

The
Fulton
County **OFFICE**
FOR AGING
*Vital information
for vital generations.*

19 N. William St., Johnstown, NY 12095 • Andrea Fettinger, BA, MEd, Director

Fulton Co. Long Term Care Council
December 12, 2024
Fulton Co. Office for Aging

AGENDA

Attendance:

Maggie Rowley, NLH
Molly Lake, NLH
Darlene D'Onfrio, Legal Aid/EMDT
Tom Lippie, RCIL/Life
Sarah Ossenfort, FCC
Abby Cretser, ALTC/PSA
Charmaine Razics, ALTC
Polly Saltsman, FCOFA/NYConnects
Andrea Fettinger, FCOFA

- Andrea welcomed all in attendance and participants introduced themselves
- Andrea also explained that the Fulton Co. Office for Aging is required to have a LTCC under its NYConnects program
- NYConnects Updates from Polly & Howard
 - Howard did not attend this meeting
 - Polly explained what NYConnects is and encouraged participants to call the office with any questions
 - Polly reviewed that we are still helping with HEAP applications for people 60 or older and that we just finished Medicare Open Enrollment; Medicare Advantage and others might be eligible for a Special Enrollment Program in January.
- Topics Discussed:

- **Homelessness/Code Blue** – NLH inquired about Code Blue or warming shelter in Fulton County.
 - Abby Cretser explained how DSS is handling cases
 - If individuals who claim to be homeless visit DSS in the workday, they are assisted by Temporary Assistance and the Housing Office
 - If individuals call into the FCSO reporting homelessness after hours, on-call workers will match them with a place to stay (motel, city missions in Albany or Schenectady)
 - Currently there are fewer locations that will house homeless individuals
 - CAPTAIN helps with younger individuals
 - Some barriers exist with transportation as one of the taxi companies will no longer transport after 6pm
 - Any questions can be called in the Housing Unit/Financial Assistance Unit at DSS
- **SADC** – Charmaine asked what the status of the SADC program is.
 - Andrea explained that the JSC chose not to contract with OFA any longer to operate the program
 - OFA did not cut the program
 - OFA is working on finding another operator, however, it takes time, and OFA will notify organizations once plan is in place
 - If people have questions about JSC decision, they should call JSC, Dee Roemer
- **Transportation options around the county** – shortage of taxi drivers causing issues with taxi rides for all ages.
- **CDPAP**
 - State going forward with State contract for one Fiscal Intermediary for the State
 - There is litigation against the decision
 - Causing current FI's to close (i.e. Home Helpers)
 - RCIL/Life also feeling the stress of the plan; RCIL wants to subcontract with PPL the state contracted CDPAP/FI
 - No final decisions on when things change
 - CDPAP aides might get trained to be PCA's and thus be able to work for Home Care Agencies in different capacity so Medicaid can be billed for the care
- **Family Counseling Center**
 - Reports many new things coming in the new year
 - Community Care Behavioral Health Center designation – services to begin in July 2025

- Substance Abuse Clinic opening soon
- Drop In Center very successful
- Men's Group starting soon
- Chronic Illness Support Group is new
- They have a certified therapy dog named Gus at the agency
- Grief Support Group – not just for grieving of loss of loved ones but even for loss of job, loss of relationships etc
- They are hiring new therapists, almost to goal
- They have Insurance Navigator who assists people applying for insurances
- **RCIL/Life**
 - Reports they are looking to expand and work more with Fulton County
 - The office is on Maple Ave. Ext in Amsterdam, just off rte 30
 - CDPAP changes will affect business at RCIL, so strong advocacy continues
 - They are a benefits enrollment center and have bilingual staff who can assist with translation
 - RCIL/Life advocates for people who need assistance with SSI, SSD, Medicaid and other life issues
- **Legal Aid**
 - Darlene explained how EMDT fits into the continuum of care for the LTCC
 - She gave an overview of other Legal Aid services and shared Legal Aid helpline cards
- **NLH**
 - Explained a change in the patient care office
 - Now coordinating Chronic Care Management
 - At the hospital
 - In out-patient settings
 - Will help with Social Determinants of Health
- **HFM Prevention**
 - Rachel could not attend today but wanted LTCC to know that they have openings in their housing and individuals need to go thru the SPOA process
- **ILCHV/NYConnects**
 - Howard could not attend today but wanted the LTCC to know that ICLHV accepts donations of durable medical equipment
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- Next Meeting: Thursday, February 20, 2025

Adjourned 9:35AM