

**Tompkins Office for the Aging
Public Hearing
February 6, 2024
Danby Community Church
Meeting Minutes**

Staff Present: Lisa Monroe, Caryn Bullis, Dawn Sprague, Tom Weber, Kate Lyon, Andrea Davis

Liaisons Present: Dan Klein, Aly Evan, Liza Burger, Thena Lindhorst

Members Present: Susie Hatch, Carolyn Beyers, Joanne Izbicki, Charlie Hart, Bill Lesser

11:00am: Hearing began

- Dawn Sprague gave presentation on TCOFA services
- Lisa Monroe gave presentation on TCOFA's 2024 Annual Plan

12:00pm: Question and Comments

1. I see the funding for Unmet Needs. Are they being met with this funding?
2. Is HEAP funding the total amount given to the County?
3. What can we all do to facilitate the Older Americans Act and create action to increase funding? What can we actively do in our community so that funding grows?
4. Do you know whether the new PA program that Ithaca College has started as a geriatric focus?
5. In the 2024 budget, Federal OAA IIIB, IIIC, and IIID funding are all lower. Can you explain what those are?
6. I have worked at food pantries, and it is hit or miss if pantries help older adults who are homebound. Is there any coordination around that?
7. Seems a lot of people could benefit from the food from the food pantries.
8. We have NYSOFA (New York State Office for the Aging), what is the relationship of lobbyists? Are there agencies lobbying for aging services?
9. Legislators listen to people who reach out. Haven't heard much on this issue (cuts to OAA funding). Email is the easiest way to reach out to representatives.
10. It would be helpful if you could describe how aides are paid, what's the range? The lack of people who can go in someone's home or nursing home is really due to lack of pay. For women who are doing this, they can do better working in a restaurant. Apparently, this is not important.

11. Fair pay is something that representatives have heard from the public about.

12. Worked as a PT in several nursing homes in different places. The best 2 that I worked in were 1 run by the County and 1 run by a local church. Skilled nursing homes are for profit institutions. We used to have a county home that we lost. Why don't we take over one of these nursing homes?

2:00 pm: Hearing Concluded and COFA Outreach table and refreshments were provided.