

**Tompkins County Office for the Aging**

**Advisory Committee Meeting**

**October 23, 2023**

**Hybrid**

**9:30am**

**Members present:** Mallison, Roe, Hultberg, Hatch, Shearer, Hart

**Excused:** Beyers, Lesser, Izbicki

**Liaisons:** Evans/Lesh, Burger, Klein, Stuart, Lynch

**Staff:** Bullis, Monroe

**Public:** Lawrence

1. Hart called the meeting to order at 9:30am.
2. No quorum. Approval of meeting minutes for September will be held for next month.
3. Public comment: No public comment
4. Member comment: No member comment
5. Liaison Reports:
  - a. Lynch: FLIC-
    - Have 4 new staff since June
    - FLIC will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years. If you or family member need to borrow something please come in no later than 12/22
    - Have a brother and sister who are homeless and have been staying at FLIC during the day. Nothing is open/accessible for them, mistrust with DSS. Let Jan know if any assistance available
  - b. Burger: Lifelong-
    - Medicare Open Enrollment in full swing; both COFA and Lifelong offer free counseling for Medicare; appointments and walk in clinics.
    - New scholarship program; those who meet income guidelines are entitled to get \$250 toward anything at Lifelong
    - 3 of 4 fossil fuel rooftop units are not working, currently using space heaters; hopefully in a couple of weeks will begin conversion to heat pump
    - Texas Roadhouse fund raiser tomorrow 10/24
  - c. Klein: Legislature-
    - Budget: finished off major part of process, lots of debate; landed on 2% increase in tax levy which translates to a \$53 increase on median priced home in Tompkins County (\$249,000)

- Budget Public Hearing October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm; for public to comment-will adopt final budget in November

d. Stuart: VNS-

- Launching new project beginning of next year- initiative in 5 counties to try to reduce hospitalized and ED utilization by trying to stabilize patients at home rather than have them transported; utilizing virtual care and a Nurse Practitioner or Paramedic
- Still in planning phase; starting out just being available to admitted VNS patients; hoping for a reduction of 50% after one year of the project

Lawrence asked if this was in conjunction with the proposed County program Rapid Medical Response. County project uses EMT's, and the two projects would not correspond with each other. VNS project currently only for VNS admitted patients.

e. Evans: Foodnet-

- Had site visit with Senator Lea Webb
- Will be closing Groton senior dining congregate site; more information to come as we proceed
- Blizzard Bags will be going out first week in November; for when Foodnet is closed for snow clients have the blizzard bags

Hultberg asked how many people will be impacted by the closing of the congregate site. Evans responded that about 10 people who will be invited to participate in other congregate site or possibly by eligible for home delivered meals

6. COFA Update-Monroe:

- Medicare Open Enrollment; Home Energy Assistance Program opens November 1st
- Presented at Health & Human Services Committee on the CAPS program getting the word out and have been receiving calls.
- Master Plan on Aging- Preliminary report previously sent out; survey also out; final report to be out early 2024 and master plan adopted in 2025. Partnership with Department of Health and New York State Office for the Aging
- Aging Services Network meetings; if you would like to be signed up let us know; last speaker was Danielle Arigoni on Aging and Climate Change

7. Discussion: Open discussion on possible meeting topics-

- Veterans Services
- Community Survey
- Evans-Suicide Prevention Services-# of seniors contemplating suicide
- Hart-New flood maps and how to help older adults effected
- Hatch-accessory dwelling units; how to make current dwelling more usable; figuring out one floor living arrangement for seniors; what's allowable, what's not allowable (affordable)
- Lynch-Coalition for snow free sidewalks/crosswalks
- Hart-Cayuga and Guthrie reps to explain what new buildings are; clinic locations; urgent cares

- Hart-broadband; county plan
- Hart-Foodnet tour

8. No new business

9. No old business

Next meeting will be November 27, 2023. Last meeting of the year.

Meeting adjourned 10:30am