

Tompkins County Office for the Aging

Advisory Committee Meeting

July 24, 2023

Hybrid

9:30am

Members present: Hart, Beyers, Lesser, Hultberg, Roe, Stamm, Hatch

Liaisons: Evans, Jewell, Stuart, Molloy, Burger

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

Public: Lawrence

1. Hart called the meeting to order at 9:30am.
2. Meeting minutes for June and July 2023 will be sent out for approval at the September meeting.
3. Public comment: No public comment
4. Member comment: No member comment
5. COFA Update-Monroe:
 - The county budget was completed on time. Working with new budget software which has been trying. Nothing out of the ordinary, all requests are within the target budget.
 - Submitted Annual Update to NYSOFA (NYS Office for the Aging); never know how long NYSOFA will take to approve it; goes through various departments at the state level.
 - We will be holding 2 public hearings this year; 1 in person in a more rural area; if anyone is interested in helping to plan that please let us know. Start planning in early September.
 - Reminder that there is no meeting in August.

Hart asked about providing feedback on the County Strategic Plan. Monroe reached out to the communications department for information to pass onto members. Lawrence stated that they provided two dates for stakeholders.

Lesser asked about the status of the documents that they commented on. Monroe explained that was our annual update that was submitted to NYSOFA. Next year we will be required to submit a new 4-year plan.

6. Liaison Reports:
 - a. Burger: Lifelong-

- Putting final touches on Fall Catalog; adding a balance program and are exploring 2 evidence-based programs-one that focuses on healthy eating and one that focuses on active living
 - Starting to plan for Medicare open enrollment this fall; looking at hosting some sites for clinics
 - Lifelong is looking for new board members
- b. Evans: Foodnet-
- Congregate dining is up and running at Titus Towers; will be in touch with people to provide tabling and presentations; also looking for volunteers to help during the meal- contact Aly if interested
- c. Molloy: TCPL-
- Library will be closed for the last 2 weeks in September for an HVAC recommission.
 - RFID project; tagging all materials with special tags that will allow people to check books out using their phones
 - July 29th 10am-12pm-field trip to the Johnson Art Museum
 - August 14th 10am-11am- Cybersecurity Basics for Seniors; located in Digital Lab at the Library
 - August 9th 11:30a-1pm Poetry Workshop
- d. Jewell: Love Living at Home-
- September 1st; Treleaven Friend and Fund Raising event
 - Created the David Sprague Sponsored membership fund; will go to help low income older adults be members of Love Living at Home
- e. Stuart: VNS-
- Fully staffed with nurses and physical therapists
 - Referrals can come from anywhere; majority come from CMC

Lawrence asked if VNS can speak to senior groups; Stuart explained that they can certainly do that.

7. Discussion: Trish Chevallard, Aging Services Specialist and Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Coordinator
- Objective of Ombudsman program is to help residents of long term care facilities understand and exercise their rights to good care in an environment that promotes and protects their dignity and quality of life
 - Resident focused, confidential, State mandated program so no cost.
 - Staff are not mandated reporters. Currently have 5 volunteers
 - 15 regions in NYS, our region covers Tompkins, Schuyler, and Chemung County totaling about 1900 residents (3 Family Type Homes, 10 Assisted Living/Adult Care Facilities, and 10 Skilled Nursing Facilities)
 - Volunteers: expected to provide 2 hours per week at assigned facility; 18 hours of in services and ongoing trainings; complete monthly activity sheets; complete case work and documentation

- Types of complaints include: symptoms unattended, discharges, making own choices, food quality and quantity, abuse and neglect, not being treated with dignity and respect; also provide information and assistance, education to residents and community and systems advocacy on local and state levels
- Having funding to hire a temporary full-time staff

Asked how they interact with family members. If family contacts and resident is determined as not having capacity and family is health care proxy, they will work with that family member. Otherwise, the program focuses on resident only.

Burger asked how they navigate residents with diagnosis of dementia, cognitive changes. LTCOP will still visit the resident and ask about designated Health Care Proxy, would reach out to that person.

Burger asked if they offer any trainings for staff on resident rights, etc. Do offer to facilities on a regular basis, not always taken up on the offer. Provided a training to CNA's at BOCES.

Lesser asked about those residents who may not have any family or friends. Our State Ombudsman does have the ability to assess situations and have the ombudsman act on behalf of that resident.

Hart asked if the care is generally adequate and reasonable. Chevallard acknowledged that this is hard to answer. Case by case. If they are getting complaints, it's not adequate.

8. Davis mentioned the Farmers Market Coupons. Available in our office for people 60+ and who meet income guidelines. Staff have been out to various places in the community to distribute. Have distributed about 300 coupons already.
9. Klein: TC Legislature-
 - Broadband initiative is still moving forward; intention is to get broadband to every unserved address in Tompkins County; timeframe is 3-5 years until it is completed
 - Most underserved areas are Caroline, Danby, and Newfield
 - Will have companies able to bid on towns individually; Lawrence stated that she hopes the county still does consider Caroline even though they are creating a municipal owned system
 - Roughly a dozen internet providers who serve Tompkins County

10. No old business

No meeting in August.

Next meeting will be September 25, 2023

Meeting adjourned 10:32am