

STEP Office of Aging  
Advisory Council Meeting  
April 30, 2014  
Jersey Shore Senior Center

Members present: Ray Humphrey, Dave Heiney, Carolyn Bullock, Barb Barger, Janice Fye, Marge Scott via phone.

Members not present: Commissioner Mussare, Commissioner Long, Joe Sohmer.

Staff present: Paula Edler, Fred Shrimp.

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

Fred Shrimp had provided minutes from meetings held 12-11-13 and 10-30-13 along with 1-22-14 for approval. Carolyn Bullock made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes, Dave Heiney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred Shrimp reviewed the 13-14 budget amendment information that had been mailed to the members. The increase of \$444,398 in funding for increased in home services could not be fully utilized. However, waiting list for home support, family caregiver support and bathroom modifications have been eliminated. The personal emergency response system (PERS) has been offered as a service since January. Weekend meals-on-wheels (MOW) service began for the 220 MOW consumers that wanted the service on March 8. Total MOW service is between 385 and 400 currently. The Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) took back about \$111,000 and we expect to return an additional \$125,000. This means we have increased in-home services by \$208,000 in this fiscal year.

Ray Humphrey had some questions regarding PERS. Mr. Shrimp said the cost of the service is \$20 per month to STEP and the service is subject to cost share regulations. Anyone that needs a PERS should be referred to the caseworkers for evaluation. PERS are available to seniors that are at risk of falls and/or a chronic illness that may require emergency services and is alone for periods of time.

Mr. Shrimp stated that the agency is still seeking to fill a casework position for a dedicated protective services worker. The additional funds can be used for this purpose and the number of protective service referrals has been increasing. Dave Heiney asked what the differences were between protective services and ombudsman services. Fred Shrimp and Ray Humphrey explained that ombudsman looks out for resident's rights in facilities and protective services deals with abuse, neglect, exploitation, etc. of a consumer whether in the community or a facility.

Mr. Shrimp said Aging is going to continue to work at increasing our in-home services. We are hopeful that these funds will all be available next year.

. The grandparenting program in the Federal Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) still has limited funding. There is one person on a waiting list for the grandparenting FCSP program.

Ray Humphrey asked for a motion to approve the 2013-2014 amendment. Carolyn Bullock made the motion and it was seconded Barbara Barger. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shrimp stated that the PERS contract will be put out for bid for the next fiscal year. He had been able to get quotes for the 6 month contract for this fiscal year. Frey's Commissary has requested a 2% increase which would amount to 7 cents per meal. Mr. Shrimp has requested permission from PDA to grant the increase. Mr. Shrimp is also seeking permission from PDA to grant an increase of less than 1% (likely up to 10 cents per hour) to personal care and home support providers. These providers have not had an increase in over 5 years.

A question was asked as to how often attorney Denise Dieter is needed in protective services. Mr. Shrimp stated that depends on the case. We only contact her when we have to approach the court or have legal questions about a case.

Mr. Shrimp gave an update on The RiverWalk Center. He received an e-mail from PDA that the announcement of senior center grant awards will be delayed. We have applied for \$150,000 from the senior center grant program. STEP is still inquiring if the \$130,000 Act 13 funding requires prevailing wage for the project. STEP expects the bid package to go out in the beginning of May. The tentative date for a groundbreaking ceremony would be June 19, 2014.

Mr. Shrimp stated the decision has been made to bring the Aging Advisory Council (Council) by-laws in line with the STEP Board of Directors by-laws. Section 3A will be changed to 5 members from Clinton County and 10 members from Lycoming County. This change reflects the population of the two counties. Currently there are 5 members from Clinton County. Section 3B will be added to require that the chairperson and vice-chairperson will be from different counties. Section 3J covers conflict of interest and requires all Council members to sign a conflict of interest statement.

After discussion of the changes to the by-laws, David Heiney made a motion to approve the changes in the by-laws and recommend approval of the new by-laws to the STEP Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Janice Fye. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Shrimp will work on recruiting new Council members from Lycoming County.

Ray Humphrey announced that Barbara Barger will chair the nomination committee for the nomination of officers for the next fiscal year. The other members of the committee are Dave Heiney and Joe Sohmer.

The \$225,000 donated by the Park Home to the STEP endowment fund for services to seniors has been transferred to the First Community Foundation for management of the fund. This will provide a significant increase in interest earned on the funds. A committee has been formed to work on growing the endowment. An invitation is extended for members of the Council to serve on the committee. Mr. Shrimp will mail more information on the committee.

The Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Commission will hold a hearing on May 30 at Penn College. This commission is gathering information through public input sessions around the state. You may provide testimony or attend to listen to the testimony provided. Anne Holliday, the nursing facility administrator for the Muncy Valley Skilled Unit is a member of the commission. The Secretaries of Aging and Public Welfare are heading the commission. Mr. Shrimp will present testimony.

Dave Heiney made a motion to adjourn, Carolyn Bullock seconded.

Next meeting is tentatively set for June 11, 2014.

Submitted by,

Frederick Shrimp  
Aging Director