

The second of three fall meetings in 2019 of the OFA Advisory Council was held on 18 October at the Human Services Building, 2nd floor Conference room, at 325 Columbia Street. The meeting was opened at 1:05 P.M.

The Hillsdale Representative, Joyce Lapenn, reported on the activities planned by the Hillsdale **Safe At Home** Committee. The upcoming event was a Senior Caregivers Workshop on Saturday, October 19, from 10am -12:30pm at their Fire Company Hall. Fifteen service providers were scheduled and Claire Parde, Executive Director of The Health Care Consortium was committed to present information about Long Time Care services.

This event is the result of a program that included a town-wide letter, a newly formatted service guide, a senior gathering, and a survey. From the survey the Hillsdale Safe At Home Committee learned that Hillsdale seniors consider socialization and home maintenance as the two most important needs.

NY Connects

Kelly McGiffert reported on The Health Care Consortium. This organization has recently taken on the ICAN program. **ICAN stands for Independent Consumer Advocate Network**. Its purpose is to assist consumers with Medicare and Medicaid issues. They are completing a five-year contract held by the Legal Aid Society and will apply to continue it for another five years.

OFA Administrator, Kevin McDonald, updated progress with the **Senior Stars Program**. They are seeking contributions from businesses for holiday items that can be distributed with a personal hello to people who live alone. The idea is to replace broken items such as toasters and other practical living tools. There is a \$500 grant from Walmart. While this is a one-time fix, it is a step toward addressing the socialization issue with seniors in our county. Eight OFA staff are participating in this program this year.

The October-December 2019 Elder Express Newsletter was distributed as was the new Directory 'Caring for Those Who Cared For Us'. This new service guide is based on the guide developed by the Hillsdale Safe At Home Committee. The OFA gratefully acknowledges their permission to use it.

And to Repeat from the September meeting information from NY Connects

Open Enrollment season is soon upon us and Kelly McGiffert urges everyone to spread the word that NY Connects stands ready to help navigate changes in healthcare plans.

There are two separate periods for Open Enrollment:

Medicare Advantage	October 15, 2019 - December 7, 2019
No Medicare - NY State of Health	November 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Thompson
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