

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
April 12, 2022 @ 2:00 – In person with option to join via Zoom

PERSON CONDUCTING MEETING: Dick Golden

RECORDER: Katy Drake/Consultant*

ATTENDANCE: Chair Dick Golden, Vice Chair Linda Van Etten, Lula Anderson, Ed Bloomer*, Connie Bentley, Ken Brooks, Lynn Brunner, Bea Clappin *, Kendra Huber (guest) Judy LoPresti, Charlene Mabey (guest), Jeffrey Ruso* and Dottie True * = Zoom

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Ernie Armstead, Don Crespino, Michelle Deyo, Larry Krajeski, Tyler Lynch (guest), Beverly Meyers, Lillian Moore, Florence Ohle, Dawn Wallant*

With 9 members present, plus two guest and two staff, a quorum was available.

The meeting opened at 2:04 with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE	DUE	DONE
Review of Previous Minutes	The March 8, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.	Lula made a motion to approve. Judy seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			X
REPORTS & UPDATES:					
Aging Services- Report by Connie Bentley	Connie Bentley reviewed Staffing, EISEP, Medicaid Savings Program (MSP), NY Connects and marketing suggestions from an intern.	Connie shared the positive news that several new staff have been hired: Chris Lewoc has started as a new Case Manager and Bonnie Snyder will serve as a new Aging Services Specialist. Connie noted this is the first time in three years her department is fully staffed. Staff are now out seeing clients in their homes. Staff are now back attending conferences and trainings in person. Outreach is occurring with tables again set up at libraries and senior centers.			

<p>Volunteer Services</p>	<p>Marketing recommendations from a student intern were shared.</p> <p>Connie shared information from Ruth Pforte on Volunteer Services.</p> <p>Volunteer Recognition</p>	<p>Connie discussed the efforts to get information out regarding the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). Using zip code data, the office is now able to target outreach where numbers are low.</p> <p>Information was shared on the Alzheimer’s Association Support Group for the County. A new meeting location and a facilitator are being sought. The Alzheimer’s Association will be presenting in early June on the Ten Early Warning signs.</p> <p>The marketing recommendations from the student intern will be sent out with the meeting notes. Connie shared that some of the outreach ideas to secure more volunteers will be tried.</p> <p>In April, volunteers are working in the areas of meal delivery (79), medical transportation (8), advisory boards (12), outreach (5), crafting (2), AARP (1) and the thrift shop (9). Ruth reported 116 rides for 38 clients were provided for Medical Transportation in April.</p> <p>4 new volunteers started- Catskill (1), Athens (2) and Acra (1). A new volunteer for Greenville will hopefully start next week.</p> <p>Gift Cards for recognition were sent out to volunteers. The majority of receipts have been returned acknowledging the</p>	<p>Please see flyer regarding volunteer facilitator for the Support Group.</p> <p>Members who did not yet return receipt of the gift</p>		
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<p>Nutrition Services</p>	<p>AmeriCorps Senior Grant</p>	<p>card was received.</p>	<p>card were asked to do so today.</p>		
	<p>AARP Classes</p>	<p>Ruth is working on completing the final reports for the AmeriCorps Senior Grant that ended March 31, 2022.</p>			
	<p>Medical Transportation for Pharmacy Pick Up</p>	<p>AARP classes will begin again in April. Classes will be held 4/19 & 4/20 and 4/28 & 4/29 in Athens.</p>			
	<p>Ken reviewed information sent in by Tezera Pulice.</p>	<p>The committee discussed the need for assistance for seniors on the mountaintop to pick up prescriptions due to recent changes at the pharmacy. Ken shared the office is working on it, looking first to see where delivery may be available (Catskill to the Mountain Top).</p> <p>Tezera and Shane continue to fill in while the Central Kitchen Manager is out on medical leave. Staff are working very hard and the priority is still the cooking sites. Applicants are now coming in and hires are in process for Cocksackie, Acra and Catskill. It is anticipated that all sites will be open by June.</p> <p>The Farmers Market season is almost here. Ruth Bundy will be in charge of scheduling the day for disbursement at senior housing and senior centers.</p>	<p>By the end of June, coupons should be available in the Main Office too.</p>		

<p>Finance/Transportation/ Senior Angel/Helping Hands</p>	<p>Ken Brooks shared his report.</p> <p>Transportation/Mileage Reimbursement</p> <p>Helping Hands</p> <p>Senior Angels</p>	<p>Ken is serving as the Interim Director, as required by NYSOFA, to ensure there is no gap in leadership during this transition period. Ken shared an update on the hiring status of a new Director.</p> <p>Ken is working on the 2022 annual budget update (It was received April 4, 2022 with a due date of March 31, 2022!) Ken reported the 2022 budget mirrors the 2021 budget.</p> <p>A change in policy for mileage reimbursement was discussed. The mileage rate for volunteers is being raised for May 1, 2022 from 50 cents to 58.5 cents. This impacts the budget by about \$10,000. This increase was approved by the Legislature.</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 Angel donations have started coming in for 2022. A major contributor passed away this year and in lieu of flowers at their funeral, they requested donations to the Senior Angel fund. Ken shared the process for accessing emergency funds through the program.</p>			
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Council Member Announcements & Updates

District 2 (Coxsackie): Dick shared that XL Physical Therapy has canes available. NAPA in Hunter is storing donated medical supplies- beds, walkers, and wheelchairs. Ken can be the contact to access those donations. Both places are accepting donations as well.

District 3 (Athens): Lynn shared that an Easter dinner is planned for Wednesday in Athens with 36 people expected to attend.

District 5 (New Baltimore): Jeff stated that nursing homes and healthcare settings still require masks due to COVID. Jeff clarified the COVID testing procedures when visiting nursing homes.

District 6 (Prattsville, Ashland, Windham & Jewett): Judy shared that bi-monthly meetings are back in person with strong attendance. Trips are being planned and are moving forward.

Lula shared the efforts to secure a blood drawing center on the mountain top. Advocacy is needed. Outreach has occurred to the legislature and the hospital. A new doctor is coming in to replace the doctor who retired. Lula also shared that nine new rolls of fleece were donated and blankets are being tied for the VA.

District 7 (Halcott, Lexington, Hunter): Linda shared the nursing home visits still have some challenges due to COVID. Testing may be required before you visit. The test is provided at the center and may be required before you enter the building. Linda encouraged members to plan ahead as visits are so important to those in nursing homes.

District 8 (Cairo): Dottie commended the department on the ad for volunteers—the Roundtable News goes out to approximately 1425 households. Dottie noted the list of services was also very helpful. Dottie informed the board that a Farmers Market will be held at Shinglekill Falls in Purling on Monday evenings starting in May. Dottie reported the new senior center for Cairo is moving forward slowly. Currently, grants are being worked on for the building and furniture. Lastly, Dottie reported the Cairo Bears will be back on display in May-- \$48,000 was raised for the Cairo Economic Development Foundation to encourage economic growth for the area.

District 9 (Durham): Charlene noted that she looked forward to joining the Board officially and representing East Durham.

GUEST: Kendra also shared information on how medical equipment can be accessed through donations or rentals. In response to questions about modifications on rented property, the committee discussed suction cup rails for safety if installing rails is not permitted.

At 2:59, a motion to adjourn was made and accepted by the committee. Notes respectfully submitted, Katy Drake
Notes approved by quorum at May Meeting.

Next meeting – May 10, 2022 @ 2:00 – In person with option to join via Zoom