

The Egyptian Area Agency on Aging held three public hearings on the FY2019 Area Plan. A news release was distributed to area media to announce the time and location of the public hearings. The news release specified the opportunity and deadline for written testimony, and listed locations where the Area Plan Summary public information document could be viewed.

The Area Plan Summary public information document was distributed twenty-one days in advance of the first public hearing, and was mailed to all aging service provider Directors, senior center focal points, regional planning agencies, Illinois Department on Aging, and state legislators.

Below are the locations and approximate number of persons who attended each public hearing site. There may have been more people at each public hearing as some people arrived late and may not have signed the attendance form.

20 people	15 people	31 people
May 30 Eldorado Golden Circle 921 Veterans Dr Eldorado, IL 11:00 am	May 31 & June 14 Willisville Public Library 803 Broadway St Willisville, IL 11:00 am	June 1 Smiles Senior Center 412 South Blanche St Mounds, IL 11:00 am

Individuals attending included senior adults, Egyptian AAA Board and Advisory Council members, aging service providers, Department on Aging, and other social service agencies. Staff of the Egyptian Area Agency conducted each of the public hearings.

Sufficient copies of the Area Plan summary public information document were made available at each public hearing site. The Area Plan summary public information document was referenced frequently. An audio tape of each public hearing was made.

Each hearing began with an explanation of its purpose and the Area Plan Summary public information document, the activities of the Egyptian Area Agency, the Area Plan development process and identification of initiatives. Other topics of discussion included service information, funding policy, service waivers, major issues in our area, the description of areas not served by the home delivered meals program, and the funding available for services.

Everyone attending the public hearing was encouraged to make comments and / or ask questions. The opportunity to submit written testimony and the deadline for submitting testimony was explained.

**WRITTEN & OTHER FORMS OF TESTIMONY**

No written correspondence or other forms of testimony were received.

**TESTIMONY AT ELDORADO**

1. A member is needed on the EAAA Advisory Council from Saline County. Someone from Eldorado should be on the Council.

Response: A person from Eldorado would be welcome to represent Saline County on the EAAA Advisory Council.

2. I use Suzanne in your office to help me with my Medicare.

Response: Several staff members of EAAA are very well versed in helping people with their Medicare. In addition, the main senior center in each county does a wonderful job with Medicare issues, especially the prescription drug coverage.

3. My wife works at this senior center and I am going to be on the Golden Circle governing Board. Can I serve on your agency's Advisory Council?

Response: We consider it a conflict of interest for someone to serve on the governing Board of one of our funded agencies at the same time as on either the EAAA's Board or Advisory Council.

4. We need help delivering meals when our paid delivery person is off work.

Response: Please contact the project director of our RSVP volunteer program who may be able to help you with this issue.

5. We have food that we throw away. What can we do with it besides throwing it out?

Response: Leftover food should be handled according to the rules of your county's health department.

**TESTIMONY AT WILLISVILLE**

A strong thunderstorm passed through Willisville on the morning of the originally scheduled public hearing date. On the way to Willisville to lead the public hearing, we received a telephone call from the Gold Plate Program that the Willisville meal site was without power and the meal service for the day was cancelled. Assuming that no one would be at the meal site, we returned to headquarters.

Later that morning, we were informed that several senior adults and a representative from the Department on Aging were at the Willisville meal site and discussed senior services for several minutes. The Department suggested that another meeting be scheduled for Willisville for later in the month. The comments from that meeting will not be available until after this document is shared with the agency's Advisory Council. The rescheduled public hearing date was June 14, and the following were the comments and questions asked.

1. What is a *Savvy Caregiver*, Gap Filling, and the veterans program?

Response: *The Savvy Caregiver* is an evidence-based program to train/help caregivers of older people provide better care for themselves and their loved one.

Gap Filling is a service that allows our agency to provide a small amount of funding for items that normally are not allowed with governmental funds.

Our veterans program is a contract through the Veterans Administration Medical Centers that funds case management services for in-home personal care for veterans.

2. Why does Perry County receive so little funding?

Response: Funding to counties (or the agency that operates aging services in a group of counties) is determined by our area funding formula, which is nearly identical to the funding formula established by the Department on Aging. The reason that Perry County receives about half as much funding as Jackson County, for example, is because Perry County has about half as many older adults as Jackson.

3. What does SHAP, MIPPA, and SHIP mean?

Response: Those are acronyms for programs that help people with Medicare and other health insurance issues. Each senior center and people in our office help issues such as non-payment of bills, overbilling, help paying for out-of-pocket costs, identifying affordable supplemental policies, etc.

4. When will farmers market coupons be available and who can take them?

Response: The coupons cannot be used before July 10 and only at markets and with farmers that have signed up for the program. Approved markets are located in Du Quoin, Pinckneyville, Murphysboro, Carbondale, and Anna. They may be approved markets in Washington and Randolph County, as well. In addition, only farmers that are approved can take the coupons. The approved farmers will have an official sign they put out at the market.

5. I volunteer at an assisted living facility, so I know what volunteering involves.

Response: Wonderful, Thank you.

**TESTIMONY AT MOUNDS**

1. Back in 1978, I was on the County Board that raised \$10,000 for senior services. Does the County still do that and if so, are the funds given to this senior center?

Response: Some years ago, voters in Pulaski County approved a referendum to raise additional money through a tax on real estate property for the purpose and use of services for senior adults in the County. The property tax referendum money continues to be raised each year and given to the sponsoring agency, Southern Pride Senior Program, and is used for senior services in Pulaski County (per the director of Southern Pride). The purpose of the property tax referendum money is to continue, expand, and match locally the federal and state funding awarded here for senior services.

2. Why do you charge \$250 per month to this site?

Response: The local program director answered this question. It was the same basic answer as the question above.

3. How far away are the EAAA meetings? (Board & Advisory Council meetings)

Response: We need a representative from Pulaski County for our Advisory Council. The meetings are held at 10 am at the office in Carterville.

4. Do you need someone from Alexander County on your Board?

Response: Yes, we recently had a resignation from someone from Alexander County from our Board. If you or someone you know from Alexander County would like to serve on our Board, please let us know.