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

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **April 12, 2021**

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

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

 Larry Denesha, Kathy Skelly, Gail Teele

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

 Brenda Sanderson, Jolene Munger, Christiana DeForge, Renee Lomoglio

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

**Excused**: Michael Boprey

**Absent:**

**Public Attending:** Marjorie McCullouch, Matt Mannierre

**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** – motion to approve minutes by R. Backus, seconded by K. Skelly, all in favor.

#  Motion passed.

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

**♦Old Business**– N/A

**♦New Business** – N/A

**Review By-Laws** – Other organizations have added Zoom Meetings to their By-Laws, but this doesn’t need to be added to our By-Laws. A problem that was brought up is having a quorum during the meetings. Barb brought up that if the quorum was at 30% that would resolve the quorum problem. Andrea mentioned that this is not a policy making board so you have flexibility to changes. Andrea said that she could send a draft form of the By-Laws to everyone with the change that the quorum is 30% instead of 51%. According to the By-Laws you need to have 2 meetings to make the By-Laws official. This meeting will be the first proposal of the quorum change in the By-Laws, and then have these changes approved in the next meeting. Roger thinks we need to vote for change of the quorum percentage in the By-Laws. R. Backus approved second by L. Wilkinson.

**Members** – Marjorie McCullouch and Matt Manierre are requesting to be members on the Advisory Council Board. Barb and Brenda applied to be voting members on the board.

**County Council of Senior Citizens Report** *(Brenda Sanderson)* Everything is done through the phone and she hasn’t seen anyone from the Senior Clubs. The only communication she has is if she calls a Senior Club President or they call her.

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report (***Barb McBurnie)* State budget funding for Statewide is restored. The scams that happened when COVID started is testing scams, then vaccine scams, and now vaccine survey scams are going on right now. Can’t make plans for the future for Statewide. Might be able to have a meeting in the fall.

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

**Public Health Report** – *(Jolene Munger)*

* Working on getting to homebound population with the vaccine.
* Address vaccine hesitancy. State says that we have to be at a 75% threshold before things go back to normal. Right now our county is at a 40% threshold. Our county is doing worse than the neighboring counties around us.

**County Legislator’s Report** *(Larry Denesha)* Vaccinations available at Star Lake Fire Department tomorrow, April 13. On April 15 vaccinations will be available at Leithead Field House in Canton. As of Friday there were 45 cases which brings the total number of cases up to 6,846. There are 5 people that are hospitalized and 94 deaths so far. You should laminate and take a photo of the vaccine cards. Don’t go anywhere without the vaccine card. The broadband survey will be wrapping up at the end of the month. You can take the survey at home on your computer by going to https://www.stlawrencecountybroadband.com/, or have it done through the phone by calling the Planning Office at 315-379-2292.

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

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

* Hiring for an Account Clerk position and 2 temporary Nutrition Aides.
* Always looking for volunteers.
* As of right now our offices will be opening to the public in Mid-May. We will be looking at individual nutrition sites for reopening. Our larger nutrition sites might have two different eating times to help with social distancing, and individuals would have to call the day before and reserve a time for congregate dining. Andrea will keep everyone updated when we get closer to opening up congregate dining. Our office doesn’t have enough staff for reopening congregate dining. Every staff member is delivering meals at this time. Clients won’t be able to line up to get their meals. Our staff would have to bring the meals out to the individual.
* Our office has more money coming our way from the State Budget.
* Late Summer or early Fall congregate dining will be reopening. We have a lot of signs and plexi glass that needs to be put up at our nutrition sites.
* Volunteer Appreciation month is in April.
* May is Older Americans month. There will be no May Festival done this year due to COVID-19. There will be a virtual ceremony held in October.
* We have the Pen Pal Program going on right now. We need more older adults to participate.
* If anyone needs to set up an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine call our office.

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

 R. Bennett adjourned meeting at 11:02 AM.

**♦Next Meeting** – June 14, 2021, TBD

*(Minutes respectfully submitted by Chiara Delosh)*