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

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **November 8th, 2021 (Zoom Meeting)**

**Meeting called to order:** 10:03 AM by Roger Bennett, Chairman

**Present (VIA ZOOM):** *(voting members)* Roger Bennett, Linda Wilkinson, Russ Backus, Larry Denesha, Joan Howlett, Marjorie McCullouch, Matt Manierre, Barb McBurnie, Brenda Sanderson, Gail Teele, Kathy Skelly

**Present:** *(non-voting members):* Andrea Montgomery, Chiara Delosh, Christiana DeForge, Michael Boprey, Jolene Munger

**Absent:** Gail Bisonette, Vicki Clark, Kathy Skelly, Gail Teele

**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** – motion to approve minutes by M. McCullouch, seconded by L. Wilkinson, all in favor. Motion passed.

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

**♦Old Business**– None

**♦New Business** – N/A

**Nominating Committee-** There is a selection for Committee members for the February Office Election. Kathy is the sole member from the last time. Roger said to at least nominate 1 or 2 individuals for the Committee. Barb and Marjorie offered to be on the Committee. A. Montgomery mentioned that in February there will be an election for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Correspondence Secretary, and that the individuals that are holding these positions right now, can be re-elected in February. The nominating committee is where you meet to come up with a slate for candidates. Kathy, Barb, and Marjorie, are the Committee members.

**Members Updates** – No member updates.

**County Council of Senior Citizens Report** – *(Brenda Sanderson)* No updates.

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report** – (*Barb McBurnie)* Had the Statewide virtual convention last month. You can go to the Statewide website to review the convention. There was a lot of good speakers that presented information. They postponed elections last year, but there was information sent out for elections for this year. Will be starting advocacy training in January. Open Enrollment for Medicare is going on right now, so be cautious.

**Veterans Services Report** – *(Mike Boprey)* Still seeing a lot of claims coming through. The VA continues to help veterans. VA clinic is moving from Massena to Potsdam.

**Public Health Report** – *(Jolene Munger)* None.

* 6.37% positivity rate in our county. We are the highest in the state.
* Saturday there was 92 cases, Sunday there is 40 cases, and as of today there is 27 cases, but that number will go up by noon.
* Vaccination rates for 65+ is 87.2% for 1st dose.
* Hosting a mini clinic tomorrow night.
* On November 13th there will be a family event.
* Will be going to elementary schools to give shots.
* Still doing booster shots, but there will be limited booster clinics the next 6 weeks due to going to the elementary schools.
* Third dose is different than the booster shot when it comes to Moderna. The third dose is a full dose and is usually for immunocompromised individuals. Call your doctor to discuss if you should get the third dose or the booster shot.
* It is flu season.
* Hospitals are overloaded right now, and are seeing more deaths.
* 20-44 year olds are struggling to get the vaccine.
* Did all rabies clinics this year.
* There has been an increase in ticks this year.

**County Legislator’s Report** – *(Larry Denesha)* Had discussion at Finance Committee Meeting about home heating fuel and sales tax. There would be a $4 million dollar loss in St. Lawrence County if we get rid of this sales tax. After the census is done, the districts are reviewed to see if there will need to be any changes. Districting stayed basically the same with very little changes. Canton saw growth. Budget reviewing is going on and don’t see any changes being made. There will be a 2% drop in County taxes in 2022.

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

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

* Our office is fully staffed. Just hired a new Senior Advocate Worker and a Nutrition Aide.
* Assisting with registering seniors for the boosters and 3rd dose.
* Holiday gift drive is going on now until December 1.
* We are partnered with the Youth Bureau for a Holiday Card Drive.
* We still have quite a few companion pets in our office. Please let us know if anyone you know would like one.
* Medicare Open Enrollment is going on now until December 7.
* We always have a need for volunteers.
* The Potsdam high school Positivity project is where the club members teach the elder on how to use a computer to order food online, and then a staff member from our office helps deliver the food.
* Community Friendship Volunteer Program has just finished their second training for volunteers. This is a volunteer program that helps seniors to age in place.

**♦Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by J. Howlett, seconded by M. McCullouch, all in favor. R. Bennett adjourned meeting at 10:55 AM.

**♦Next Meeting** – February 7th, 2022, (Zoom)

*(Electronic Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Chiara Delosh)*