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

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **June 14th, 2022**

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

**Present:** *(voting members)* Roger Bennett, Linda Wilkinson, Russ Backus, Larry Denesha, Joan Howlett, Matt Manierre, Brenda Sanderson, Kathy Skelly

**Present:** *(non-voting members):* Andrea Montgomery, Christiana DeForge

**Absent:** Barb McBernie, Gail Bisonette, Michael Boprey, Chiara Delosh, Jolene Munger, Mike Boprey, Marjorie McCullouch, Gail Teele, Vicki Clark

**Public Attending:** Myrtle Regan

**Meeting Location:** HSC

**♦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** – M. Regan noted that the meetings are helpful because she leaves with information to bring back to her senior club.

♦**Approval/Minutes** – motion to approve minutes by R. Backus, seconded by M. Manierre, all in favor. Motion passed.

♦**Correspondence** – *(Kathy Skelly)* – Will be in touch with M. McCulloch and G. Teele

**♦Old Business**– None.

**♦New Business** – Updates as follows in reports below.

**Members Updates** – No member updates.

**County Legislator’s Report** – *(Larry Denesha)* June 10th to June 14th there were 80 new COVID cases in the county with a 3.7% positivity rate currently; reminder to minimize your risk; Edwards-Knox approved a SLC Sheriff to work as a full time school resource officer; DSS had an adoption ceremony to promote the positive outcomes that DSS does strive for.

**County Council of Senior Citizens Report** – *(Brenda Sanderson)* Annual Senior Picnic will be August 11st 2022 at the Gouverneur Community Center from 10am to 2pm; County Council had their meeting at the Midtown apartments and their next meeting is planned to be there again; there will be an award ceremony for senior award winders from the last 2 years in October; Brenda will be visiting all the county senior clubs because it has been some time since the pandemic began.

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report** – *(No Rep)* StateWide will be at the Potsdam SummerFest and Waddington’s Home Coming events in July and August; the annual StateWide Convention will be September 13th and 14th in Saratoga.

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

**Public Health Report** – *(No Rep)* The guidance for 50+ boosters now states that the person “should” receive the 4th booster, instead of “may” receive the booster; the 4th booster is required for 50+ to not be mandated to quarantine.

**AARP Report** – *(No Rep)* No Report.

**Member Updates** – The ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence was accredited by CQL and they are thankful about the support OPWDD received in the finalized 2023 budget.

**Office for the Aging Report** – *(Andrea Montgomery)* NYS 2023 Budget invested in aging to fund unmet needs/waitlisted services; Fair Pay 4 Home Care was able to advocate for a wage increase, but not “fair pay”; working with CHHA agencies to coordinate new procedures for collaborating and providing service; prosing to change the Advisory Council meeting and will send out a survey to see what works best for members; OFA offices have been extremely busy; currently hiring for a Nutrition Services Assistance, Senior Program Coordinator and Program Coordinator positions; we’ll be working on outreach to address food insecurity with SNAP information and assistance; attended the ACUU conference and learned innovative ways to address needs; starting July 1st our Nutrition Sites will have a Grab & go option; FMNP coupons won’t begin until after July 1st; currently we have 2 Health Promotion classes going, A Matter of Balance in LBSH and SNAP-Ed with Walk with Ease in the Gouverneur Community Center; HEAP’s Cooling Benefit no longer has a medication condition requirement; OFA will be participating in suicide awareness events; July we will also host Senior Farmers Market Trips.

**Picnic Plans**

OFA will print signs for the event and handle publicity. Senior Club presidents can take meal reservations, but MUST call the OFA to put the guests on the list. **Thursday, August 11th** from 10 am – 2 pm at the Gouverneur Community Center

* SCHEDULE:
  + 10 am – Registration/An OFA Staff member will check in registered meal guests and give them their ticket for their meal.  There is a suggested contribution of $3.00/meal.
  + 10 am – 11:15 am – Time for guests to visit County Council tables, Senior Club Tables, StateWide and NY Connects.
    - There may be vendors outside by the basketball courts.  They will need to bring their own tent, table and chairs.  No outside vendor will be allowed inside due to space limitations.
  + 11:30 am – Lunch will be served inside and outside (weather permitting)
  + *Menu:  BBQ Chicken Breast, Macaroni & Cheese, Zucchini/Squash medley, corn muffin and strawberry shortcake/ Ice Tea and Lemonade to drink*
  + 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm – Band outside in the stage/pavilion.  If it rains, it can be moved inside. \*County Council will arrange for the band.
* OFA staff will be on hand to assist as needed.  OFA Nutrition Staff will prepare meal.

**\*\*Changes this year:**

* **Meal tickets must be reserved 1 week in advance**!  We need to know how many people are coming to prepare food.  **No tickets will be sold at the door.**
* No Bingo – it is too long of a day for everyone and takes too long to break down to get ready for lunch.  We are happy to host Bingo events at any of our Nutrition Centers on other, scheduled days.
* We will not be offering take-out meals.  Each registered guest can have 1 meal.

**♦Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by R. Backus, seconded by B. Sanderson, all in favor. R. Bennett adjourned meeting at 11:20 AM.

**♦Next Meeting** – September 19th, 2022, Human Services Center, Canton: 2nd Floor Conference Room at 10 AM

*(Electronic Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Christiana DeForge)*