

LANCASTER COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING
Advisory Council Minutes
February 6, 2017

Members Present: Emily Booker, Carl Kanaskie, Mary Keech, Bill Kelley, Tom Kloss*
Glenn Knight, Vicki Muzyk, Bob Sauders, Gloria Schleicher and Jon Walker
Staff: Jacqueline Burch, Erica Shimp and Lon Wible
Excused: Joe Burchill and Jennifer Opinaldo (*Associate Member)

Chair Bob Sauders called the meeting to order at noon followed by the pledge to the flag. Minutes from the December 2016 meeting were approved with one change noted – an excused absence for Jennifer Opinaldo.

Chair's Report

- An update on membership status was given in light of recently provided guidelines from the Board of Commissioners about the appointment process. Currently, there are 11 total members - five of whom (Carl Kanaskie, Mary Keech, Bill Kelley, Jennifer Opinaldo and Bob Sauders) will be completing their second 3-year term at the end of 2017. Three members (Emily Booker, Glenn Knight and Jon Walker) will be completing their first term and eligible for reappointment to a second if interested. All three agreed to be nominated accordingly. Recruitment and interviews of prospective new candidates will begin in early fall, with recommendations sent to the Commissioners for appointment starting in 2018.

New Business

- Vicki Muzyk, representative to the new Health and Wellness Committee provided information about 'Healthy Steps for Older Adults' (HOSA) and 'Healthy Steps in Motion' (HSIM) programs. These fall-risk prevention classes held at senior centers are part of the federally required and funded evidenced-based activities. The 'Walk with Ease' exercise program includes ½ hour walking and ½ hour instruction and will run 3x / week for six weeks. In addition to senior centers, other locations are being considered such as the Brightside Opportunities Center. A flyer was distributed for the Diabetes Self-Management Program offered in conjunction with Geisinger Health Plan at Lancaster Regional Medical Center. Indoor aquatics continues at four sites with an average of 17 attending/class.
- Lancaster Meals on Wheels is now covering New Holland, Gap/Christiana and Parkesburg areas. In combination with their fundraising efforts, the agency provided a matching grant for them to purchase a delivery vehicle retrofitted with heating + cooling compartments.

Director's Report

- The Governor's FY17-18 budget address includes proposed consolidation of the Departments of Human Services, Health, Aging and Drug & Alcohol into one agency. There are many questions and concerns about the impact to older persons, the Lottery fund, and the degree of efficiencies or savings that may occur.

- Implementation of the state’s Managed Long Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) initiative known as ‘Community Health Choices’ (CHC) has been delayed by appeals from several managed care organizations. The Southwest region is scheduled to start January 2018, Southeast in July 2018, and remaining areas of the state in January 2019.
- There is currently no waiting list for services as Aging Block Grant expenditures are on track with budgeted allocations at this point of FY16-17. However, additional state and federal funds from the Title XIX agreement will be needed and are expected to be received in the upcoming spring budget revision.
- Efforts continue on the state level to finalize the new assessment tool (to be known as the ‘FED’ – Functional Eligibility Determination), related contract rate and subsequent agreement with area agencies on aging. Testing of the FED is to occur this spring with training to follow in the summer, and statewide implementation in the fall of 2017. Compared to the version currently used, the new FED form will be considerably shorter in length and may not require RN or supervisory reviews.
- The County has contracted with an outside consultant to conduct a compensation/salary study. More information is expected later this month regarding the process, related timelines, or possible recommendations to be considered. Presently the agency has 13 vacant positions.

Regional Council

- Given the Governor’s proposed budget and plan of consolidation, the impact on the Pennsylvania Council on Aging is unknown.

Old Business

- Brochures were distributed for the 29th Annual Senior Games to be held May 1-5, 2017 at Spooky Nook Sports Complex and a few surrounding venues. Registration fee of \$10 is due by March 31, 2017 and includes three meals, participation in unlimited events, and a T-shirt. Late registrations will be accepted until April 14, 2017 at a fee of \$15 space permitting. Last year there were 850 participants and 36 business sponsors. If interested in participating or volunteering, please contact Derek Bendetti at (717) 299-7979.

With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 1:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Recorder

Executive Director

For additional information contact Lancaster County Office of Aging at (717) 299-7979, E-mail: aging@co.lancaster.pa.us, or go to www.lancoaging.org.