

Advisory Council Meeting

February 12, 2024

In attendance: Maria Motsavage, Sue Thrasher, Suzanne Sullivan, Kathy Bunnell, Rene Conklin, Dr. Major Barnett, Robert Hoover, Carolyn Price

OFA staff: Mary Whitcombe, Lucia Esposito

New members joining: Dr. Wang

Two members have expiring terms and will be leaving the council: Kathy Bunnell and Carolyn Price. They both can come back after taking a break for year. Term expires on 12/31/24.

We will need a new chair to replace Carolyn. Nominations for a chair and other members will be held in September.

Motion to approve December 11th, 2023 – motion made by Rene Conklin, second motion made by Kathy Bunnell. Minutes approved.

The Director's report was shared with the council members. Part of the information shared included a testimony provided by Becky Preve from the Association on Aging. This testimony questions the reduced funding of services for older adults. Carolyn Price noticed the potentially reduced funding for service to older adults.

50th anniversary is this year. OFA will be planning activities to celebrate.

New project is starting in March with Guthrie Lourdes Senior Services. This is a pilot with funding coming from Lifespan. Guthrie Lourdes will be sending referrals our way to assist caregivers with their needs. We are hoping to pursue reaching other medical providers in the near future to prepare for the new physician fee schedule that will be in effect in 2025. Through the fee schedule the physicians will be able to bill for addressing social determinants of health. OFA is trying to establish how this fee for schedule update will position OFA to charge for its services.

Four-year plan – we still don't have information from NYSOFA about the expectations of how our plan should be structured.

The Older Americans Act was revised with major changes. More to follow on this.

Mary shared that OFA chose Robert Hoover as a volunteer nominee for the Older Americans Day to be celebrate in Albany. This will be held in May.

Updates from members:

- Robert Hoover: City of Binghamton Mayor Jared Kraham is coming to present at the LGBTQ social group.
- Dr. Wang shared that she and Dr. Suk Yang received funding from BU for a new research project that will also explore issues with ageism.
- Maria Motsavage – continues to see an aide shortage and shortage of Nursing home beds.

- Kathy Bunnell – reported on the upcoming AgeOn fundraising event coming up on May 4th. AgeOn is a local nonprofit that provides funding for “unmet needs” including first months rent, security deposits, appliances etc. This funding is provided when there is no other community resource.
- Carolyn Price – approved by the Baylor University IRB to conduct her research project about the internet dessert in Windsor.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kathy Bunnell. Second motion made by Robert Hoover.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2024.