

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
May 10, 2022 @ 2:00 – In person with option to join via Zoom

PERSON CONDUCTING MEETING: Dick Golden

RECORDER: Katy Drake/Consultant*

ATTENDANCE: Chair Dick Golden, Lula Anderson, Ernie Armstead, Ed Bloomer, Ken Brooks, Lynn Brunner, Bea Clappin *, Don Crespino, Michelle Deyo*, Kendra Huber (guest) Judy LoPresti, Ricky Lyons, Beverly Meyers, Florence Ohle and Dottie True

* = **Zoom**

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Vice Chair Linda Van Etten, Larry Krajewski, Charlene Mabey, Lillian Moore, Jeffrey Ruso and Dawn Wallant

With 12 members present, plus one guest and two staff, a quorum was available.

The meeting opened at 2:01 with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE	DUE	DONE
Review of Previous Minutes	The April 12, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.	Dottie made a motion to approve. Ernie seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			X
REPORTS & UPDATES:					
Aging Services- Report by Connie Bentley	<p>New Executive Director, Mr. Ricky Lyons was introduced to the Board.</p> <p>The Executive Director reviewed the report prepared by Connie Bentley covering new staff hired, volunteer management & recruitment, monitoring & evaluations, Standard Operating Procedures, Outreach and Home Care.</p>	<p>*Unfortunately, Mr. Lyons resigned on May 13th. Ken Brooks will be serving as Interim Director until a new ED is hired.</p> <p>New Case Manager, Chris Lewoc has been engaged with meeting the people on his caseload, either by phone or in person. He is constant communication with Home Care agencies regarding ai Another Case Manager is scheduled to start May 23rd.de/companion services.</p> <p>New Aging Services Specialist, Bonnie Snyder has been trained on the Medical Transportation Program.</p> <p>The challenges of the volunteer shortage</p>			

<p>Volunteer Services</p>	<p>Ricky Lyons presented information from Ruth Pforte on Volunteer Services.</p>	<p>were again discussed. The department is trying the ideas suggested by the intern (see April notes). Re-training of all volunteers is planned to ensure everyone is following safety protocols.</p> <p>As required by NYSOFA, Connie is monitoring programs. This year a general survey has been added and will be mailed out to clients this week.</p> <p>Connie is in the process of reviewing and updating operating procedures.</p> <p>Outreach has picked back up. Aging Services Specialist/NY Connects is scheduling times at Senior Centers to assist with applications for money saving programs.</p> <p>Home Care program remains busy - at this time most level-one care (housekeeping and shopping) requests are being met.</p> <p>In April, volunteers worked in the areas of meal delivery, medical transportation, advisory boards, outreach, crafting, AARP and the thrift shop. Ruth reported 140 rides for 40 clients were provided for Medical Transportation.</p> <p>Homebound Meal Delivery Volunteers from Catskill and Coxsackie have been notified of dates the centers are expected to reopen. Volunteers will once again</p>			
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<p>Nutrition Services</p>	<p>AARP Classes</p> <p>Rick reviewed information sent in by Tezera Pulice.</p>	<p>assist with the packing of meals.</p> <p>Congregate Volunteers can work in the centers again so those volunteers are being contacted.</p> <p>AARP classes were held on 4/19 & 4/20 and 4/28 & 4/29 in Athens. Future classes are on hold as COVID numbers are rising.</p> <p>Tezera reported that pre-COVID operations at Catskill are up and running. Two new employees at Coxsackie were training and it is expected Coxsackie will be up to normal operations for May 16th.</p> <p>The annual DOH food safety training will be held in May.</p> <p>Home delivered meal referrals continue to come in at a steady pace. There is a waitlist for the following routes: Acra 1 & 2 Athens Village Freehold Greenville 2</p>	<p>Anyone calling for meals on these routes is referred to Mom's Meals.</p>	
<p>Finance/Transportation/ Senior Angel/Helping Hands</p>	<p>Ken Brooks shared his report.</p>	<p>Ken shared the efforts being made to orientate the new Executive Director. Ken and Ricky have been out visiting all the sites. Improvements needed at the various sites were discussed.</p>	<p>The Executive Director is going to follow up with the Cairo Town Supervisor reg. necessary building care/improvements</p>	

