



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Office for Aging

Jason T. Garnar, County Executive · Mary E. Whitcombe, Director



AmeriCorps
Seniors

Foster Grandparent Program Advisory Council Meeting Minutes February 1, 2023 Broome County Library

Present: Dr. Youjung Lee, Donna Saker, Joan Krissel, Victoria Rucker, Nancy Elwood, Robert McDonald, Peter Faust

OFA Staff: Francie Keefe, Program Coordinator I

Welcome and Introductions

- Francie introduced Nancy and Victoria to the group.
- Francie distributed an updated copy of the FGP handbook and Council bylaws.

Discussion of Meeting Minutes

- Francie explained that moving forward meeting minutes would be posted on the Office for Aging Website.

Program Coordinator's Report

- **Current Foster Grandparent Status.** The program is currently at 37 active grandparents with 3 on a Leave of Absence. 8 have retired since the beginning of the school year due to health concerns. 48 is our target number of Foster Grandparents, discussed possibly lowering the target numbers of members. Volunteer numbers are down in all programs across the region.
- **Outreach efforts.** Robin A. field supervisor will be tabling at local housing complexes throughout the county in hopes to recruit new volunteers.
- **Volunteer Site Options.** FGP staff will be exploring different types of volunteer options and location for future sites. Staff will explore options with shorter hours and smaller classrooms, potential sites were discussed. We discussed the success of the Borrow a Grandparent program at the Broome County Library and our desire to expand the program into other locations. Victoria spoke about her time in this program, and was able to explain her experience.
- **Future In-services** – FGP staff recently polled the Foster Grandparents about what topics they are most interested in learning about. Francie reported those findings to include CPR/first aid, health and wellness, nutrition, and technology assistance. February's Inservice will have Binghamton University's Molly Torbitt completing her fall assessment for the Foster Grandparents. An updated copy of the FGP handbook will be distributed. In March, Officer Stapleton from the Broome County Sheriffs Office will present about school safety and Donna Bates OFA Nutritionist will present about heart

health. There will be a focus on mental health and how to manage stress as well moving forward. Joan suggested a ted talk previously used in orientation and an in-service that she found particularly helpful.

Updates from Council Members

- Dr. Lee mentioned that she would like to meet with the Foster Grandparent group to discuss the findings the paper on intergeneration programs in educational settings she wrote with the help of the Foster Grandparent Program.
- 2 *Foster Grandparents* have reported an improvement in the relationships with students they are working with 1:1. Reporting improved behavior and focus in the classroom after various attempts to reach them on an emotional level. (Names of council member are redacted to protect the location and names of the students being mentored.)
- *Foster Grandparent* reported that she was in a similar situation with a difficult to reach child and reflected on notes taken during orientation to help the situation. She was able to use what she learned in orientation and apply it to a real-life situation. She suggested that topics covered in orientation be covered again in an in-service as a refresher. (Name of council member is redacted to protect the location and names of the students being mentored.)

Next Meeting: -Francie will contact remaining Council Members to discuss the time of the next meeting.

We will plan for the meeting to be held in-person at the Broome County Library in the Ahearn Room.