

Aging Advisory Council Meeting  
Loyalsock Montoursville Center  
August 12, 2015

Members present: Ray Humphrey, Joe Sohmer, Barbara Barger, Marge Scott, Carolyn Bullock, Lois Stryker, Nancy Watson, Sharon Cashwell and David Heiney

Members absent: Commissioners Joel Long and Tony Mussare, Linda Hess

Staff present: Frederick Shrimp and Rachelle Abbott

Ray Humphrey called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM. Minutes of the last meeting were distributed before the meeting was called to order.

Ray Humphrey asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8 meeting. David Heiney made a motion to approve. Marge Scott seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The nomination committee report was given by Barbara Barger. The committee also included Joe Sohmer and Marge Scott. The committee recommended Ray Humphrey as chairperson, Carolyn Bullock as vice-chairperson and Marge Scott as secretary. There were no nominations from other members of the council. Ray made a motion to elect the officers nominated by the committee. Nancy Watson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shrimp announced that the STEP Board of Directors had an opening that they wanted to fill with a Lycoming County member of the Aging Advisory Council. Carolyn Bullock retired from the Board this past December. Carolyn had represented the advisory council on the Board for a very long time. Rachelle Abbott explained the role of a Board member. Mr. Shrimp reported that he had spoken with Linda Hess and she was interested in being nominated for the Board. Ray Humphrey made a motion to nominate Linda Hess to the Board. Lois Stryker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shrimp reviewed the steps taken due to the state budget impasse. Without a budget the state cannot forward funds to STEP for Aging services. In the Aging program we have laid-off 4 staff, the Mill Hall center was temporarily consolidated into the Clinton County Community Center, provider agencies will not be paid, center rentals will not be paid, staff mileage will not be paid, volunteer mileage will not be paid unless requested, and waiting list were started for home support and home modifications. STEP is borrowing money to continue services and our provider agencies are borrowing money to provide services. STEP and our provider agencies are doing all we can to lessen the impact on the older adults we serve. If the impasse goes on into September, We will have to evaluate if more cuts have to be made. Rachelle Abbott talked about efforts by STEP to inform local legislators of the impact on those in need.

Mr. Shrimp facilitated a discussion on marketing our centers to attract new people and better tell the story of our increased exercise programs, chronic disease self-management programs, health screenings, cooking classes, etc. Many thought we need to keep the word senior in the marketing and at the least STEP Office of Aging be identified in the marketing to let people know that the

service is for older adults. Some members thought the use of the words wellness centers would give the idea of a medical clinic.

Mr. Shrimp stated that the budget impasse is not affecting work on The RiverWalk Center since STEP already has the grants to pay for most of the work. Target date for completion is by the beginning of November. We should be able to move the center in December.

Mr. Shrimp distributed a discussion paper on Managed Long Term Care Support Services. The governor has made it a goal to spread managed long term care across the state in his first term. This would involve insurance companies taking over the provision of all long term care under medical assistance for people that are considered nursing home medically eligible. It will cover both in-home and nursing home care. The goal is to have the plans begin in Philadelphia in 2017, Allegheny County in 2018 and statewide in 2019.

Ray Humphrey informed the council about the Northeast Regional Council on Aging. It is a governor's advisory council. There are openings for one member in Lycoming County and one member in Clinton County. Ray is willing to assist anyone who wants to apply to serve on the Northeast Regional Council.

STEP has entered an agreement with Loyalsock Township to move the exercise classes from the Loyalsock Montoursville Center to the new Loyalsock Community Center (former armory). The current plan is to begin providing exercise classes at the new center on August 31, Monday through Friday from 8 to 10 each morning. This class currently runs as high as 40 people on some mornings. The group needs more space. At this center they need to tear down and set up tables and chairs every day, but that will not be needed at the new site. All other operations of the Loyalsock Montoursville Center will remain at the Hillside.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Submitted by,

Frederick Shrimp  
Aging Director

Reviewed by,

Margaret Scott  
Secretary