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

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **November 6, 2023**

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

**Present:** *(voting members)* Roger Bennett, Larry Denesha, Matt Manierre, Barb McBurnie. Linda Wilkinson, Gail Teele, Kathy Skelly

**Present:** *(non-voting members):* Jacob Kormanyos, Chiara Delosh, Andrea Montgomery

**Absent:** Michael Boprey, Mary Jones, Carly Zimmerman, Russ Backus, Gary Berk, Joan Howlett, Carly Zimmerman, Brenda Sanderson

**Public Attending:** Vicky Solcolawski, Monica Sandvizki, Lila Hunnewell

**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** – Andrea Montgomery, OFA Director- Presenting the Public Hearing on the 2024 Annual Plan for Programs on Aging. Public Abstract Hearing will be sent per request.

**♦Public Comment** – None.

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

♦**Correspondence** – Brought card for everyone to sign for Carlton Doane. He used to be on the Advisory Council and passed away at the end of October. Also, Andrea suggest on sending a card to Brenda Sanderson as she is going through some medical stuff right now.

**♦Old Business**– None.

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

Nomination Committee-

* Barb McBurnie- Chair based on by-laws
* Roger Bennett
* Russ Backus

All the positions are up for election in February

**County Legislator’s Report** – *(Larry Denesha)* There was an Advocacy letter that Andrea sent around. It has been a strange year for 2024 Budget because of all the unknown. Inflation is 17.2%. Looking at sales taxes on whether to lower them or have them stay the same, so they don’t have to raise them next year. Increase eligibility levels for programs such as SNAP, HEAP, Medicaid, etc. There has been zero increases financially. They are cranking out money faster than taking it in. Federal money goes to State and then should be dispersed to the different counties.

**Public Health Report** – *(Carly Zimmerman)* None. Andrea did mention that Public Health is taking appointments for COVID and additional vaccines for individuals to get.

**County Council of Senior Citizens Report** – *(Brenda Sanderson)* None

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report** – *(Barb McBurnie)* Open Enrollment for Medicare is going on right now. Statewide did flyers regarding scamming. On the back of the flyer explained what sale people are or aren’t allowed to do. Statewide puts out a pocket calendar every year. What out for scammers. Don’t say yes when answering the phone. When you first answer ask who this is. There is about $6 billion annually that is lost in Medicare. Meeting at the Midtown Apartments on December 7 @ 10. They won’t be meeting in January or February.

**Veterans Services Report** – *(Mike Boprey)* None

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

**Members Updates** – None.

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

* The survey for the Master Plan 2025 on the individual needs in the county is available on our website and Facebook.
* HEAP season right now.
* The 10th Annual Holiday Gift Drive is going on right now.
* We have available Referenced Program and Service guides.
* Open Enrollment for Medicare is going on right now.
* Hospice just finished at all the nutrition sites the obituary writing.
* In Spring OFA and Hospice will be partnering to explain services from both organizations.

**♦Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by B. McBurnie, seconded by K. Skelly, all in favor. R. Bennett adjourned meeting.

**♦Next Meeting** – Monday, February 5th, 2024 at 10AM

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