

Advisory Council
February 13, 2023
Noon-1:30
Broome County Library

In attendance: Jerry Willard, Sue Thrasher, Suzanne Sullivan, Amy Pessarchick, Dr. Kang, Carolyn Price, Mary Whitcombe, Robert Hoover, Lucia Esposito, Maria Motsavage, Dr. Lee, Katie Legg, Kathy Bunnell

Carolyn welcomed a new Advisory Council member: Katie Legg.

Motion was made by Maria to approve the December meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Dr. Kang. Minutes were approved.

Director's Report

Mary asked the Advisory Council about the current Director's report to see if anyone wanted to discuss anything specific.

Maria Motsavage asked about the Guaranteed Aide Program. Mary reported that the contract is going well. The aide is getting a higher hourly wage, mileage, and vacation/sick days. 30 hours were dedicated to OFA clients. The company maintains the employee. OFA assigns the cases with most focus in hard to serve areas. We are currently focusing on Whitney Point, Windsor and Johnson City. The contract currently serves 14-16 clients/month. Contract has been extended to another year.

Mary provided an overview of Blooming Health – new pilot to help us send out broadcast messaging about new events, emergency closures and customer feedback. We can enroll 2000 people and are launching this in early March.

There will be an Inclusivity Workshop on February 15th, 2023 – great program about how to make spaces inclusive.

April 21st, 2023 – there will be an intergenerational event at Vestal Senior Center. Its called Sock Hop – hosted by Vestal HS students.

A ninth senior center has opened in Chenango Bridge in February. Grand opening will be March 17th, 2023. There are programs already taking place in the new location. The new location is at 740 River Road in Chenango Bridge (United Methodist Church). It will be opened 10am-2pm on Wednesday and Friday.

Dr. Kang is still in need of 9 participants to finish his study of female older adults who suffer from depression (65+).

Office for Aging still has one ElliQ left to provide – ideally to help someone who is isolated.

Disability video has been released to the community. The video can be found on the Broome County Office for Aging You Tube channel.

LGBTQ planning – Robert Hoover provided an overview of the current LGBTQ issues. Robert reported that “going back to the closet” is very sad for older adults. We need more social events and groups are needed to provide more support to older adults who are part of the LGBTQ population.

Robert reported that Gov. Hochul allocated close to half a million dollars to start training for aides who work in home care, local nursing homes & hospitals on LGBTQ inclusivity.

Robert reported that he is working with MSW student Elliot on setting up an LGBTQ social group. The plan is to host a social group at JC senior center in April.

Updates from Advisory Council Members:

- Sue Thrasher: there will be a class offered by the Lyceum about Loneliness
- Kathy Bunnell: provided an update about a non-profit organization called AgeOn. A big fundraising event will be held on May 6, 2023. It will be Kentucky Derby.

Mary will not be here for the April and June meeting. Lucia will let the Advisory Council know if a meeting will be held.

Next Meeting Dates:

April 10th at noon-Broome County Library

June 12th at noon- Location TBD

Motion to adjourn was made by Carolyn, moved by Kathy and seconded by Robert.