

**Tompkins County Office for the Aging**

**Advisory Committee Meeting**

**September 23, 2024**

**Hybrid**

**9:30am**

**Members present:** Hatch, Dean, Beyers, Mallison, Stamm, Shearer, Izbicki, Hultberg

**Excused:** Hart, Lesser

**Liaisons:** Askew, Lindhorst, Champion, Evans, Hillson, Burger

**Staff:** Monroe, Bullis, Stevenson

**Public:** Meloney McMurry, RJ Isley

1. Monroe called the meeting to order at 9:33am.
2. August minutes approved.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Member Comment: None
5. COFA Update:
  - Farmers Market Coupons still available. Available until September 30<sup>th</sup> and can be used until November 30<sup>th</sup>. Have about 100 left.
  - HEAP is ramping up. We are receiving early applications.
  - Annual update (4-year plan) hoping to have it done next week and sent to you for your review.
  - Everyone received Charlies notice that he is moving; if anyone is interested in becoming the chair and/or vice chair please let Monroe know. Hoping to be able to have a vote at the November meeting. Monroe will follow up with an email.
  - COFA presented the budget to the legislature this past Thursday, thought it went well.
6. Liaison Reports:
  - a. Burger: Lifelong-
    - Walk in clinics are scheduled for Medicare open enrollment which runs October 15<sup>th</sup>-December 7<sup>th</sup>. Lifelong has a new HIICAP Coordinator. Open enrollment is a chance to make any changes to your existing coverage.
    - New catalog is out. Have over 40 classes this semester.
  - b. Evans: Foodnet-
    - Shared picture of front entrance. Ribbon cutting is Friday, 9/27 at 3:30pm. All are welcome.
    - Planning for Blizzard Bags and inclement weather.

- c. Hillson: TCWH-
  - COVID vaccine: recommended for children and adults. Available at most pharmacies and pediatrician's offices. COVID has become part of the respiratory illness season.
  - Free covid test kits through the US Postal service are supposed to start back up at the end of this month. Health department does not have any more test kits.
  - Community Improvement process: recently launched a community partner assessment that went out to 150 organizations. Received responses from about 77 organizations. Asked about capacity, decision making, accountability, collaboration. 66% of orgs that responded listed creating long term permanent social change as one of their ideal outcomes for a more collaborative community health improvement process. 76% of orgs reported that they have an advisory board that is composed of people with lived experience in a certain area related to that organization. 79% of these orgs reported that decision making power is held by a board of directors or trustees.
  - Last week was Septic Smart week; reminders were put out about people's septic systems or waste management systems, tips about maintenance and the importance of getting them inspected. Environmental Health are always available to talk with people about issues they may be having.
- d. Champion: Legislature-
  - In the throes of the budget; pretty intense this year. Two more meetings of budget presentations by department heads; next week will begin discussions/voting.
  - Encourages anyone who is thinking about the chair or vice chair of this advisory committee to talk more with Lisa. Encourages people to give it a try.
- e. Askew: StateWide-
  - Gearing up for Medicare Open Enrollment
  - Convention is October 21-23 in Saratoga Springs
  - Will be open and available 9am-11:30pm on December 7<sup>th</sup> for any last-minute open enrollment appointments
  - Can assist with Medicare fraud
- f. Lindhorst: Love Living at Home-
  - Moved office space next door; now in the building with Warren Real Estate on Hanshaw Road- 830 Hanshaw Rd., Second floor
  - Anniversary party/fundraiser to celebrate 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary; Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 at the Museum of the Earth; tickets are \$30
- 7. Discussion: Meloney McMurry, Team Leader and RJ Isley, Transportation Educator from Cornell Cooperative Extension Way2Go to discuss transportation services:
  - Since 2008, Way2Go has been Tompkins County's Mobility Education Center

- Provides mobility management- provides information that connects people with the full breadth of transportation system and the corresponding work creating new community-based solutions.
- 4 main areas of their work: connecting resources to users and potential users, education and training, collecting information and identifying needs and service gaps, as a convener to create new solutions.
- Participate in events throughout the year, attend new student orientations, worked with the Ithaca City School District to train a transportation liaison in each of the 12 school buildings to be a resource for students, staff, and families. Distributed over 650 Student FreeRyde TCAT passes throughout the schools. We share a variety of printed materials on our services as well as other services such as 211, FISH, etc. Newest resource is the Transportation Users Website at [www.way2go.org](http://www.way2go.org). Created in response to requests for an electronic version of their transportation options brochure. Its goal is to provide a one stop shop for all transportation information in Tompkins County. Would love to hear any feedback about the website. Also promote through social media.
- Education and training: provide workshops to educate community members about the range of options available, particularly for those who don't have access to a private car. Provide Wayfinders Travel Training Program where they follow up a transportation options presentation with a real-world field trip. A cohort will identify a transportation resource that they want to learn more about, and this program will take them on the road. Pilot cohort was at McGraw House where they worked with 23 seniors to take the TCAT to the Ithaca Mall. This is a great way for participants to also provide valuable feedback regarding the transportation options.
- Tune Me Up Used Car Buyers series; offers practical information for folks with limited financial resources who are looking to enter the used vehicle market. This series is in partnership with Alternatives Federal Credit Union and qualified mechanics who offer training in 2 parts: a financial session and a mechanic session.
- Move Together NY regional program- designed to overcome the transportation barriers between counties. One early success was in Schuyler County- they created a Schuyler Tompkins bus route which allowed Schuyler County transit to come into Tompkins County to connect Schuyler hospital with Cayuga Medical Center. Another success was with Cortland County where they facilitated some schedule changes that allowed TCAT and Cortland County transit to connect at TC3.
- Ongoing challenges: shifting ecosystem of transportation providers, TCAT challenges including funding, staffing, maintenance, rural areas, etc.

Dean asked if there was any outreach to school districts outside of Ithaca. McMurry responded that they have recently expanded to include New Roots Charter School and have a goal of connecting with Lansing and Dryden as the next 2 schools to connect to.

Izbicki commented that it would be good to have more presentations directly to seniors maybe through Lifelong or Love Living at Home. Izbicki asked if there were any specific presentations for seniors about when it is time to give up the keys? Monroe agreed it was a great idea and suggested we work with Way2Go on that. Isley agreed and would be happy to collaborate. McMurry commented that they do have some resources on that topic on their website.

8. Old business:

Izbicki talked about her working on the pothole problems around the city of Ithaca. Would like to gather some more data on peoples experiences and asks that folks share with her either directly or through Monroe.

Izbicki also reported that she had heard that the State Parks, specifically Taughannock, was going to begin charging year-round, including seniors. Monroe commented that we could have our intern investigate this and see what we find out.

9. Next meeting will be October 28, 2024, at 9:30am.

Meeting adjourned 10:30am