

LANCASTER COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 4, 2022

Members Present: Ellen Berfond, Deborah Bortle, Georgianna Dorm, Shelly Gunzenhauser, Megan Hedman, Dr. Michael Moran, Tiffany Phy, Bob Rudy, Jennifer Santiago, Chadwick Schnee, Barbara Spruill, Mary Stehman, Mukaram Syed

Staff Present: Linda Flick, Tom Martin, Lisa Paulson, Lon Wible

Excused: Jack Enco, Meredith Moore, Tom Strickler, Joseph Sullivan, Monique Breedon-Goyco

Absent: Sandy Longenecker, *Tom Kloss

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Advisory Council Chairman Tiffany Phy called the April 4, 2022, Council meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Phy welcomed everyone to the first “in-person” meeting since 2020 and thanked everyone for coming.

Chair’s Report

Ms. Phy requested a motion to approve the February 7, 2022, Advisory Council meeting minutes. With no corrections, a motion was called by Shelly Gunzenhauser and seconded by Chadwick Schnee.

Ms. Paulson, Director for the Senior Centers Program provided an update on events and activities that will be occurring during Older American’s Month (May) as well as through the summer months. Older American’s Month activities will kick off the week of May 2- 6, 2022 with the 32nd Annual Lancaster Senior Games at Spooky Nook Sports Complex. There are 54 events planned for the 5-day period. Volunteers are still needed. Anyone wishing to help, please contact Lisa at paulsonl@co.lancaster.pa.us. The agency is also co-sponsoring “Celebrate Seniors” Barnstormers Baseball Game on May 12 at 11:00 a.m. Over 600 tickets have been purchased by the agency for distribution to seniors.

During the summer months the Health and Wellness Program and the LCOA Virtual Sr. Center will offer the following activities: Beginner Technology Classes; Bingocize; Chronic Disease Self-Management Program; Diabetes Self-Management Program; Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less; Geri-Fit Strength Exercise; Healthy Steps for Older Adults; Indoor Aquatic Exercise; Nutrifreak Nutrition Education Program; Outdoor Summer Aquatics; Powerful Tools for Caregivers; Tai Chi for Arthritis; Walk with Ease; and Wellness Initiative for Senior Education. These programs continue to be highly successful, having served almost 800 registrants.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Wible expressed appreciation to all in attendance, as this was the first “in person” meeting to be held by the Council in over two years. He thanked Lisa Paulson for her program update and explained at each future meeting a program area will be highlighted.

Mr. Wible said the agency is seeing a return to some level of normalcy regarding service activity and operations. Care managers are beginning to conduct home visits, with assessors soon to follow.

Attendance at adult day centers and senior centers is slowly returning. Calls for in-home services and home delivered meals are also seeing an increase. Return to previous levels of service, while seeing an uptick, will be dependent on keeping the COVID positivity rates under control.

On April 13th Dementia Friendly Lancaster County is sponsoring two half-day sessions at Garden Spot Village for caregivers, staff, and businesses on understanding and supporting individuals with dementia. The sessions will be led by Teepa Snow, an internationally known expert on dementia. This is Dementia Friendly Lancaster County's kick-off event to expand awareness and encourage businesses and organizations to join the dementia friendly movement. The Office of Aging is a sponsor of the event. Any council members interested in attending should contact Lon.

Regional Council – No Report.

Old Business

Deputy Director Tom Martin provided an update on staff hiring challenges. While progress has been made in filling a number of vacant protective service senior casework positions, there are still two more to fill. In addition, there is an employment coordinator position, a clerical position, two assessor positions, and four care manager positions needed for OPTIONS, Information & Referral, and Protectives Services. In addition to the County website, our agency website, and Indeed, we have now developed a Facebook page to advertise our openings.

The agency no longer has a waiting list for OPTIONS (in-home services) according to Director Wible. However, due to a shortage of direct care workers we are having great difficulty securing personal care aides. The agency currently has 13 consumers waiting for personal care service. A request for proposal has been advertised in hopes of establishing contracts with additional home health agencies.

A new "Hybrid Work Plan" is in the process of development. This plan will take the place of the agency's temporary staff operations plan which was implemented during the COVID lockdown. The new work plan will permit field staff to work from the field up to four days per week and in the office one day a week, while office-based staff and supervisors will work in the office three days a week and remotely up to two days per week. This flexibility in work environment has proven to be extremely beneficial, both from performance and employee satisfaction standpoints.

As a result of the recent Volunteer Opportunities survey sent out to advisory council members six members expressed interest in helping with a variety of agency events/programs. Mr. Wible thanked them for their interest and explained as additional volunteer opportunities arise, he will notify council members.

New Business

April- June represents the fourth quarter of the agency's 2021-2022 fiscal year. While we are looking to wrap up one fiscal year, we are also beginning to plan for the next fiscal year (2022-2023). The next fiscal year will be much like the last in that there will be additional funds (American Rescue Plan) to expand nutrition and in-home services. The continuation of the homebound COVID vaccination program and a concerted effort to fill the remaining twelve staff vacancies will also be priorities.

Outreach related to agency services will continue to be a focus during the summer months. With COVID restrictions lessening, the agency will look to significantly increase the number of speaking engagements provided throughout Lancaster County. The focus will continue to be on underserved older adult populations.

The agency continues to focus on developing an annual training plan at the agencywide level, at the program specific level, as well as personal growth skills training for individuals. Based on a staff survey completed at the beginning of the year, training committee members are working to secure a number of speakers. Details of the trainings will be available at the next meeting. In addition, there will be a Fall Retreat scheduled for October 2022.

Mr. Wible reminded Council members that volunteers are needed to help deliver Sertoma Chicken Barbecue dinners on Saturday, May 19. Anyone interested in helping should contact the agency Volunteer Coordinator Kim Skinner Skinner@co.lancaster.pa.us

Bob Rudy announced that there will be a car show “Cruisin’ for Ukraine,” which will be held at Root’s Market in Manheim on Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Rain date is Saturday, April 30, 2022. Proceeds will benefit Mennonite Central Committee to go to disaster relief for Ukraine. You can google cruisin’ for Ukraine or go to the website at www.mypetradio.com.

Adjournment

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was requested by Ms. Phy. The Motion was made by Bob Rudy and seconded by Barbara Spruill. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Next Meeting

Monday, June 6, 2022 @ Noon
Planning Commission Conference Room #102

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Flick
Recorder

Lon Wible
Executive Director