# **St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging (OFA)**

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **November 2, 2020**

**Meeting called to order:** 10:00 AM by Roger Bennett, Chairman

**Present:** *(voting members)* Roger Bennett, Linda Wilkinson,

Larry Denesha, Kathy Skelly

**Present:** *(non-voting members):* Chiara Delosh, Andrea Montgomery, Barb McBurnie

Brenda Sanderson

**Present:** *(New Members/Pending BOL approval)*

**Excused**: Russ Backus, Gail Teele, Bob Mead, Gail Bisonette, Vicki Clark, Dana McGuire, Michael Boprey

**Absent:**

**Public Attending:** None

**Meeting Location:** Zoom

**♦Introductions:** Meeting brought to order by R. Bennett. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Reflection. Welcome and introductions.

**♦Guest Speaker –** None

**♦Public Comment** – No public comments

♦**Approval/Minutes** – Couldn’t approve September minutes because there was no quorum. Will approve September meeting minutes in February meeting.

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♦**Correspondence** *(Kathy Skelly)* – None

**♦Old Business**– N/A

**♦New Business** – N/A

**County Council of Senior Citizens Report** *(Brenda Sanderson)* Have the plaques ready to send out to the 3 senior award winners.

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report (***Barb McBurnie)* Statewide has been busy. Very successful zoom meeting in October. Medicare Open Enrollment is going on right now. Be very careful and look at the paperwork. There is billions of dollars lost in Medicare Fraud.

**Veterans Services Report** *(Mike Boprey)* No Report.

**Public Health Report** – *(Dana McGuire)Andrea Montgomery gave the report in D. McGuire’s absence*

* To date there has been 414 cases
* 4 current hospitalizations
* 37 active cases, 373 have completed isolation
* There have been 5 deaths due to COVID
* There is a new testing site at the Community Health Center of the North Country.
* We are where we were back in April. This is due to family and community gatherings, travel related, and sports teams.
* Most of the clusters came from indoor gatherings.
* We are trending up with positive cases.
* Colleges are testing students every week.
* The average age in September for individuals getting COVID was 34. In October 36 was the average age. The 11-20 year old age group continues to rise most likely due to college and K-12 classes.
* The average age of deaths is 75.
* During the month of October, one of the larger clusters (approximately 30 individuals) is most likely due to travelers from an advisory state.
* Wear a mask, social distance, wash hands, stay home if you’re sick and stay local.

**County Legislator’s Report** *(Larry Denesha)* There has been 30 additional cases from over the weekend that he understands. On Friday there was 6 additional cases. There has been 4 fatalities due to COVID. 86,390 individuals have been tested. The 2021 Budget was presented in October, and reviewed Budget with very minimal changes. Will be acting on Budget during Board Meeting tonight. Taxes will be up, but not significantly.

**AARP Report**- *(Vicki Clark)* No Report.

**Office for the Aging Report** *(Andrea Montgomery)*

* Our office is short staff right now. There were a couple of individuals in the office that were promoted, and we have to wait for vacancies to be filled for Senior Advocate, Advocate worker and a temporary Keyboard Specialist.
* Hired 3 new temp workers for nutrition. One temp worker has already quit, so we are in search to hiring for 1 new temp staff. Having individuals trained at a few different sites in case one of the sites is short staff.
* Telework is a bit tricky right now. The union has concerns regarding this.
* Still short for volunteers.
* Home delivered meal referrals are going up to 40-50 new referrals a month.
* We serve 750 home delivered meal clients each week.
* There is a temporary merge with the Dekalb and Canton Nutrition Sites, and Star Lake and Gouverneur Nutrition Sites.
* We had 50-75 volunteers a week before COVID and now we are down to 15 volunteers a week.
* Seeing the effects of school closing on staff.
* Haven’t heard anything about getting the 20% cut from State.
* We are having the holiday gift drive going on right now. We are asking for monetary contributions this year instead of gifts due to COVID.
* Range of Motion Health Promotion Class is going on right now.
* Medicare Open Enrollment is going on right now. Doing most of it over the phone.
* HEAP opens today.
* The senior award winner’s press release went out.
* Elaine Ames received the Community Spirit Award from Arc Jefferson St. Lawrence last week.

**♦Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by L. Wilkinson, seconded by R. Backus, all in favor.

R. Bennett adjourned meeting at 11:05 AM.

**♦Next Meeting** – February 8, 2021, TBD

*(Minutes respectfully submitted by Chiara Delosh)*