

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING
LUZERNE & WYOMING COUNTIES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
State Street Conference Room
April 21, 2022**

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Present – Dr. Steve Broskoske, Joanne Corey, Dr. Noah Davis, Laura Allport Dickson, Charlotte Kitler, Angel Mathis, Henry Pennoni, Nancy Thaler, Dominick Trombetta, Deborah Walsh, Don Warren, David Yonki, Joseph Yozviak

Absent – Phyllis Mundy, Robert Nealon, William Runner, James Sernak

Staff Attendance

Sandy Acornley, Jim Cease, Sean Davis, Tim Farrell, Mary Roselle, Sheila Rothenbecker, Mary Schell

CALL TO ORDER – Joe Yozviak, Chair

Joe Yozviak, Chair, called the AAA Advisory Board Meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at the State Street Conference Room and for those attending by Microsoft Teams.

ROLL CALL – Sheila Rothenbecker

Sheila Rothenbecker, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director Mary Roselle, conducted roll call of the AAA Advisory Board members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joe Yozviak asked for approval of the February 17, 2022 meeting minutes. There were no corrections requested. Don Warren made a motion to approve and Angel Mathis seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT – Mary Roselle

New County Manager

Mary began her report by telling the board members Randy Robertson would be starting in June as the new County Manager. He has reached out to introduce himself and asked the County Division and Department Heads to send information about themselves and their work with the County.

Luzerne County System of Care

Luzerne County System of Care holds an event each year at the Woodlands. The event includes breakout sessions and featured speakers, with information about Human Services and great attention to Mental Health and Mental Disabilities. The Aging Agency will offer Protective Services and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren sessions. This year the event takes place on Thursday, August 18th, the same day as the scheduled AAA Advisory Board meeting. Due to the conflict, the Advisory Board meeting will be moved to the following Thursday, August 25th. Mary invited all members of the board to attend the System of Care event.

Union Negotiations

AAA Rank and File union negotiations are continuing. The union contract had expired on December 31, 2021 and meetings are taking place in order to solidify a new contract.

Foster Grandparent Program

Grants to administer the Foster Grandparent Program were put out for RFP (request for proposal). Local bidder, Telespond, was awarded the contract and officially notified. Telespond currently oversees another volunteer program and is used to dealing with the NCOA (National Council on Aging). Mary included Telespond in the last Foster Grandparent Program meeting and the Aging Agency will help with the transition in any way needed.

Edwardsville Active Adult Center

Mary informed the Advisory Board members the AAA Edwardsville Active Adult Center will be closing. The center is located on Russell Street in Edwardsville and the old building is in need of numerous repairs. The attendance is very low there and the center director has just accepted a full time position with the Kingston Active Adult Center. Romilda Crocarno, Acting County Manager and the Department of Aging have approved the closing which takes place on May 27th. Mary will be contacting the legislators of that district, the borough and will speak to the members next week about the closing. The center members will be offered a trip to the Kingston

site which is a larger full time center and to Plymouth, which is a smaller part time center as Edwardsville had been. Mary will update the board members at the next meeting.

Agency Vacant Positions

The agency is still struggling to fill many numerous positions. Many vacant positions have been posted three of four times without any qualified candidates from Civil Service. Mary has asked the County Human Resources Department to help candidates navigate the Civil Service system since it can be difficult. Job Fairs have been held by Human Resources at the Court House and other locations in trying to attract candidates. Mary has spoken to classes at the Penn State Hazleton campus to let them know about opportunities with the Aging Agency. Mary Schell has also reached out to local colleges and universities offering to speak and give information about available agency positions. A motion was made by Nancy Thaler for the Advisory Board to send County Human Resources Department a letter to express their concern with vacant positions and to ask that candidates be assisted when dealing with the Civil Service process. Henry Pennoni seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Property Tax and Rent Rebate Programs

Mary has been asked by Jack Elber, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging Deputy Communications Director to speak at an event on April 29th. The event is being held to discuss Governor Wolf's plan to allocate some American Plan Rescue dollars to the Property Tax and Rent Rebate programs.

PDA Administrative Waivers

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging has encouraged agencies to apply for Administrative Waivers to help with issues of filling positions, which has been a problem state wide. AAA applied for a waiver to move a Care Manager 2 in the Protective Services Unit to a Care Manager 3 position. The waiver request was approved and the individual will be receiving pay for working in the capacity of the Care Manager 3. Another waiver was requested to complete in-home meal reassessments telephonically. The waiver was granted through April 30th for telephonic re-assessments for consumers without changes. If a change is needed, an in-person assessment will take place. After April 30th, all re-assessments will be held in-person.

