

Aging Advisory Council Meeting  
Lincoln Senior Center  
February 11, 2015

Present: Ray Humphrey, Joe Sohmer, Lois Stryker, Nancy Watson, Dave Heiney, Linda Hess, Sharon Cashwell, Janice Fye, Marge Scott, Guest: Bonita Kolb.

Absent: Commissioners Joel Long and Anthony Mussare, Barbara Barger, Carolyn Bullock.

Staff present: Fred Shrimp, Paula Edler

Ray Humphrey called meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

Ray Humphrey asked for a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting. Dave Heiney made a motion to approve, Lois Stryker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Teresa Osborne has been appointed as Acting Secretary of Aging. She will be visiting Senators before a confirmation hearing and vote in the spring. Ms. Osborne has a Masters in Social Work Degree. She began working in the Lackawanna County AAA as a protective services caseworker and rose to be the AAA director.

Fred Shrimp reviewed the new cost share regulations and the cost share scale. The new cost share scale starts at 133% of Federal Poverty Guidelines instead of 125%. Each household also receives a 30% deduction in household income. The scale is set in 10% increments. Mr. Shrimp anticipates 50% or more current consumers that pay a cost share will be exempt when the new plan is fully implemented. That likely means about a \$20,000 lose in cost share revenue each year. We have been billing quarterly those consumers at the low end of the scale. These consumers will not be required to pay a cost share under the new plan. Mr. Shrimp recommended stopping the quarterly billing on those consumers that will phase out of cost sharing this year. Mr. Humphrey asked for a motion to stop quarterly billing now for consumers whose cost share will be reduced to 0%. Marge Scott made a motion, Lois Stryker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shrimp reviewed the changes that the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) now requires in order to manage all in home services. All in home services will now be care managed. This requires a lot more documentation of cases in SAMS, the statewide database, and more complex assessments to be completed on consumers. All this will take more time for each consumer. We will be working toward full compliance by the end of the year.

PDA has also prioritized services as core services or supplemental services. The core services are adult day care (not available here), personal care, in home meals, personal emergency response systems (PERS), emergent services (urgent services that need provided such as emergency shelter), consumer reimbursement (reimbursement to the consumer who is paying their own caregiver or it could also include some supplies) and essential shared ride transportation (trips to senior centers, medical, social services and bi-weekly grocery shopping). The supplemental services are home support, environmental modifications, home health, and assistive devices. AAAs are required to

provide the core services before supplemental services. Any future waiting list will be prioritized in this manner.

Mr. Shrimp anticipates spending all of our supplemental monies this year. We have added PERS and weekend in home meals to our available services as a result of this additional funding. We have added almost 150 consumers receiving home support. Our personal care consumers are receiving more hours of personal care and we have doubled the number of consumers receiving home modifications such as ramps, stair glides and bathroom modifications. We also added a dedicated protective services worker to handle the increased caseload. We will have to monitor the spending closely. The advisory council may need to look at decisions to reduce some services or start a waiting list in the future.

River Walk update. We are on track with all aspects of the project. We expect the architect will be finished with all his drawings by the end of the month. We hope to have the partial demolition completed and start "re-construction on the footprint" in April. STEP is the general contractor for the project. We should be in the building by Christmas. We are not having a ground breaking ceremony but will have a grand opening ceremony when completed.

AARP volunteers are now preparing federal and state tax returns and property tax and rent rebates in both the Lincoln building and the Clinton County Community Center.

Mr. Humprhey informed the council that a video is being created that will be on the web page and also available for use in the community for presentations of the Independent Living Endowment Fund. The video will include testimonials. Brochures are being printed. Ray Humphrey stated he would like to see the brochures in every funeral home in the two county area and also lawyers' offices.

April 8<sup>th</sup> will be the next meeting at the Clinton County Community Center. The council asked to meet at several of the different centers during good weather.

Marge Scott made a motion to adjourn, Dave Heiney seconded.

Submitted by:

Frederick Shrimp  
Aging Director