

Advisory Council Meeting
Jersey Shore Senior Center

August 13, 2014

Members present: Ray Humphrey, Carolyn Bullock, Dave Heiney, Janice Fye, Barbara Barger, Joe Sohmer.

Members absent: Marge Scott, Commissioner Joel Long, Commissioner Tony Mussare.

Staff present: Fred Shrimp, Paula Edler, Dana Karichner, Marion Handley, Heidi Maust.

Fred Shrimp introduced the new care managers, Heidi Maust and Marion Handley.

Ray Humphrey called the meeting to order at 1:35.

Ray Humphrey asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Carolyn Bullock made a motion to approve the minutes. Dave Heiney seconded. Vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Carolyn Bullock made a motion to approve the nominations of Sharon Cashwell, Nancy Watson and Lois Stryker to become council members from Lycoming County. The motion was seconded by Dave Heiney. The motion passed unanimously. The nominations will be presented to the STEP Board for appointment to the Aging Advisory Council.

Fred Shrimp gave an update on the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget. He stated that the Department of Aging has indicated that funding should be very similar to the previous fiscal year and include the extra \$444,398 for expansion of in home services. He will probably not get any actual numbers until sometime in October. Mr. Shrimp stated that we will be able to continue expanding availability of PERS (personal emergency response systems), continue increased home modifications including ramps and bathroom modifications, continue the increased home support services to the 100 new consumers in the last fiscal year and continue the expansion of the home delivered meals (HDM) program to include frozen meals for the weekend. The number of seniors receiving HDM has also returned to higher levels. The number of senior served each day was down to 360-370 in the fall of 2013, but has returned to 400 meals delivered per day. The increased advertising the first 6 months of the year appeared to be at least partially responsible for the growth. Newspaper advertising has also helped us recruit new volunteers for apprise, ombudsman and meals on wheels.

The service coordination rate has been increased effective July 1, 2014. The rate last year was \$19.10. The new rate is \$20.21 per quarter hour unit. (Correction from Mr. Shrimp's statement at the meeting, the anticipated increase in revenue would be \$8,000).

Mr. Shrimp reviewed some possible changes included in a draft directive from the Department of Aging. One change that may come is a requirement that anyone assessed as being nursing facility clinically eligible and requesting personal care may have to complete the income eligibility process for the Department of Public Welfare before in home services could be

provided. We are told this is a requirement of the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services. This may delay the start time of services on those seniors. The determination of a consumers cost share could change from the current deductions from gross income to a flat 15%. That would increase the cost share of some and reduce others while simplifying the process. Another possible change would affect the provision of transportation. It is unclear if the Department of Aging will require Area Agencies on Aging to pay the full 15% of shared ride cost for consumers age 65 and over for our sponsored trips. We currently pay 10% and the rider pays 5% or one dollar. That change could increase cost to the Aging program of \$26,000. PennDot pays 85% of the trip cost with lottery funds.

Carolyn Bullock asked if there is anyone who provides home maintenance for people to aid people maintain their homes and lawns. Fred stated he was not aware of an agency doing that but the First United Methodist Church, Habitat for Humanity and Favors Forward provide some assistance upon request.

Fred gave a Riverwalk Center update. All bids came in much higher than expected. We are making sure that we will be getting the best finished product for the money that will be spent. We are working at maintaining a reasonable cost per square foot. The project is subject to prevailing wage. STEP will complete the project but we are still looking at the options that are available

Ray Humphrey presented the latest revision of the advisory council by-laws for discussion and a motion. The only change from the previous revisions was the change from Robert's to Rosenberg's rules of order. Dave Heiney made motion to approve. Barbara Barger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ray Humphrey asked if the council could begin receiving the pathway reports that are submitted to the Board. Mr. Shrimp stated he will mail the most recent reports and provide them regularly to the council.

The next meeting will be in October. We may need to move it later in the month depending on when the Department of Aging provides budget figures to the AAAs.

Ray Humphrey stated he would like to see these meetings moved to the Lincoln center. We will have better parking there especially in the winter and a private room to use for the meeting. Dave Heiney also stated that he would like to again change the meeting place to the other centers periodically. Carolyn Bullock made motion to move the meetings to Lincoln and also incorporate the changing to different centers. Janice Fye seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Minutes prepared by
Frederick Shrimp
Aging Director