

Aging Advisory Council Meeting
Lincoln Center
April 12, 2017

Members present: Ray Humphrey, David Heiney, Jeff Snyder, Rochelle Keefer, Linda Hess, Jack McKernan, Nancy Watson, Carolyn Bullock, Paulette Seitzer, Lois Stryker

Missing: Leslie Houser, Barbara Barger, Joseph Sohmer, Sharon Cashwell

Staff: Fred Shrimp, Jennifer Smith, Rachelle Abbott

Meeting started at 1:04pm

Ray Humphrey reviewed the minutes. David Heiney made a motion to approve that was seconded by Rochelle Keefer and approved unanimously.

Rachelle Abbott, STEP's Chief Operations Officer, provided an update regarding the grant received to provide bicycles and outdoor exercise equipment at The RiverWalk Center and South Williamsport park complex. 10 bicycles have been purchased and the outdoor exercise equipment will be installed by the end of June on a walking trail in the park. Mrs. Abbott reported that another senior center grant has been awarded to STEP for organizing bus trips from the centers to educational and recreational destinations. Fred Shrimp reported that a statewide survey of senior center participants from 2008/2009 found that bus trips were the number one activity desired by center participants.

Mrs. Abbott also reported that STEP has been working with the Clinton County Commissioners and Citizen's Hose fire company that host our center to construct a picnic pavilion at the center/fire hall. The project will be funded with local donations and funds the commissioners allocate to STEP Office of Aging each year. We are waiting on another estimate and will move toward construction this summer.

Mrs. Abbott also reported on the feasibility study for an addition to the Loyalsock Community Center to house a STEP center for healthy aging and the township's after school program. The cost estimate for construction is \$847,000. The project will require some upgrading of sewer, water, utilities and handling rain water as well as construction. The council was given and reviewed a likely floor plan for the addition. STEP will begin to seek funding for the project.

Fred Shrimp reviewed the budget amendment for FY 2016-2017 with the council. Some reductions in spending have occurred due to open casework positions that needed to be filled to be able to complete the admission process into services such as personal care and home support. Those positions were filled as of the meeting. Protective Services reports and investigations have increased by 100 over last year. The ombudsman is now a fulltime position with the former ombudsman as a 5 hour per week supervisor since her retirement. Carolyn Bullock made a motion to accept the amendment. Nancy Watson seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Shrimp reported that the House has passed their version of the 2017-2018 budget. The House budget does not cover all the issues. It appears they wanted to let the Senate settle many issues since the House budget left the Governor's proposed consolidated budget for the Departments of Human Services, Health, Drug and Alcohol and Aging intact. A letter from Representative Garth Everett stated he believed most Republicans opposed the consolidation proposal. P4A is still officially neutral on consolidation trying to work with the legislature and the governor's office since there isn't a clear indication on how this will turnout. Each AAA can advocate as they see fit. Mr. Humphrey reported on efforts by some advisory council members visiting the centers to inform seniors of the proposal.

The council reviewed the biographical sketch of Paulette Seitzer in considering her nomination to the aging advisory council. Commissioner Jeff Snyder made a motion to recommend to the STEP board of directors that Paulette Seitzer be appointed to the aging advisory council. The motion was seconded by Lois Stryker and approved unanimously.

Submitted by:

Frederick Shrimp
Aging Director