

Report on the Columbia County Office for the Aging Advisory Council  
For Town Board Meeting on 13 March 2023

The Advisory Council to the Columbia County Office for the Aging (CCOFA) changed its meeting schedule for 2023 from two sets of three consecutive months to meeting every other month. The change was made to keep the information flow more consistent throughout the year. The first 2023 meeting was held on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Fire Training Complex in Ghent, New York.

The major topic of discussion was persistently lower attendance at the congregate sites. Two contributing factors are the loss of many members to COVID and the residual reluctance to participate in group gatherings. While numbers are rising somewhat, it is a slow process. Similarly, many agencies and programs are back in full-service mode but fewer people are using them.

The group discussion raised several suggestions for ways to address this general issue. A sub-committee will develop a survey to ask Columbia County seniors what they need in terms of services in this post-pandemic environment. It may be necessary to modify service priorities and delivery methods if there is a shift in how and what people need to live safely at home. It was also suggested that a senior section be provided on town websites with information about services and perhaps the menus and programs in the congregate sites.

For those needing durable medical equipment like walkers or wheelchairs the Independent Living Centers now has a loan service and accepts donations of used equipment. Call the Office for the Aging at 518.828.4258.

The next meeting will be March 15, 2023 at the Fire Training Center in Ghent.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Thompson  
Taghkanic representative to the CCOFA