

**Tompkins County Office for the Aging
Advisory Committee Meeting**

June 26, 2023

Hybrid

9:30am

Members present: Stamm, Beyers, Lesser, Izbicki, Hultberg, Roe, Mallison, Shearer, Hatch

Liaisons: Jewell, Lynch, Stuart, Askew, Klein

Staff: Monroe, Jackson, Sprague

Public: Richards, Conroy

Excused: Hart

1. Lesser called the meeting to order at 9:30am.
2. Meeting minutes from April and May 2023 approved.
3. Stuart introduced Tricia Conroy who is the new Director of Patient Services for VNS.
4. Public comment: No public comment
5. Member comment: No member comment
6. COFA Update-Monroe:
 - Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program- Coupons will be available for 60+, income eligible older adults July 1st.
7. Lisa Richards-Project Director AmeriCorps Seniors Demonstration Program:
 - Grant through New York State Caregiving & Respite Coalition (NYSARC) under the umbrella of Lifespan of Greater Rochester
 - AmeriCorps is the national service organization for volunteering; the Senior branch is for individuals age 55+
 - New initiative to build workforce in caregiving area; provides respite for caregivers of people of any age
 - Goal is to recruit and train 225 volunteers throughout the 6 counties (Tompkins, Cortland, Herkimer, Oneida, Jefferson, and Lewis) to provide respite for people caring for older adults and people with disabilities.
 - Partner with local organizations to establish a home base for volunteers; work with faith communities, libraries, and community centers to develop drop in respite centers; partner with workforce development organizations to support the volunteerism to paid workforce initiative
 - Income eligible volunteers can receive a \$4/hour stipend; also provides mileage reimbursement

Beyers asked about the registry being developed for this program and how it will work or is different than the Registry through FLIC?

AmeriCorps registry will provide people who provide respite only. The FLIC registry is for paid in home help which can provide all sorts of services.

- For information contact Lisa at lrichards@lifespan-roch.org

Lesser asked about transportation options for volunteers and whether the drop in centers could be used for older adults who are looking for socialization? Richards explained that drop-in centers can absolutely be used for socialization. Opportunities to provide transportation are worked out individually with each county and through the home base organizations.

8. Liaison Reports:

a. Lynch: FLIC-

- Wednesday, August 30th having Annual Tompkins World of Skills Job Fair; 9am-12pm
- Added position of COO, Tracy Decker; also have hired 2 new direct staff.
- FLIC has COVID test kits available

b. Hillson: TCWH-

- Do not have any COVID test kits at this time; do have masks available that are meant for RN's to administer; anyone connected with nursing homes, etc. contact Sam
- Announcements have been put out about some Rabies concerns

c. Klein: TC Legislature-

- Broadband- about 1200 addresses in county that still do not have broadband internet; will be sending out RFP to existing providers to see what it would take for them to expand service to every address in Tompkins County; estimated timeframe for this project is 3 years

Izbicki suggested for a future meeting to delve into this topic a bit further.

d. Askew: StateWide-

- Nonprofit; Provides Medicare counseling, Patient Rights assistance, Medicare Fraud for NYS
- Can call 1-800-333-4374
- Can provide presentations on variety of topics, attend outreach events
- September 11-13th Convention in Saratoga Springs; do a lot of legislative work

e. Jewell: Love Living at Home

- Working on transportation after a procedure for their members, as it moves forward will share information with other organizations
- Offering more in person programs, on target for over 500 this year
- Friday, September 1st, 6pm-9pm fundraising event at Treleaven Winery; \$10 to get in

- f. Stuart: VNS
 - One goal is to reduce number of patients needing to go to hospital or ED; VNS was able to get a grant to create an interface between their system and physicians' offices in the area where they will be alerted to a change in the patient's health after seeing their physician- will implement throughout this next year
- 9. Discussion: Lisa Monroe, Annual Update to COFA's 4-year plan
 - In our plan, we must describe how we provide a comprehensive and coordinated system of services and how they comply with the Older Americans Act (OAA)
 - Federal funding includes:
 - Title IIIB: Supportive Services
 - Title III-C-1: Congregate Meals
 - Title III-C-2: Home Delivered Meals
 - Title IIID: Health Promotion Disease Prevention
 - Title IIIE: Caregiver Support
 - Title V: Senior Community Service Employment Program
 - Title VII: Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
 - Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)
 - State funding includes:
 - Community Services for the Elderly (CSE)
 - Caregiver Resource Centers (CRC)
 - Congregate Service Initiative (CSI)
 - Expanded In home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP)
 - Long Term Care Ombudsman
 - Through COFA:
 - 28 programs are administered, 32 contracts, 12 subcontractors, 22 funding streams (9 federal, 9 state, 3 local/interdepartmental, 1 grant), 4 different fiscal years, 13 full time and 3 part time staff
 - Lisa will be emailing 2 documents and a 3-question survey for your review feedback.

10. No old business

Next meeting will be July 24, 2023

Meeting adjourned 11:27am