

**BUCKS COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
03/13/2023**

The Bucks County Area Agency on Aging held its regular Advisory Council meeting virtually on March 13, 2023.

Council members present: Maggi Boyer, Jeff Trently, Beth Hudson Keller, Patsy Long, Bob Silberg, Billee Willoughby, Jeremy Wechsler, Chuck Pressler, Rich Newman, Tammi Mancuso, Barb Minter (via telephone), Karen Hirschman, Mike Bannon

Council members absent: Yagnesh Choksi, Jane Fox Laquer, Lorena Rodriguez De La Garza

Council members excused: Jim Kelly

AAA staff present: Kathy Bennett, AAA Director; Carin Tinney, LTC Deputy Director; Carol Boyle, Fiscal Deputy Director; Jessica Seith, Administrative Assistant

Special Guest: Roy Afflerbach, P4A Consultant

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order by Maggi Boyer.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Accept/approve minutes from 12/12/2022 meeting. Motion made by Rich Newman, seconded by Bob Silberg. Minutes accepted as written.

CHAIR REPORT

- Welcome new council members Jeff Trently and Billee Willoughby.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Bucks County Area Agency on Aging will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. A celebration will be held preceding the Public Hearing on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 9:00 AM.
- The Public Hearing will be held on May 18, 2023, at 9:30 AM. The meeting will be held in a virtual/in-person hybrid format. The County Commissioners, members of the public, and reporters will be invited to attend. The Advisory Council meeting will immediately follow the Public Hearing (re-scheduled from the originally scheduled May 8, 2023, date). Please let Kathy know ASAP if you have a schedule conflict.
- Jason Kavulich is the new Secretary of Aging. He has been invited to be the keynote speaker at the Neff Symposium this year.
- Kathy will be scheduling a nominations sub-committee meeting soon. We have members who will be rolling off and we will be seeking new members. Please let Kathy know if you would like to be a member of this sub-committee.
- P4A Legislative Committee will be advocating for AAAs to continue to complete assessments as opposed to Maximus. The committee is waiting for the final contract with DHS to be approved before revisiting this issue. Maximus has been able to bring up their level of service minimally, however, their time frame for enrolling seniors in Medical Assistance is too long.
- Wanda Ritter has been hired as the new BCAA Deputy Director of Public Affairs she will be starting with the agency at the end of April.

## AGENCY UNIT REPORTS

### Long-term Care Unit – Carin Tinney

- Personnel changes are coming to LTC. Two aging care managers have been promoted to supervisor positions. There are currently five openings for Aging Care Managers, which should be filled within the next couple of months.
- The Elder Housing Locator Program with the Bucks County Opportunity Council has received 20 referrals to date. Two individuals are in stable housing conditions.
- The SHARE Housing program with Ivin's House has made its first match between a homeowner and SHARE partner.
- SNAP benefits through the federal emergency declaration have ended. Care managers are contacting clients to ensure their food supplies are adequate. The decreased SNAP benefits are somewhat, but not completely, offset by the increase in social security benefits.
- Medical Assistance is unwinding due to the end of the emergency declaration. Five million people will be disenrolled from Medical Assistance for either non-compliance with verifying information or ineligibility. Care managers are aware and will help seniors re-enroll for MA if needed. We do not think this is likely to affect our aging population to a large extent. Most of those being disenrolled are people who lost their jobs during the pandemic, but now have found another job and are still on MA, not necessarily seniors on a fixed income.

### Fiscal Unit – Carol Boyle

- Dashboard Report and Mid-Year Fiscal Report (emailed to council members on 3/13/2023) were shared.
- Mid-Year Fiscal Report shows that the budget is on target, coming in at 48% of total actual expenditure against budget.
  - Personnel, occupancy, communication, supplies & minor equipment, transportation, contracts, training variances, and budget adjustments and funding were explained.
  - Changes in the mileage reimbursement process for Home Delivered Meals drivers were explained.
  - PA Department of Aging has not been timely in its issuing of grants to the BCAA but is anticipated to issue funds by June.
- Dashboard Report shows data from the last four years through December 2022.
  - The number of assessments completed continues to rise; Protective Services continues to increase as needs continue to rise; Information and Referral has shown an increase in contacts; in Ombudsman the number of complaints investigated has grown; PA MEDI program remains stable.

### Public Affairs Unit – update provided by Kathy Bennett

- The Senior Games Kick-off Event will be held at Bucks County Community College on May 24, 2023, from 11:00 – 1:00. Lunch will be provided for all attendees.
- The Senior Games will take place from May 31, 2023 – June 9, 2023, in various locations around the county. A registration guide and sign-up will be available in the second week of April. We have many generous sponsors who assist with funding the Senior Games. We have exceeded our anticipated amount of sponsorship dollars this year. The Bucks County Parks and Recreation Department is again assisting with the games this year and taking a more active role.

### Questions/Answers/Updates – Roy Afflerbach, P4A Consultant

- Formerly served in the PA House of Representative and the PA State Senate representing Lehigh County and is a former mayor of Allentown, PA. Currently a consultant with P4A advocating on behalf of seniors to the legislature and the Shapiro administration.
- Described changes within the new Shapiro administration that will affect services/increase budgeting (from the lottery fund) for seniors within PA.
- Seeking an executive order from the governor's office to create a master plan for aging in the Commonwealth.
- Discussed reclaiming the lottery funding that was given to Medical Assistance. It needs to be made clear to the administration that funding Medical Assistance is not the purpose of lottery money.
- The goal is to advocate to the legislature to embrace the governor's recommendations for older adults and to approve them.
- Encouraged effective advocating for seniors by encouraging individuals to call and schedule a visit their legislator's district office. Materials have been created to take to legislators.

### OTHER BUSINESS

- PCOA – Beth Hudson Keller
  - No new update. Kathy will reach out to PCOA on Beth's behalf as Beth was unable to access the meeting despite being confirmed as a member.

### MOTION TO ADJOURN

- Made by Pat Long, seconded by Barbara Minter. Meeting adjourned at 10:22 AM.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held virtually/in-person on Thursday, May 18, 2022, immediately following the Public Hearing. (Public Hearing starts at 9:30 AM.) Officer voting will take place at the May 18, 2023, meeting. Please contact the nominations subcommittee with nominations for chair and vice-chair.

The sign-in information will be supplied one week prior to the meeting date.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Seith, Administrative Assistant