Enrollment Process

At this time, AAA's continue to do their portion of the enrollment process and Maximus maintains their current portion.

Emergency Kits

Emergency Kits that were discussed at the last Advisory Board meeting, are now getting out to the consumers and distribution will be completed before the end of the fiscal year.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES REPORT – Tim Farrell

Foster Grandparent Program

Americorp has extended their grant through June 30th, the Foster Grandparent Program participants were contacted and thrilled to hear the news. Mary Lou Zerfoss (FGP Contracted Coordinator) hosted a recognition lunch for program participants on March 25th, the event was very much appreciated by all. Currently there are 70 active and 23 inactive participants. Active participants continue to attend in-service meetings held by Mary Lou.

Mature Workers Program

Denise Stalica (Mature Worker Program Director) continues to hold trainings for participants at Hazleton Penn State Campus. One of the classes held in February was Power of Three and the another held in early April was Day to Day Financials. Denise will be attending a Times Leader job fair on May 11th at Mohegan Sun in Wilkes-Barre. She is still trying to bring up her participant intake numbers and this month there was a modest improvement.

Fiscal Budgets

Tim will begin working on the next fiscal year budgets. Time studies will help to determine cost allocations. Tim will work several weeks on preparation and be ready for the beginning of July.

Vacant Positions:

14 Vacant Full-time Positions:

- Aging Care Manager 3 – 3 vacancies (posted & re-posted)
- Aging Care Manager 2 – 6 vacancies (posted multiple times)
- Aging Care Manager Supervisor 1 – (posted)
- Aging Care Manager Supervisor 2 – (posted & re-posted)
- Clerk Typist 2 – 2 vacancies (1 on hold and 1 posted)
- Senior Center Manager 1 – Pittston (posted)

No Vacant Part-Time Positions at this time

2 Vacant Alternate Positions:

- Food Service Worker – (posted)
- Senior Center Manager 1 – (re-posted)

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT – Mary Schell

AAA Protective Services Interview

Nathan Litsch, Protective Services Care Manager and Brian McAdarra, Protective Services Supervisor were interviewed recently by a marketing firm for Misericordia University. The interview featured what it's like to be a Social Worker for the Area Agency on Aging Protective Services Unit. Brian and Nathan's interview will be linked to the Misericordia website and a printed flyer will also be circulated.

Social Services Quarterly Meeting

Since the agency staff has been taking on larger workloads due to several vacant positions, Mary Schell wanted to show her appreciation. March was National Social Workers Month and during the department's quarterly meeting, the team members enjoyed breakfast, Social Workers puzzles and interactive activities.

National Survey of Older Americans

Our AAA was recently selected to participate in the 2022 National Survey of Older Americans. The survey will gather information from recipients of in-home meals, those in the Caregiver Support Program, Care Management and congregate meals. The older adults who are active with the agency, will be randomly selected and contacted by letter with a choice to participate. The information will be helpful with future services and changes that may need to occur.

Assessment/Intake Unit

The Administrative Waiver, which Mary Roselle had referenced, is working well for the in-home meal telephonic assessments. Cindy Royce who works with the Foster Grandparent Program has been assisting along with an intern from Misericordia. Kandie Keiner has been working as a Care Manager for the last 2 years in the Assessment Unit. Kandie has recently accepted a position as a Supervisor in that unit.

Home Health Aides

There has been difficulty in getting Personal Care Home Health Aides and last month 28 consumers were on a waiting list. Some progress has been made and the list is now down to 13 waiting. A few consumers were removed from the list when they were accepted for the Waiver Program. AAA is working with the Home Health Agencies to staff cases as soon as possible.

Legislative Report

House Bill #2425 provides updated guidance on communication duties between the PA Department of Health, PA Department of Human Services and local Agencies on Aging. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Aging and Older Adult Services. House Bill #1691 creates an instant scratch-off lottery ticket to help fund an Elderly Veterans Daycare Program. The bill was introduced by Representative Karen Boback and is currently under consideration by the House of Representatives.

