

LEWIS COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 3, 2022

Advisory Council Officers:

Joan Goodfellow, Chair
Jerry Flanders, Vice Chair
Barb Ward, Secretary

Members Present: Joan Goodfellow-Chair, Jerry Flanders-Vice Chair, Bruce Chapman, Rose Ross, Kathleen Sitko, Mary Ellen McManus, Geraldine Watkins, Jennifer Jones, Margaret Grant, Linda Hirschey

Senior Club Presidents: Elsie Keefer, Jacki Kaban, Debra Der, Linda Domagala

Others Present: Crystal Collette, Chris Baker, Andrea Moroughan, Kaylee Rhodes

Meeting began at 1:00 p.m. Call to order/Pledge to the American flag. Handouts-puzzle competition, age my way facebook contest, mission statement questions.

Welcome – Director, Crystal Collette welcomed everyone Thank you so much for attending today.

Review of previous meeting minutes were approved by Rose and Mary Ellen.

Advisory Council members updated contact information and preferred method of contact.

New Business

1. Privilege of the Floor

- Donation Letters- Discussion about why OFA sends out donation letters and why certain things are noted in them such as the number of meals.
 - The state and federal regulations require these letters to be sent.
 - The donation letter was read out loud to everyone. No specific recommendations for changes to the letter were made.
 - The Council requests that Director Collette publish an article in an upcoming newsletter explaining the donation letters.
 - SNAP benefits can be donated. Multiple people give extra when using SNAP so that they can spend down their current balance. Signs are hung at the meal sites with information about how to use SNAP benefits to donate to the Nutrition program.

- Meal Sites- Discussion about communication between the office and the meal sites.
- Jerry expressed thanks the Tug Hill Quilters for creating the beautiful 2-sided placemats for the people who utilize the meal services. Everyone was very appreciative to have them.
 - Thought it would be a good idea to have children create a placemat that can be used at the meal sites.
- Discussion about the meal site numbers. Participation continues to be less than pre pandemic levels at most sites except Osceola.
- Events- Discussion about the funds for events this year. Covid precautions cancelled many events from happening last year so we are hopeful that events will be able to be held moving forward.
- Fire Drills- Discussion about holding fire drills at the meal sites. Thought it would be a good idea to notify the local fire department so that they are aware that fire drills are taking place.
- HEAP Cooling Assistance- the cooling assistance program is officially open as of May 2, 2022.
 - There was a change in the requirements for the cooling program. Previously, you had to have a medical reason with a doctor note to be approved in the program. This year, there is no medical reason required. You must meet the income requirements to qualify.
 - Anyone who wants to apply is encouraged to apply early as we don't know what the supply of air conditioners is going to be this year. All you need to do is call DSS to see if you qualify. A HEAP application will need to be completed if you have not done one for the heating program previously. OFA can help fill out the application for those who need to fill one out and need some assistance.

2. Mission Statement- The OFA mission statement is incredibly long. Lewis County recently updated the County mission to reflect the new brand of the county. The OFA team is also going to brainstorm some ideas on a new mission statement at their next meeting. Director Collette facilitated a discussion on key goals of OFA.

- What is the overall goal of the LCOFA?
 - OFA should no longer say for people over 60 because NY Connects helps people of all ages with long term care services, birth through end of life. Perhaps something about “long term care services and supports”
 - Provides a multitude of services. The holistic nature of OFA services.
 - Health and welfare or wellbeing of LC people as they age
- Please describe the LCOFA in a few key phrases.

- They are trained/experienced and knowledgeable
- Committed to advocating
- They will get the answer you
- Listeners, experienced
- Aging well. Vital and active. Quality of life.
- Health and Welfare
- What legacy do you want LCOFA to leave?
 - Meeting needs of people as they age
 - Expert team

The Council would like to see the new mission statement advertised once it is updated. You do not hear much about the Jefferson and St. Lawrence OFA's in the media.

3. OFA Needs Assessment Survey- The Center for Community Studies at JCC will conduct the next phase of the OFA Needs Assessment this fall. The Council wants to encourage as many people as possible to participate. The survey will be over the phone, online, and available in print form.

- Discussion about the survey calls coming off as a spam call. Director Collette will follow up with the Center for Community Studies on better educating older adults about the survey phone calls.
- OFA will be sure to include the information about the survey in the newsletter when it is coming up to make sure that people know about it and are answering the calls.

4. Upcoming Events- Chris Baker

- Senior Picnic- June 17th at the fairgrounds, catered, vendors, entertainment in the afternoon as well as the first round of the puzzle competition for class 1 (Ages 60+). Tickets will be available for purchase.
- Food Truck Friday- June 24th, 1st round of the puzzle competition for class 2 (All ages)
- Senior Day at the Fair- July 21st. Entertainment, and education on OFA services. The final round of the puzzle competition from 3:30-6:30 PM.
- Fallfest- September 30th, at 3G Firehall. More details to follow

Meeting ended at 2:30 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Joan Goodfellow, seconded by Jerry Flanders and Barb Ward.

**Next Meeting: September 6th at Maple Ridge Center, at 12:30 PM
7421 East Road, Lowville, NY 13367**