

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
December 14, 2021 @ 2:00 – In person with option to join via Zoom

PERSON CONDUCTING MEETING: Chairman Dick Golden

RECORDER: Katy Drake/Consultant*

ATTENDANCE: Chair Dick Golden, Vice Chair Linda Van Etten, Lula Anderson*, Ed Bloomer, Ernie Armstead, Ken Brooks, Lynn Brunner, Bea Clappin*, Michelle Deyo*, Judy LoPresti*, Lillian Moore and Dottie True
 *= Zoom

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Larry Krajeski, Beverly Meyers, Florence Ohle, Jeffrey Ruso, Dawn Wallant and Terry McGee Ward

With 11 members present and one staff, a quorum was available.

The meeting opened with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE	DUE	DONE
Review of Previous minutes	The November 9, 2021 meeting minutes were approved as written.	Lynn Brunner made a motion to approve. Lillian Moore seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			X
REPORTS & UPDATES: Aging Services	Ken reviewed a report by Connie Bentley that covered HIICAP, Caregiver Services, EISEP, NY Connects and Grant Reports & Applications.	In regard to HIICAP (Health Insurance Information and Counseling Program), Connie reported a steady flow of approximately 50 clients during open enrollment (10/15-12/7/21) The Alzheimer Support group planned to start in January at the Rivertown Senior Center has been postponed due to COVID concerns. Also, the presentation on <u>Effective Communication</u> for staff in December had to be rescheduled due to COVID exposures- a new date has not yet been set.			

		<p>Connie’s report addressed the shortage of aides available. Hearthstone Care has been able to consistently provide Companions for level one clients (shopping, housekeeping, etc.) but there is a waiting list for Level 2 Aides. Large caseloads for Case Mangers due to ongoing vacancies was again discussed as a concern. Interviews continue but the right candidate has not been hired yet.</p> <p>Homecare and Transportation remain the most frequently requested services through NY Connects.</p> <p>Connie reported out on the completion of the MIPPA Application (cost savings program for seniors), the RMT/NY Connects Quarterly Cost Analysis and the Data Verification Report.</p> <p>Connie noted that the Veteran’s Resource Fair in Cairo was very successful.</p>			
Nutrition Services	A report was not available for Nutrition Services due to the extensive staff shortages.				
Volunteer Services	Ken shared Ruth Pforte’s December report.	For though December, Ruth reported there were a total of 116 volunteers currently working. 92 volunteers for meal delivery, 13 for medical transportation, 5 for the Advisory Board, 6 crafters and 4 for Outreach.	The new AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP grant was submitted on November 30 th ..		

<p>Director's Report</p>	<p>The Senior Angel Program is getting referrals for clients. The Emergency Funds are being used to serve seniors in collaboration with Community Action, Catholic Charities, Catskill Mountain Housing and Veteran's Services.</p> <p>Terry is out of the office until at least January 4, 2022.</p> <p>Greene County Aging Services Foundation - Call for new Board Members for 2022.</p>	<p>etc.) The Helping Hands Program is looking for volunteers to assist with shoveling seniors' walkways.</p> <p>Senior Angels has raised \$11,000 for 2021, which is exceptional during COVID and this time of economic struggle.</p> <p>In Terry's absence, Ken shared information on a press conference being held in Schoharie County regarding the shortage of aides across NY state. Seven County Office for the Aging Directors will be holding a press conference to bring additional attention to the home health care worker crisis on December 15, 2021. "The advocates who gathered at the Office of Aging in Schoharie County are putting their support behind The Fair Pay for Home Care Act—a bill that plans to raise wages and set reimbursement rates under Medicaid and managed care plans." Greene County's information on the waitlist was shared.</p> <p>Ken provided information on the Greene County Aging Services Foundation, Inc. This Board is critical to maintain a 501c3 status so donations can be</p>	<p>The link to information on the press conference:</p> <p>www.news10.com/news/ny-capitol-news/seven-counties-sound-alarm-on-home-care-crisis-urge-gov-to-help/</p> <p>The Bylaws of the foundation were emailed out to all members on</p>		
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	<p>Public Hearings</p> <p>Election of Officers</p>	<p>accepted. More information will be shared at the January meeting as the Foundation is seeking a few new members to sit on the Board and attend 4 meetings a year. Meeting can be held adjacent to the Aging Advisory Board meetings for the convenience to overlapping members.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the recent public hearings on Aging Services. Most of the public hearings were well attended with approximately 20 people in the audience.</p> <p>Dottie nominated Dick Golden for Chair. Judy seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of Dick Golden for Chairman.</p> <p>Ed Bloomer nominated Linda VanEtten for Vice- Chair. Lillian seconded the motion. All voted in favor of Linda serving as Vice- Chair.</p> <p>Lillian nominated Florence Ohle for Secretary. Ed seconded the motion. All were in favor of Florence serving as secretary.</p>	<p>December 15th for review and consideration.</p>		<p>X</p> <p>X</p>
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Council Member Announcements & Updates:

The deadline for nominations for the Annual Senior Citizen Awards is January 28, 2022.

Larry Krajeski/Catskill Mountain Housing shared that CMHDC has received \$98,000 for the RESTORE program. This funding will allow CMHDC to do emergency repairs for senior homeowners over 60. The contract is expected to start in February 2022.

The Board discussed income for the Senior Centers, specifically Catskill. Per the lease agreements, rent is only being paid in cooking sites at this time. The sites that are not open due to lack of staff are not paid and if are open, it is with town designated staff. In response to income for the Catskill Center to be open, the Wayne Speenburgh grant was suggested. The grant applications open in January and can be up to \$1,000.00. The application is online. It was also suggested that the town's ARPA funding may be available for the center. Dick is going to speak with Rick Hanse about staffing the Coxsackie Senior Center. If a staff was on site at Coxsackie, meals could be delivered to that center as well.

Michele Deyo shared information on veteran's recognition ceremonies and the upcoming veteran's event at the Athens American Legion on January 27th from 3:00 – 5:00.

Dick shared that the Rotary Auction raised approximately \$23,000 and was a great event.

Judy shared a review of Mom's Meals and commended the office for the new pending purchase of 4 x 4s for the Mountain Top service.

Dottie share information on the successful veteran's event in Cairo.

Linda ended the meeting by wishing all a happy holiday & new year.

At 3:18, a motion to adjourn was made by Dottie, seconded by Judy and accepted by the committee. Notes respectfully submitted, Katy Drake*

Next meeting – January 11, 2022 @ 2:00 – In person with option to join via Zoom