ACTIVE ADULT CENTER REPORT – Sandy Acornley

Active Adult Centers

March was a very busy time for the Active Adult Centers, because it is designated as National Nutrition Month. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture focused on celebrating 50 years of the Senior Nutrition Program. Bobbie Shendock, Nutrition Projects Director, came up with some ideas and activities for the centers. The six large center sites compiled a cook book called Fifty Recipes for Fifty Years, with recipes contributed by the members and staff. A great job was done by everyone and the recipe books are available in the centers for reference or copying. The Kingston Center held a Special Nutrition Day with Karel Zubris from the Penn State Extension Nutrition Program. Karel made a presentation and highlighted the center's cookbook. The Wyoming County center members put together a Healthy Shopping Day. The staff requested donations from Schiffs, SAMS Club and the Wal-Mart in Tunkhannock. A farmer's market type display was created at the center and members were able to shop among the donations picking out fresh fruits and vegetables at no cost. Other sites had speakers, activities, puzzles and food drives. Food collected at the centers was donated to local food banks and charities. All of the activities and event information was submitted to the PA Department of Aging and the Administration of Community Living and Aging as part of a celebration contest. Bobbie Shendock participated in the celebration webinar and said many of the pictures from our Active Adult Centers were highlighted.

Mary Lou Kocher was hired as the Assistant Director of the Kingston Active Adult Center. An Alternate Food Service Worker was just hired at the Rose Tucker center in Nanticoke. Next week two candidates will be interviewed for the Assistant Director position in the Linda Kohut Pittston center.

Wilkes University Pharmacy Students

On April 4th, the Wilkes University Pharmacy Students held medicine review events at each of the AAA Active Adult Centers. The students along with their professors, reviewed medications

for the center members, offered blood pressure readings and gave presentations. The event is usually held twice a year at the centers, which gives the seniors an opportunity to ask questions, speak with the student pharmacists and receive valuable information.

CPR Certification

Thirty-two AAA Staff members were CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) Certified on March 22nd during three virtual classes using mannequins provided by Red Cross. Most members certifications had expired during COVID. The process and technology were different than past courses, however all of the staff members joining in passed the course and became re-certified.

Matter of Balance

Two Matter of Balance workshops are currently taking place. One is being held at the Hazleton Active Adult Center and the other at the Linda Kohut Pittston Active Adult Center. Both are going very well and have good attendance.

Older Americans Month

May is Older Americans Month and the Active Adult Centers have been coming up with ideas for celebrating. Wyoming County AAC will be holding a Sock Hop on a Saturday evening, others will be having open houses, entertainment and special activities. The centers would like to share what they do with the public and hope to add new members.

United Way Day of Caring

The United Way Day of Caring will be held on May 11th and several of the AAA Active Adult Center sites will be participating. Day of Caring volunteers give extra help to the centers by cleaning, washing windows, organizing closets, painting and many other projects. Sandy is grateful to the volunteers and finds it a wonderful opportunity for the centers.

AARP Driver Safety Class

AARP Driver Safety Classes will be held at the Active Adult Centers in Kingston and Wyoming County in May. The center members are glad to have the chance to take the classes and are thankful for the insurance discount.

COVID Tests

Geisinger Community Care Department has offered to distribute free COVID tests to all of the AAA Active Adult Centers. Sandy and the center members are appreciative of the community outreach from Geisinger.

Center Wish List Items

Active Adult Centers are starting to receive their wish list items that had been ordered with COVID grant funding. Sandy thanked Tim Farrell and his Fiscal Department staff for their hard work and patience with the ordering process.

Farmers Market Vouchers

The Farmers Market Vouchers will be distributed this year by using the mail request and distribution option which has been used over the last couple years. Karen Pietraccini (AAA Community Services Administrative Assistant) is in charge of the program and has been receiving calls about the vouchers over the last few months. Seniors look forward to using the vouchers for fresh fruits and vegetables.

NOMINATING REPORT – Sheila Rothenbecker

In the middle of March, the Nominating Committee reviewed and unanimously approved the resume of Donna Depue who had requested membership on the AAA Advisory Board. Donna is a resident of Wyoming County and is currently a member of the Wyoming County Active Adult Center. She will advocate on behalf of the Wyoming County older adult community and the senior center. The Nominating Committee recommended Donna DePue for Advisory Board membership with a term of three years. Sheila made the motion to approve Donna's membership to the board and Angel Mathis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

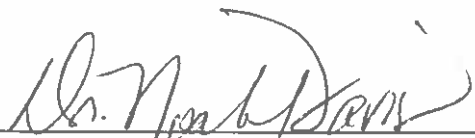
Joe Yozviak asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angel Mathis made the motion and Henry Pennoni seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items.

NEXT MEETING

The next AAA Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2022 and the location will be determined.



Noah Davis, AAA Advisory Board Secretary

Respectfully Submitted by: Sheila Rothenbecker
Administrative Assistant
Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Area Agency on Aging

