

LANCASTER COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2022

Members Present: Ellen Berfond, Deborah Bortle, Shelly Gunzenhauser, *Thomas Kloss, Meredith Moore, Dr. Michael Moran, Tiffany Phy, Bob Rudy, Chadwick Schnee, Barbara Spruill, Mary Stehman, and Mukaram Syed.

Staff Present: Monique Breedon-Goyco, Tom Martin, and Lon Wible.

Excused: Georgianna Dorm, Jack Enco, Megan Hedman, and Joseph Sullivan.

Absent: Jennifer Santiago, and Tom Strickler.

Guests: Rebekah LeCape, Jade Shue, and Commissioner John Trescot.

----- *(Associate Members)

Immediately following the 2022-2023 Aging Services Area Plan Public Hearing, a brief Advisory Council business meeting was held. Chairman Ms. Tiffany Phy called the October 3, 2022, Advisory Council Meeting to order. She requested a motion to approve the August 1, 2022, Advisory Council Meeting minutes. Member Ellen Berfond motioned to approve the minutes, and a second offered by Shelly Gunzenhauser. With no corrections, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair's Report

Ms. Tiffany Phy called for a motion to approve the FY 2022-2023 Aging Services Area Plan budget. A motion was made by Council Member, Bob Rudy and seconded by Council Member, Barbara Spruill. The Area Plan budget was unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Wible provided an update on the Level of Care Assessment contract. Dept. of Human Services (DHS) has announced the approval of the contract. The formal contract is currently being reviewed by DHS solicitors. Meanwhile, the agency continues performing Assessments at the current rate. He is hopeful the new agreement will include an increase to the current rate to cover the rising staff and travel costs.

Director Wible briefly mentioned plans for the December council meeting at which time the agency would normally recognize outgoing council members. This year, there are no members leaving the council, hence, no need for an out-going member presentation. However, as this is the last meeting of the year, there will be a special program, a brief business meeting, and a catered lunch.

Regional Council

Regional council member for the PA Council on Aging, Mr. Tom Kloss, provided the following information on the PA Council. It is a statewide council established by and under direction of the PA Department of Aging. The purpose of the Council is to advocate for the rights & interests of older adults in determining a comprehensive program of services. The council consists of 23 members - 16 are nominated by the Governor and appointed by the Senate. Some of the topics currently being discussed in the council are direct care worker shortages, social isolation among seniors, Real ID's, and unlicensed games of chance.

Old Business

Deputy Director Tom Martin provided the following update on staff vacancies within the agency. Though the number of vacancies is decreasing, there is still 1-Employment Coordinator, 1-Information

& Referral Care Manager, and 1-Case Aid position open. Interviews for an OPTION's caseworker position are currently underway. Also, there is a Senior Protective Services candidate currently in the pipeline and 3 vacancies yet to fill. Deputy Director Martin concluded his update by providing the Sept-Oct Calendar of Events which includes the schedule of events and activities for this two-month period.

Executive Director Wible informed council members the agency will be conducting the first staff retreat since the pandemic. The day long schedule of educational trainings and team building activities will be held Wednesday, October 5th at the Lancaster County Park in Pavilion #22. Some of the events for the day include trainings on compassion fatigue, trauma informed care, and a dementia simulation activity. Council members are invited to attend, please RSVP to Director Wible.

A statewide conference on Behavioral Health/Drug & Alcohol challenges for older adults was held on September 15th & 16th in the Poconos. The event was planned and supported by the Department of Aging and P4A for the purpose of bringing together stakeholders to identify current challenges and develop a strategic action plan. At the local level, with the help of the P4A Behavioral Health Specialist, Lancaster County aging, mental health, and drug and alcohol organizations met on September 27th to begin a conversation and discuss ways the agencies can work together. This group hopes to meet monthly and identify other organizations that should be at the table.

New Business

With the coming elections it remains to be seen if the results will have any impact on the Department of Aging and the priority of aging services. Generally, when governors change so do the secretaries for state departments. Department of Aging Secretary Torres has been a champion for area agencies on aging and very supportive of our funding needs and staffing challenges. Council will be kept updated regarding any changes that may occur for 2023.

As a follow up to the Contract Management presentation offered at the last meeting, Director Wible reminded council members a third of the agency contracts will be put out to bid for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The services that will be bid include Senior Centers, Congregate Meals, and In-Home Services. Contract Manager Tiffany Rice is currently updating the scope of work on the proposals in hopes to advertise for vendors later in December. Proposals will be reviewed and approved in the spring, with a start date of July 1, 2023. The remaining two thirds of the contracts will be put out for bid, one third for FY 2024-2025 and one third for FY 2025-26.

Clerical Supervisor Monique Goyco reviewed the Lancaster County Office of Aging 2023 Advisory Council meeting schedule provided to council members. The 2023 Advisory Council meeting dates are as follows: February 6, April 3, June 5, August 7, October 2, and December 4. The meetings will be held at the County Government Center, Conference Room 102, unless otherwise specified. As this was Executive Director Lon Wible's last meeting before retirement he concluded by expressing his appreciation to council members for their engagement and support.

Adjournment

With no further business, Council Chair Tiffany Phy closed the meeting with remarks of appreciation to Director Wible for his dedicated time and leadership. She thanked him on behalf of council. Ms. Phy requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Ellen Berfond. Seconded by Bob Rudy and Shelly Gunzenhauser. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Next Meeting

Monday, December 5, 2022 @ Noon
Planning Commission Conference Room #102

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique Goyco
Recorder

Lon Wille
Executive Director