

**THE ADVISORY COUNCIL
TO THE GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING.
DATE: JAN. 8, 2019 MEETING**

Call to order at 2:00 p.m. by Richard Golden followed by Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present: Richard Golden, Linda Van Etten, Florence Ohle, Judi Lopresti, Patricia Caporta, Lillian Moore, Lyn Brunner, Dorothy True, John Lopresti, Ed Bloomer, Larry Krajeski, Barbara Lindsay, Ken Brooks, Terry McGee Ward.

Excused: Beverly Myers

Absent: Michelle Deyo, Dawn Wallant

GUEST SPEAKER: NA

MINUTES REVIEW & APPROVAL: Nov. & Dec. 2018 minutes were reviewed and approved with no changes. Motion made by Florence Ohle and seconded by Linda Van Etten

WELCOME: Edward Bloomer, Legislator and New Chairperson to the Human Services Committee

Program Reports: Terry McGee Ward:

Nutrition:

- No menu committee meeting for Dec 2018.
- Moving for Better Balance is coming to Catskill in January.
- Water situation continues in Jewett, DOH has finally approved requested work, should be completed in a couple of weeks.

Client Services:

- **HIICAP:** Open enrollment was busy due to the cancellation of FIDELIS coverage in Greene County. This was our first year using STARS program to enter information.
- **BUDGET:** Time was spent on reviewing and preparing budget.
- **SAD & Companion Care:** Waitlist has been dramatically reduced due to new Companion Care program offered by Hearthstone.
- **CAREGIVER:** The aide shortage and local competition for aides has caused us to look at our Caregiver program. Monies used to primarily cover in home respite service for spouses who are caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease. Options include paying for client's attendance at the new Grace Place program,

and getting the word out that we could possibly assist this population in other ways besides the in-home option.

- **NEW STAFF:** Our new Aging Services Specialist has completed a lot of training including direct observation, webinars and shadowing. She is able to handle many client concerns at this time.

RSVP:

- RSVP Advisory council meetings will start up again in Jan. 2019. Report will be presented in Feb. 2019 meeting.
- 1 new volunteer trained
- 2 volunteers are on medical leave
- In-Home Contact & Support form has been created.
- Advisory Council Luncheon was a success
- Consortium was not attended this month.
- 25 years Certificate of Service presented to John Gottesche, who has retired at the young age of 90.
- 2 perspective new volunteers

Ken Brooks, Business Manager:

- AIP 2019 (Annual Implementation Plan) was due on 12/7/18, but due to conflicts with the Annual Assessment taking place at the same time, the AIP for 2019 was submitted late (1/10/19).
- Rec'd final approval letter for 2 new vans from NYSDOT Grant.

Terry McGee, Executive Director:

- Gave an update on the Moving for Better Balance classes coming to Catskill at the end of January.
- Talked briefly on staff matters.
- Mentioned that a new "YEAR IN REVIEW" process will take place. This will give us the opportunity to discuss current programs and whether they worked well in 2018.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- **REVIEW OF BY-LAWS:** Terry passed out copies of the current By-laws and asked the members to review them and have any comments prepared for the next meeting.
- **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** A motion was made by Dorothy True to cast 1 vote for: Richard Golden, Chairperson, Linda Van Etten – Vice Chairperson and Florence Ohle as Secretary. All were in favor no nays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ken Brooks: Wanted everyone to know that the Senior Angels raised \$16,706.65 breaking all past records and provided gifts to over 250 senior citizens. We are planning on doing an Easter/Welcome Spring dinner of Easter Sunday April 21, 2019, more details will follow.

Barbara Lindsay, Mobility Manager: Talked about visiting the new Housing Development in Prattsville called the MEWS. She did a transportation presentation. Currently there are 36 senior apts. Connie Bentley, Client Service Coordinator for GCDHS will be visiting the MEWS on Jan. 16, 2019, to let them know what services we offer.

Linda VanEtten: Announced that she has retired effective 12/31/18, but will continue to serve on the Advisory Council. Asked if there was any way the Senior Angels could do a “Christmas in July”, Ken said he would present the idea to the committee and report next month.

Michelle Black, Veterans Affairs Director: Absent:

Lynn Brunner, Athens Area Representative: Reported that the Athens Senior Center will have a winter wonderland lunch on 1/30/19, and a Valentine’s Day lunch on 2/14/19. Also wanted to let us know that the electrical outlet in the small kitchen needs to be repaired. Please have Maureen verify if there is a work order for this.

Edward Bloomer, Legislature: Wanted to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication on the board. He was very impressed with everything we do.

Kim Kaplan, Public Health: Absent / Patricia Caporta: Working on a Public Health 2019-2020 Strategic Plan. Flu has hit with vengeance. Rabies vaccinations are on the rise. Working on a 2019 pilot program MAT medication assistances treatment with opioid addictions.

Larry Krajeski, Director Catskill Mountain Housing: Trailer replacement program winding down for the winter. There are funds still available for home/trailer repairs, applications are now being accepted. Catskill Mountain Housing will be holding their annual fundraiser in May 2019. Trying to raise money to help with emergencies. Ken mentioned that Larry should keep the Senior Angels Emergency Fund in mind. We can team up and help needy seniors.

Lillian Moore, RSVP: The RSVP meetings will start again at the end of Jan. 2019.

Florence Ohle, Director Community Action: Very busy. Be careful of rental scams, they are out there. Thanksgiving: delivered 111 meals to homebound families, walk-ins were referred to the Community Center on Main St. Received a \$10,000 award from GSK. Tax season is approaching. Appointments start 2/12/19. Go to my free taxes and you can file your taxes for free if your combined household income is \$60,000 or less. The Weatherization Program has started. New hire, Kimberly Bender will be in charge of “Farm to Foods”.

Dorothy True Cairo Area Representative: Ask about Outreach. What is DHS doing to get the word out to Senior citizens? Can we do outreach at the local libraries? Terry responded “absolutely”, we will be establishing outreach throughout Greene County. Dottie will be

checking each month as to where we do outreach. Terry said Connie Bentley will be establishing an Outreach Calendar.

Dawn Wallant, Director Common Ground: ABSENT

Beverly Myers Greenville Area Representative: Excused

John & Judi Lopresti – Mountaintop Representative: Had complaints about menu, too many of the foods are being served on consecutive days. I.e.: Friday is spaghetti and Monday is baked ziti. Also, each month either has too much fish and not enough chicken and vice versa. Dessert portions are too small. Terry brought this concern to Tezera and she will bring it up at the next Menu committee meeting. Also wanted us to know that the MEWS housing has very strict income rules (guided by HUD). The WAJPL club decided to try a meeting in Jan 2019, because of the nice weather they thought to try it. It was such a huge success they are going to try Feb. 2019 next. Judi & John are also going to become members of the Mountain Top Club, so they can get the feedback and ideas to the Advisory council from that part of the mountain.

Richard Golden: Cocksackie Area Representative: Cocksackie Food pantry is building a walk-in freezer and cooler. Florence asked about having one in the Cairo area where it is more centralized. Terry suggested the old police building, Dorothy confirmed that it was still empty. Dick will look into it.

Meeting was adjourned @ 3:25 pm by Lillian Moore and seconded by Florence Ohle (actually everyone, but we only needed one.)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019 @ 2:00 PM in the Greene County Staff Training Room,

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. Brooks Jr. Business Manager GCDHS