). Additionally, Lancaster Neighborhood Senior Center received \$6,853 for 6 digital cameras, a new sound system, and six sewing machines.

Deputy Director, Lynn Smith provided the following staff changes: interviews for the vacant Caregiver Support Program (CSP) Supervisor and CSP Care Manager position will begin this week, the Millersville Sr. Center Manager position is currently posted, three new Protective Services positions (one supervisor and two new workers) have been approved and are expected to be filled shortly, and a vacant Contract Manager

position will go before the Commissioners today for approval. Deputy Director Smith also provided a summary of the June & July 2019 Calendar of Events (calendar was distributed).

Regional Council

Mr. Thomas Kloss, Regional Council member, reported the State Ombudsman, Margaret Barajas released a new curriculum for Ombudsman certification. It requires in class training; however, the new curriculum is also available in a PowerPoint slideshow format on-line. It takes approximately one year to complete and is more technically inclined. Currently, there are about 500 certified Ombudsman in the State, but more are needed.

Old Business

Executive Director Wible thanked Council members who volunteered at the 31st Annual Lancaster Senior Games. Staff lead by Senior Centers Supervisor Lisa Paulson did an outstanding job. There were 1,008 registrants who participated in the weeklong schedule of 57 events. Overall cost for the Games was fully covered by sponsor and registrant fees. A wrap up meeting will be held in July. The agency is seeking additional committee members to begin planning next year's Games.

Deputy Director, Lynn Smith informed Council that the new Functional Eligibility Determination (FED) Assessments tool launched on April 1st. It does not include a medical component and only focuses on the three-day period prior to the assessment. The roll out went smoothly as the staff were extremely prepared. Since there is an algorithm that determines the level of care, less time is now needed after the assessment. As a result, completion time frames are much faster. The State has hired additional workers due to the demands of the new tool. There has also been an increase in productivity since the agency purchased tablets.

Director Wible reported the agency's website redesign project has begun. Committee members, Lynn Smith, Kristin Jones, Sheri Snyder, Mary Auker-Endres, and Joseph Sullivan have met twice so far and are currently reviewing a draft of the website. A review and updating of website content are underway. Final approval of the website layout and design format is due on August 2nd. A preview is scheduled for September 5th and the new website launch is on October 3rd.

The OPTIONS Waiting List has grown to 266 consumers at a cost of \$66,612 per month since October 2018. A \$525,000 mid-year allocation by the Department of Aging has allowed the agency to get back on budget. The agency will continue to monitor expenses to determine when consumers can be brought into service.

New Business

Contract renewals for the final year of the 5-year contract cycle (FY 2019-20) were approved last week by the County Commissioners. A total of 59 sub-contract agreements were included. In fiscal year 2020-21 all contracts will go out for bid. Mr. Wible also reported the agency is currently preparing the agency's FY 2019-20 budget. Next year, allocations are expected to be flat funded.

An agency training committee has been established to determine training needs and develop a training plan for the coming year. An initial survey was sent out to all staff members in May resulting in an overwhelming number of topic suggestions. The topic areas will be further refined, then, a second survey will be sent out to establish priorities. Trainings are broken down into three categories, trainings for all agency staff, for program specific staff and, individual personal growth trainings. Some of the training suggestions will also be used at the agency fall retreat.

To conclude, Director Wible announced the kick-off of the Farmers Market Nutrition Program and provided a handout with voucher distribution dates, times, and information. He explained this is a summer initiative supported by the Dept. of Agriculture where eligible consumers receive (4) \$5-dollar vouchers, amounting to \$20 dollars, to purchase PA grown fresh fruits/veggies at local farmers markets. The vouchers are advertised and available for pick-up at the senior centers. Again, this year, Lancaster County received \$55,000 in funds permitting 2,750 consumers to receive vouchers. The goal is to distribute all of the available vouchers. Proxy forms are available for consumers who are physically unable to pick them up themselves.

Adjournment

A motion for adjournment by Vice-Chair, Mary Auker-Endres was approved by Bob Rudy; second by Jack Enco. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique Gayco

Recorder

John R. Wille

Executive Director