

# LWE Older Adult Group Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2020 11:00- 12:30pm Virtual

- David sent minutes out from July
- New attendees- Jillian (intern at Catholic Charities) and Theresa (Parent Network of WNY).

Minutes from last meeting (9.24.2020) were approved.

## Sub Working Group Reports:

-Nutrition- Kathy speaks to Jim daily. Two thousand clients since the beginning of COVID. Trying to incorporate a frozen box. Trying to work out logistics and if sites are closed- having reservations and including food for animals. Jim talked to Amherst and Ken-Ton and they want a buy in from other sites like Grand Island. Companion call program started in the beginning of COVID. Reached out to Habitat for Humanity and other partners for things like microwaves to help seniors. Kathy stressed making sure seniors feel safe and their needs are provided for.

## -Transportation-

Tracy Skalski (Environment and Planning)- Tracy's goal is to focus on and improve walking and biking according to the Erie County Community Action Plan. Update- GBNRTC draft regional bike master plan which outlines different ways to make Buffalo and Niagara more bike friendly. She is taking the plan to use in Erie County- Environment & Planning and Dept. of Public Works are working with GBNRTC. <https://www.gbnrtc.org/bikebuffaloniagara>

Broderick Cason- Broderick commented "where's the city". We don't include all of the right people and maybe the city wasn't included (his side note).

Bike Share is a subgroup of Car Share and will facilitate bike riding in areas where people may not have the ability to own a bike such as the inner city areas. Bike sharing has possible funding from Build Better Buffalo grant. Bicycles will be E-bikes and will be borrowed from bike libraries at locations such as community centers. Brittany Perez may be future speaker on this topic.

-Mental Health- Cathleen Larson connected with OATS (Older Adults Technology Services) to help fight social isolation. They have a 4 step plan (looking at current resources, spoke with Brittany Perez, anchor institutions- do they have WIFI?, new resources to access technology). They would like to develop "how-to" guides, such as setting up email and virtual meetings.

Catholic Charities (partner group)- working on: foster a grandparent, distribution of guides, housing options made easy (applied and awarded a grant from Spectrum for South towns), working on a grant with First Niagara for Erie County modeled after grant from Spectrum. Also working on what help is needed with technology- some have a smartphone but can't use it,

some don't have a smartphone and some do not have internet. Seniors do not realize how much can be done with technology.

-[Financial Security](#)- Joyelle is working on three areas:

Medicare/Medicaid 101- creating a presentation/material to share, possibly electronic as well as paper copies- healthcare virtual platform.

Home Sharing: Creating a guidebook on how to create a Home Share program, see where it goes from here

Survey the Older Adult Community to ID biggest financial concerns see if we can address.

-[Nursing Home Visitation Training](#) - [Guest Speaker Lindsay Heckler, Supervising Attorney: \[Lheckler@elderjusticenyc.org\]\(mailto:Lheckler@elderjusticenyc.org\)](#). She helped write the current bill and testified recently at the NYS joint hearings on nursing home visitation. She stressed that this is an issue that needs urgent attention and any help we can offer.

-[Sharing Training with the Working Group](#): Keep them coming.

**Next Meeting-** December 17, 2020

**Next Task Force Meeting-** November 5, 2020