

Office for Aging Advisory Council

June 9th, 2025

In attendance: Sandy Sanzo, Rene Conklin, Suzanne Sullivan, Sue Thrasher, Robert Hoover, Youjung Lee, Amy Pessarchick, Sally Hoffman

OFA staff: Mary Turbush, Lucia Esposito

Motion made by Sandy and second motion by Amy to approve previous meeting's minutes. Noone opposed.

Director's Report:

- No major cuts to OFA programs and services
- Still on the chopping block: HEAP, CDBG block grant, Senior Employment
- Cuts are anticipated to: Medicare & Medicaid & SNAP
- CASP program is in full swing post Lifespan funding that ended March 31, 2025 – we have 30 clients taking advantage of this program; OFA is now funding it from unmet needs
- Several positions are opened: two kitchen openings (Broome West, Northern Broome); MOW clerk in Harpursville; In home respite worker to provide respite to Caregivers; all three positions are part time
- Still reviewing the possibility of merging the two Yesteryears locations to one location
- MOW office: we are working on moving location from Binghamton office due to safety issues as well as challenges with the office set up
- Four-year plan was approved by NYSOFA
- BU student IT project was completed: promotional videos were completed and will be posted on our website. One is about senior centers and caregivers.
- We attended Older New Yorker's Day in Albany. This year we recognized Carolyn Price and Lois Root.
- New Support Group starts in Harpursville today: its for Caregivers.
- Grief and Loss group will continue at the Harpursville senior center.
- Mary held a meeting at the Northern Broome Senior Center to talk about programs and services.
- April Be Our Guest Campaign – brought 60 new people to the senior centers; we will do this again in September where we will have evening hours for new people to visit the senior centers
- Partnership with UHS: we will have a new contract July 1, 2025. We will pay UHS for in home mental health evaluations. UHS staff will do follow ups depending on the needs.
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Expo – was hosted at Broome West senior center on June 4th. Over 70 people attended. There were activities demonstrations and a press conference.
- Two intergenerational senior to senior dances happened in May: JC senior center and Broome West senior center. JC school and UE school districts participated.
- OFA Annual Report for 2024 is available for review

Updates from members:

- Robert – LGBTQ group is meeting next Wednesday; the month after we have Senator Lea Webb as a speaker
- Dr. Lee – Senior to Senior Dance was held at JC senior center; it was a lovely event. BU was able to provide funding \$3,000 for the event to get catering and room decorations. 31 completed surveys about the event plus 11 students. The total attendance was 95 older adults plus 22 students.
- Sandy – AgeOn review committee several applications that got approved for funding (moving, secure an identity document).
- Sally: AOP is having its Annual Breakfast on June 18th, 2025.

Next meeting: September 8th, 2025.