

LANCASTER COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING
Advisory Council Minutes
June 5, 2017

Members Present: Emily Booker, Joe Burchill, Carl Kanaskie, Mary Keech, Bill Kelley, Thomas Kloss*, Glenn B. Knight, Bob Sauders, Gloria Schleicher, Jon Walker

Staff: Jacqueline Burch, Linda Flick, L. Thomas Martin, Lon Wible

Excused:

Unexcused:

Guest: Ryan Shupp _____ (*Associate Member)

Chair, Bob Sauders, called the meeting to order at noon followed by the pledge to the flag. Minutes from the April 3, 2017 meeting were approved.

Ryan Shupp introduced himself as a guest and volunteer in the Ombudsman Program.

Chair's Report

- Bob Sauders distributed a sample copy of the Advocacy Letter Round 2.1 that he wants to send to the Pennsylvania State Senators and Legislators on behalf of the Lancaster County Office of Aging Advisory Council. The letter addresses concerns and questions on how Governor Wolf's proposed consolidation plan will impact programs available to Pennsylvanians over the age of 60, such as the APPRISE, Ombudsman, and Protective Services programs. The letter also questions if proceeds in the state lottery revenue funds will remain intact and be distributed as they were intended.
- The current proposed consolidation plan established 10 different offices under the Department of Human Services. Without a cabinet-level Secretary of Aging to represent the voice of our older citizens, how will their concerns and needs be heard and considered in this larger structure?
- Will this consolidation impede accessibility to critical services for those already in programs administered by the Office of Aging and will these programs remain within the proposed consolidated structure and will funding be adversely affected?

Executive Director's Report

- Nursing Home Transition Unit Supervisor, L. Thomas Martin, gave a presentation on the Nursing Home Transition program and described his duties and responsibilities within the Office of Aging. Handouts were distributed describing the Nursing Home Transition program. Tom explained that the Nursing Home Transition program is a Federal initiative which was started in the late 1990's from the Homestead Act. Office of Aging started it as a pilot program in the early 2000's. Services and supports include Aging Waiver, Options, Caregiver Support Program, medical assistance, and housing vouchers. Efforts have been made to expand the program.

Volunteer Ombudsmen follow up after consumers are discharged from the nursing home. They go out to visit the consumers to monitor the living arrangements at the consumer's home. A social worker from the nursing home attends the discharge meetings at the nursing home. There are Waivers available for the under age 60 population, but Office of Aging only assists the 60+ population.

- The Nursing Home Transition program is a program offering consumers a choice as to where they receive Long Term Living services, ensuring high-quality care in the most appropriate, cost-effective setting for nursing home residents who wish to leave a facility-based setting, and can safely return to their home or community. The Long Term Living education/nursing facility outreach process will:
 1. Provide information and guidance to consumers in need of Long Term Living Services;
 2. Ensure that all options are explained fully;
 3. Enable consumers to make informed choices about where and how they receive Long Term Living services.
- Long Term Living education includes working closely with the family members and other informal supports, facility staff, and providers to make certain that the best Long Term Living option, as determined by the consumer and family members, is available and accessible to the consumer.
- There are now 30 coordination agencies involved with the Nursing Home Transition program. Office of Aging used to be the only agency involved.

A question and answer period followed as well as discussion of the services which are provided through the Nursing Home Transition program.

Unification Update

- Jacqueline Burch gave an update on Governor Wolf's Proposed Consolidation Plan and described the information which is on the website and how the consolidation would impact services for seniors and those under 60 years of age. Jackie sent an e-mail out with information on the website. Jackie is not permitted to write a letter to the Editor at Lancaster Newspapers, since she is Executive Director of Office of Aging. She mentioned that some people thought that maybe we should slow down on our letters and any advocacy efforts may impact services for seniors and those under 60 years of age. She explained that the Consolidation Plan and the budget are still up in the air as to what will happen.
- Draft of the Enabling Legislation is on the website. We are continuing negotiations with the Governor's Office and with the Pennsylvania Senate and House. Council members should be advocating on this Consolidation Plan and reaching out to local legislators. The deadline for decision on the Budget and the Consolidation Plan is July 1, 2017.

Regional Council

- After a short discussion on the impact to the Pennsylvania Council on Aging on the Governor's proposed budget and Plan of Consolidation, the consensus of the Advocacy Council is to have one letter typed and have it signed individually by each Advocacy Council member. Joe Burchill made a Motion that the Advocacy Council send a group letter signed individually by each member and have it e-mailed as a Letter to the Editor at Lancaster Newspapers and to the Pennsylvania Senators and House of Representatives Legislators. Gloria Schleicher seconded the Motion.
- Bob Sauders will e-mail a draft of the letter this week to the Council members for review.

Old Business

- Lon Wible thanked all those who volunteered their time on behalf of the Lancaster Senior Games held the week of May 1-5, 2017. Over 820 participants were in attendance and ranged in age from 55-100 years. We had one individual who was 100 years old and over forty individuals participate who were in their 90's. It was a tremendous turnout from all age groups.
- Lon reviewed the Calendar of Events for June, July and August, 2017 which includes the Farmers Market Voucher distribution at the Senior Centers in June and the Summer Outdoor Aquatics and Indoor Aquatics Classes which will be held at local community pools and local YMCA's in July and August.

New Business

- The Lititz Community Center has changed its name to The Lititz Rec Center.

With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

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