

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
February 8, 2022 @ 2:00 – In person with option to join via Zoom

PERSON CONDUCTING MEETING: Ken Brooks

RECORDER: Katy Drake/Consultant*

ATTENDANCE: Lula Anderson*, Ernie Armstead, Ed Bloomer, Ken Brooks, Lynn Brunner, Bea Clappin *, Don Crespino, Michelle Deyo*, Larry Krajeski, Judy LoPresti*, Lillian Moore, Florence Ohle*, Dottie True* & Dawn Wallant*

*= Zoom

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Chair Dick Golden, Vice Chair Linda Van Etten, Beverly Meyers, Jeffrey Ruso and Terry McGee Ward

With 13 members present and one staff, a quorum was available.

The meeting opened with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Ken welcomed Don Crespino, the new Greene County Mobility Manager from The Arc.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE	DUE	DONE
Review of Previous Minutes	The January 11, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as written.	Florence made a motion to approve. Ernie seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			X
REPORTS & UPDATES: Aging Services	Ken reviewed information submitted by Connie Bentley that covered the Staffing Situation, Caregiver Services and Volunteer Recruitment.	Due to extreme staffing shortages, staff are working hard to cover as needed in all departments. Volunteer recruitment remains a heavy focus. Work is being done with the Bank of Greene County to get information out on volunteer recruitment. BOGC is distributing teller cards and has a lobby display on the importance & need for local volunteers. The Alzheimer Support Group planned to start in January at the Rivertown Senior Center has been postponed until spring due to COVID concerns.			

<p>Volunteer Services</p>	<p>Ken shared information from Ruth Pforte on Volunteer Services.</p>	<p>Large caseloads for Case Mangers due to ongoing vacancies was again discussed as a concern as the number of people inquiring about home care increased following the holidays.</p> <p>A total of 92 volunteers were noted for January. Ruth reported 102 rides were provided for Medical Transportation. RSVP surveys are being sent out.</p> <p>The Council discussed the impact of a shortage of volunteers at length, sharing options being explored for home delivered meals. Delivering a week of frozen meals to the clients added during COVID (who never had a formal assessment) was one option discussed- Mom's Meals is a local service that delivers a week of frozen meals.</p>		
<p>Nutrition Services</p>	<p>A report was not available for Nutrition Services due to the extensive staff shortages.</p>	<p>Ken shared the continuing challenges for the Nutrition Department. Unfortunately, a cook is now out due to injury. Additionally, there are twelve vacancies in the department. All staff are pitching in and it is not unusual to find the Director washing dishes at a center these days due to the shortages.</p>		
<p>Finance/Transportation/ Senior Angel/Helping Hands</p>	<p>Ken Brooks shared his report.</p>	<p>Ken reported the 2022 budget mirrored the 2021 budget. Ken discussed the surplus in the personnel budget lines due to being so short staffed. Food costs remain high.</p>		

<p>Director's Update</p>	<p>No report as the Director is out due to illness.</p>	<p>Helping Hands, with the Rotarians, continues to be a great support to local seniors with small household needs (shoveling, garbage cans in/out, shopping, etc.) The Helping Hands Program has been able to secure volunteers for the requests coming in.</p> <p>Senior Angels raised over \$16,000 for 2021.</p>			
<p>Senior Awards</p>	<p>Prior to the meeting, the procedures for the Senior Awards was distributed to the Council via email.</p>	<p>The Council reviewed the procedures and discussed ideas for increasing responses/applications in the future. Nominations were originally due by January 28th, but the deadline was extended a week giving people extra time to submit. Only 2 nominations were received. With a quorum present, the Council was able to vote on the two awards - Senior of the Year and Outstanding Contribution by a Senior.</p>	<p>Mary Lou Nahas was awarded Senior of Year and Linda Sutton was awarded Outstanding Contribution by a Senior.</p>		<p>X</p>

COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES:

Ernie discussed transportation needs with a request for the bus to stop at the Catskill Center and give seniors an extra minute to get to the bus. Don noted he will be visiting each site and looking into the transit needs. Ernie also shared the need for a shed at Catskill for meal bags as currently the bags are being left outside in the bad weather. Lastly, an HBO special is being filmed at the Catskill Center for two days the last week in February.

Lula shared that Veterans' cards were completed and ready to be distributed.

Lynn shared that at the Rivertown Senior Center a valentine's event is being planned.

Michelle Deyo shared information on the Valentines for Veterans Program—more than 74 valentines have been collected to date and will be distributed on the 14th. Michelle updated the Council that the Veterans' Resource Fair at the American Legion in Athens has been rescheduled for February 24th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. More information on the specifics will be sent to organizations who were originally setting up tables for the Resource Fair.

Larry shared information on the Restore Program which has funding available for emergency repairs for seniors who own their home and qualify for the program.

Lillian discussed concerns for a homeless woman and requested information on how to best help. Florence sent out information on the annual count for homeless in Greene County, sharing that programs can help if the individual wants help, but have to respect the wishes of the individual if they do not want assistance. Specific information on the homeless population for Greene County from Florence was shared in a follow up email to the Council on February 9th.

Dottie provided an update on the Senior Center. Architects have visited the new location and plans are moving forward. Dottie also shared information on the Chili Cook-off being planned for March.

Dawn shared that Common Ground continues to conduct mediation, intake and coaching mainly through remote services. Information on a virtual Trivia Event was shared and the specifics will be distributed to members in a follow up email.

At 2:42, a motion to adjourn was made by Lillian, seconded by Florence and accepted by the committee.

Next meeting – March 8, 2022 @ 2:00 – In person with option to join via Zoom

Notes respectfully submitted, Katy Drake*

**** Meeting notes approved by Advisory Board at March 8th meeting with a correction of Athens for the Valentines event.**