

**Tompkins County Office for the Aging**

**Advisory Committee Meeting**

**February 28, 2022**

**Virtually via Zoom**

**9:30am**

**Members present:** Hultberg, Lesser, Beyers, Hart, Mallison, Hatch, Stamm, Shearer, Izbicki, Jung, Lawrence

**Excused:** Pollack, Curran, Klein

**Liaisons:** Lynch, Evans, Molloy

**Staff:** Monroe, Bullis, Chevallard, Jackson, Davis, Sprague, Slocum

**Public:** Jewell

1. Chair Hart called meeting to order at 9:30am. January minutes approved unanimously.
2. No Public Comments
3. Member Comments: Jung has made contact with the Trumansburg Senior Group and will be attending their meeting on March 9th
4. COFA Update-Monroe:
  - Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)- previously had PERS Advisory Committee who would meet quarterly which has been difficult to reconvene since COVID; cleared with County Administrator and County Clerk that we will no longer be convening an Advisory Committee for this service. Instead, Monroe will report out on numbers, finances, etc. each quarter to the COFA Advisory group. Lawrence requested that we include places where people were unable to get a PERS because of connectivity.
  - Master Plan on Aging- priorities of the State Office for the Aging include enacting the Fair Pay for Home Care which would increase the pay of the aides in the Medicaid system which would ultimately provide increases across the board; increase of 14.1 million to home delivered meal systems; restoration of Lifespan's Elder Abuse funding; 20 million to the long-term care Ombudsman program. Lawrence asked about the paid positions for the Ombudsman program and if that would affect the territory that our program covers. Monroe responded that the program would still be regionalized and serve Tompkins, Schuyler, and Chemung counties
5. Liaison Reports:
  - a. FLIC: Lynch-
    - Have more boxes of free test kits and ten packs of K95 masks for anyone who wants to pick them up
    - Currently have a lot of equipment such as walkers, commodes, wheelchairs, etc. There is a borrowing fee of \$30 but if people are really in need, they can accommodate them.

- b. Evans: Foodnet-
  - Served 193,000 meals in 2020; we were able to deliver 186,623 meals in 2021; 454 Nutrition Counseling hours in 2021; over 4000 emergencies meals provided to Tompkins County residents who needed meals because they were quarantined due to COVID, etc.
  - Mac N Cheese Bowl on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30p-7:00p at the Farmer's Market; major fundraiser for Foodnet, competitors make mac n cheese, and you can buy tickets and then vote for your favorite mac n cheese
  - Lawrence asked about the restaurant meal program. Foodnet relooking at Congregate dining in the future and what that will look like-stay tuned.
  - Hart asked about impacts of food supply. Evans stated that everything has been affected. Costs increase, sudden changes in menus if they can't get a product, etc.
  
- c. Molloy: TCPL-
  - Partnering with COFA to present on services on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in the BorgWarner room
  - Library by Mail program; you can place a hold on a book by calling a circulation desk and they will mail them to you free of charge. Eligibility includes Tompkins County residents, have a library card and are unable to get to the library; can borrow up to 2 items at a time. To register visit website or call 607-272-4557 x214 ask for Keith.
  - Virtual nonfiction book club: first session is March 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm, reading "Killers of the Flower Moon".
  - Gentle yoga series starting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Sign up via events calendar or call.
  - Can pick up masks and tests in the circulation area
  
- d. Hillson: TCHD- via Monroe
  - Expecting updates and announcements to come today from the health department related to mask wearing; Monroe will email whatever correspondence is received

Monroe stated that COFA also has masks and test kits available.

- e. Burger: Lifelong- via Monroe
  - Karen Brown is new Program Director
  - Lifelong is close to filling all tax appointments. Can still call 216-7622

Hart lets all know that Dan Klein will be our new Legislative representative. He was unable to join us today but will join starting next month.

- 6. Discussion: Cheryl Jewell, Love Living at Home
  - The village network started in Boston about 20 years ago by a group of people who wanted to age in place
  - Love Living at Home has been around for 5 years, cultivating neighbors helping neighbors to age in place

- 501 c 3 non for profit for anyone in Tompkins County 62+; can get help and give help when needed
- Currently at 205 members
- Offer social programs via zoom, looking at providing more in person programming in the coming months
- Provides transportation to and from anywhere in Tompkins County- can be hair appointments, medical appointments, etc.
- Also provides support/ check in phone calls; look to fill gaps for seniors
- Can call the office and they will connect you with whatever you are looking for
- Membership organization: have sponsored membership programs; fee covers 46% of their expenses and they offer flexible payment plans
- Opportunities to volunteer, help with general operations, committee work
- Looking at collaboration with COFA to decrease social isolation and loneliness; also looking at potential bill paying service in the future
- Pilot program of physician appointment note taking for individuals; do not need any medical background
- Free trial membership for people who want to try it out
- Hart asked about advertising for this program-something to be shared with the groups that they can share with their communities
- Hatch asked about needs that people have in order to stay in their home and how those needs are being met. Jewell explained that the needs are different, and they work to meet those people where they are; can find data on Love Living at Home in their Annual Report
- Izbicki stated that what's important is that it is one more thing that older adults can look to for socialization

#### 7. No Old Business

8. New Business- Monroe asked for ideas for people or programs to bring to the meetings for discussion.

Hatch suggested book about home health aide crisis, also stated that the Aging Services Network meetings are terrific and are really helpful that they are on zoom. These meetings are held on the second Friday of each month from noon-1pm. Bullis will send information to group.

Izbicki commented that another issue that is desperate is housing. Maintaining a home and related items such as taxes, STAR abatements, etc.

Hultberg asked about the online defensive driving class and is looking for an in-person class. Monroe will look into and let her know.

Lesser discussed the form of the nature of the delivery of health care is changing such as number of family practices, smaller practices seem to be on the decline. The opening of the large Guthrie facility in Ithaca. Becoming a more institutional experience and what are the implications for the health care of older adults. Monroe agreed and talked about our Age Friendly work and Cayuga Health Partner's work on Age Friendly Health Systems. Will look into presenters who can speak to this topic. Lawrence added that she agreed that this topic is critical.

Bullis stated that requests for nominees for Outstanding Volunteer have gone out.

Next meeting will March 28, 2022.

Meeting adjourned 11:00am