

**St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging (OFA)
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2015**

Meeting called to order: 10:00 AM by Carlton Doane, Chair

Present: (*voting members*): Carlton Doane, Frank Carter, Joyce Persons, Patrick Rourk, Linda Wilkinson

Present: (*non-voting members*): Sylvia Despaw, Andrea Montgomery, Randy Andre, Christine Fobare

Present: (*New Members/Pending BOL approval*) Russ Backus, Richard Gardner

Excused: Bob Mead, Roger Bennett, Gail Bisonette, Michael Boprey, Ada Santaferra

Absent: Ron Frank, Steve Putman

Public Attending: Arlene Kerr, Marie J. Wood

Meeting Location: Cambray Courts Community Room, Gouverneur

◆**Introductions:** Meeting brought to order by C. Doane. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. A. Montgomery stated that resolutions will be going before the BOL for their approval of the new members who were present.

◆**Speaker – Randy Andre, OFA Senior Program Coordinator,** Topic: Expansion of NY connects and the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP). Single Point of Entry into Long Term Care through new expansion of NY Connects and BIP was explained. Handouts distributed. Platform is being created for this throughout NYS. NY connects will serve all age groups needing assistance with LTC. All will be routed through NY Connects. The goal is to simplify entry into LTC for all concerned. There is an 800# and there will be an updated Resource Directory and a Network of Providers. This is all preliminary and more information will be coming out from the state. A. Montgomery stated that this has been brought before the Board of Legislators. The current staffing will not be adequate. Things need to be in place by April, 2016. Everyone can be assured that quality senior services will continue. Discussion.

◆**Introductions** (*A. Montgomery*)

Introductions were done prior to the speaker.

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

◆**Approval/Minutes** – P. Rourk moved to approve minutes, seconded by L. Wilkinson. All in favor.
Motion passed.

◆**Correspondence** (*L. Wilkinson*)

A. Montgomery sent thank you note to R. Doyle for speaking at the last meeting.

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

◆**New Business** – no new business

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

Beginning in October County council meetings will be held at the Norwood American Legion. They will have a contract with them for 1 year. It was okayed by members at the September meeting. A menu for next year will be available at the October meeting. Nominations for slate of officers and directors will be at the October meeting. Elections will be at November meeting. United Way funding of \$500 is here. This can only be used for the

MayFest and the Annual Senior Picnic. This is the only outside funding besides fundraisers. There will be a fundraiser beginning with the October meeting.

StateWide Senior Action Council Report *(Linda Wilkinson)*

L. Wilkinson has stepped down from the Seniorama for 2016. They will continue with the lottery ticket frame to fund delegates to the convention. The convention this year is October 13-15. StateWide has a new meeting place. Now meeting at the Lobster House in Norwood. NYSOFA is holding open forums regarding the merging of services for individuals with disabilities and seniors. The public is invited to attend any of these forums but they must register.

Veterans Services Report *(Mike Boprey)*

P. Rourke gave the report for M. Boprey. Reported regarding health care and the Affordable Care Act and new laws for TRICARE beneficiaries. Also there is a new law stating that veterans will not have to pay out of state tuition at public universities.

Public Health Report *(Laurie Maki)*

No report.

County Legislator's Report *(Steve Putman)*

No report.

AARP Report *(Gail Bisonette)*

Meeting tomorrow in Ogdensburg.

Office for the Aging Report *(Andrea Montgomery)*

- discussion of budget issues
- two programs with highest county match are HIICAP and Nutrition
- RFPs have been returned for HIICAP but they won't be considered during open enrollment
- resolutions will be addressed tonight at the full BOL meeting
- R. Andre presentation and handout regarding Home Delivered Meals program
- 2016 budget has been submitted
- B. McBurnie is retiring. There will be a celebration on October 2nd at noon in the 2nd floor conference room
- Volunteer Transportation is now doing medical transportation for OFA
- annual NYSOFA evaluation is this month
- HEAP, Public Hearings, Senator Ritchie Health Fair, Cyber Seniors, Walk With Ease, nominating committee and elections of officers for Advisory Council

C. Doane wishes to submit a statement to BOL regarding the position of the Advisory Council on the issues of the budget cuts. He has been asked by NYSOFA to be on the state Advisory Council.

◆Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by F. Carter, seconded by J. Persons, all in favor.

C. Doane adjourned at 12:00 PM.

◆Next Meeting – Monday, November 9, 9 am at Human Services Building 2nd Floor Conference Room.
(meeting earlier to discuss and get details and statistics of the budget)

(Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Fobare)