

St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging (OFA)
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2016

Meeting called to order: 10:00 AM by Patrick Rourk, V. Chair

Present: (*voting members*): Carlton Doane, Richard Gardner, Bob Mead, Patrick Rourk, Linda Wilkinson

Present: (*non-voting members*): Larry Denesha, Andrea Montgomery, Christine Fobare, Jenna Decker, Gail Bisonette , Michael Boprey

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

Excused: Frank Carter, Roger Bennett, Joyce Persons, Ada Santaferra

Absent: Russ Backus, Ron Frank, Sylvia Despaw

Public Attending: Daniel Washburn, Kevin Wells, Shirley Gordon, Doug Gordon

Meeting Location: Morristown Fire Hall, Morristown

◆**Introductions:** Meeting brought to order by P. Rourk. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Reflection. Welcome and introductions.

◆**Guest Speaker** – A. Montgomery introduced speaker, **Kevin Wells, St. Lawrence County Sheriff.**

Kevin gave a description of the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Department including their staff, etc.

He explained that the inmate population isn't going down and is now comprised of very sick people. This is a reflection of the increased drug problem in the communities. Also the meth labs are very burdensome to clean up.

St. Lawrence County has the third largest number of meth labs in the state. As far as the heroine issue, individuals have gone from prescription addictions to heroine. It is cheap and drug dealers from the city can make more money here. All of this contributes to an increase in the crime rate and a greater number of people driving under the influence. Kevin also discussed Project Life Saver. This is a program for GPS bracelets for children with autism and for adults with alzheimers or are vulnerable in some way and at risk of wandering off. The department also has a program for fingerprinting of children. The largest function of the department, however, is corrections.

The Sheriff then opened it up for questions and discussion.

- Frauds and scams were discussed. The sheriff encouraged people to call the sheriff's department if they feel anything is questionable to check with them.
 - Discussion also regarding detox. If an individual has an opiate addiction then they are able to detox in jail. If it is alcohol they are transferred to CPH for detox.
 - The suicide rate and overdoses are skyrocketing.
 - Numbers of addiction and usage are difficult to obtain due to HIIPA regulations
 - largest number of users are in the 18-32 age range
 - discussion regarding the connection and interaction with Homeland Security and FBI
- There is very strong communication every day and a lot of training in this area.
Citizens must be vigilant at all time. "If you see something, say something"

◆**Public Comment** – No public comment.

◆**Approval/Minutes** – B. Mead moved to approve minutes, seconded by R. Gardner. All in favor.
Motion passed.

◆**Correspondence** (*L. Wilkinson*) – none

◆**Old Business** – OFA Work Reports / no questions or comments

◆New Business –

County Council of Senior Citizens Report *(Sylvia Despaw)*

No report

StateWide Senior Action Council Report *(Linda Wilkinson)*

- phone call “teach in” on June 21st will be regarding safe staffing in Nursing Homes
- Seniorama August 15th at the Bingo Palace There will be 62 tables and County Agencies have to pay for their tables this year.

Veterans Services Report *(Mike Boprey)*

Veterans Office is very busy. Mike stated that it is good partnering with OFA for referrals. There have been \$350,000 in recovered comp and pension awards. Mike gave his contact info.

Public Health Report *(Laurie Maki)*

No report.

County Legislator’s Report *(Larry Denesha)*

- Great American Supermarket coming to Star Lake. Result of the IDA reaching out to find someone willing to come in to fill the void.
- No cuts are proposed to senior programs. If there are any in the future, Larry will fight them.
- Dairy princess spoke at last BOL meeting. Dairy industry is very big in the county. Larry gave the statistics that were presented that night at the BOL meeting.

AARP Report *(Gail Bisonette)*

Next meeting is at the West Potsdam Fire Hall. Cheryl Campbell is going to speak regarding how many seniors were served with the AARP tax program this year. Gail is always in need of material for projects.

Office for the Aging Report *(Andrea Montgomery)*

- introduced Jenna Decker, new Advocate Worker for the Elderly and announced hiring of new Meals Program Manager, Alaina Nelson
- a thank you to all United Helpers volunteers assisting at the nutrition sites
- NY Connects and ACUU Conference
- there is a homecare workers crisis/CDP homecare has closed/now only two homecare agencies
A coalition has formed to advocate and this will be presented at the BOL.
- health promotion classes
- Senior Picnic July 8th/menu announced
- Gouverneur Community Center/ OFA is looking at this as a possible congregate dining center
- OFA is looking to expand services not cut them/BIP money has really helped
- NY Connects sites are being planned for better access

◆Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by C. Doane, seconded by B. Mead, all in favor.

P. Rourk adjourned meeting at 11:05 AM..

◆Next Meeting – Monday, September 12th at 10 am at the Gouverneur Community Center

(Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Fobare)