

FINANCE MEETING NOTES
COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 1:30 pm

Present: Commissioners Barbara Cross, Jim Hertzler and Gary Eichelberger; Larry Thomas, Chief Clerk; Joanne Burkhart, Deputy Chief Clerk; Heather Ilgenfritz, Commissioners' Office; Terry Barley, David Miller, Aging & Community Services; Dana Best, Finance; Alex Smyser, IMTO; Daniel Walmer, The Sentinel; and Steve Marroni, The Patriot News.

Expansion of Aging Services

Chief Clerk Larry Thomas opened the Finance Meeting for discussion on the expansion of Aging Services as part of the recommendations from the Mission Review process.

Terry Barley reported on the Aging & Community Services' Options Services Spending Plan (see attached):

- A & CS received an increase in 2013 from State funding in the amount of \$450,000 which is the first in six years when they were level funded (see attached).
- The first goal was to use the State funding money to reduce or eliminate the existing Options Services waiting list. Now the department can serve all 46 seniors that were on the waiting list for personal care and daily living services in their homes plus add some additional services.
- Submitted a spending plan to the State for approval of a waiver to restore prior year funding cuts to the six Senior Centers in Cumberland County.
- Added Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) as a new service available to Options Consumers who require the equipment.
- Expanded Protective Services Staffing due to increase in investigations for protective services. The three current full time investigators are at their max of 30 cases at a time so one full time care manager was added.
- Cumberland County has been providing Financial Management Services to their consumers for many years, but is now in a position to help provide funding for the service to other AAA counties throughout the State.
- There has been an increase in seniors seeking emergency shelter and they have used local motels this past winter for sheltering. Are looking to increase sheltering for older adults whose needs cannot be met in local homeless shelters but do not meet criteria for Older Adult Protective Services.
- Working with Silvia Herman in MH to counsel individuals with mental health issues and assess what specific goals need to be met to assist them.
- Collaborating with local Meals on Wheels Program to assist them with the cost of meals they provide to consumers who would be eligible for Aging's Home Delivered Meals Program (no cost to consumer). That would increase the number of individuals receiving nutritious meals from Aging and supplement the Meals on Wheels budget.
- Discussion on the proposed Functional Needs Registry. The Registry would help emergency response workers to assist individuals in evacuations, assess their needs to deploy resources, and map the evacuation area in the case of a disaster or other emergency situation. The system would also be helpful in preplanning and for exercises. Chief Clerk Thomas will work with Aging to answer questions on how the Registry would be maintained, if residents would be willing to provide personal information voluntarily and any costs associated with keeping the Registry.
- Discussed Medication Management machines that will dispense medication in the prescribed dosage and at the prescribed time. Aging can assist with paying the monthly maintenance cost of the machines.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Ruth Ann Ciecierski
Administrative Assistant