	<p>Helping Hands</p> <p>Senior Angels</p> <p>Staffing</p>	<p>Ken is working on the 2022 annual budget adding in the newly hired positions. Ken reported the 2022 budget mirrors the 2021 budget. American Rescue and Recovery Funds are not expected for 2022.</p> <p>Helping Hands, with the Rotarians, continues to be a great support to local seniors with small household needs (removing storm windows & putting in screens, shopping, garbage cans out) The Helping Hands Program continues to be able to secure volunteers for the requests coming in.</p> <p>Senior Angel is planning on hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner this year. The program is currently working on holiday cards for Vets.</p> <p>Senior Angels will be awarded the State Academy for Public Administration's 2022 Public Service Excellence Award. Congratulations!</p> <p>Ken announced that the department as a new receptionist, Aniston Keff. Ken shared the five positions in recruitment- a full time bus driver, 2 Catskill staff, Cook & Food Service for Athens and a part time position in Jewett.</p>	<p>The link to attend the Awards virtually was sent to members on 5/16.</p>	
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Council Member Announcements & Updates

Maureen Murphy requested that Advisory Members planning on attending the May 18th Legislative Meeting with Senior Awards Presentation respond to her by the end of today to ensure they are on the attendance list for building security.

Dick updated the Board that medical supports such as walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, etc. are now being stored at the Cossackie Senior Center. Anyone needing access to these supportive devices should contact Ken or Dick to access.

Florence shared information on the expanded eligibility of the weatherization program, the Mobile Food Pantry and the free Farmer's Market (held on Tuesdays). The Farmer's Market had strong attendance, the results of the current high prices of food. Florence shared that due to staffing shortages the Domestic Violence Program has been closed. Approval has been granted for the program to run as a safe dwelling (not 24-hour staffing/**building security & on call available**). When one more position is hired, the program as a safe dwelling can open. Affordable housing was discussed. A customer appreciation event is planned for Saturday, May 14th to celebrate Pay It Forward's 10-year anniversary. Florence reported that Tax Season has wrapped up, with assistance provided for 130 Tax Returns.

Lula share information on a Spring Fling—a 3-hour event with music and finger foods.

Ernie provided information on the new broadband expansion in process. Ernie commended Penny on her efforts at Catskill. A referral to the Helping Hands program was made for assistance in putting in an air conditioner.

Lynn shared that Athens successfully hosted a Mother's Day Dinner and a Father's Day event is being planned.

Bea shared information on Medicaid rates versus private pay services. Securing an aide at the minimum wage rates is extremely challenging when there are so many other employment opportunities out there starting with significantly higher pay.

Don shared a transportation update. Despite driver shortages, efforts are being made to build back the routes. Ridership is increasing. Don has been providing travel training to help people navigate the public transportation system. Don reminded the Board that veterans and seniors ride free. Checking the website is the best way to find current routes. Dial a ride is available but does require two days advance notice. Masks are still required on public transportation.

Michele Deyo announced the upcoming Memorial Service to honor World War II US Army Air Forces Staff Sergeant Rudolph Phillips on May 21st at 10:00 at the Historic Catskill Point. (Invitation was emailed to members on 5-18)

Judy discussed the challenges of finding help for seniors. The Board discussed the staffing shortages and aide wages.

Beverly shared that the Greenville Library and Bank in Acra need copies of the Roundtable News. The return of the bus to Albany was discussed. A Bus Driver with a CDL is required for this service.

Dottie provided an update on the donated fleece. The involvement of volunteers from the start of the donation to the results of 15 crafters tying 48 blankets for Ukraine was shared.

Kendra shared information on COVID related transportation services available.

At 3:21, a motion to adjourn was made and accepted by the committee. Notes respectfully submitted, Katy Drake

Notes approved at June 14, 2022 Meeting with a Quorum available.

Next meeting – June 14, 2022 @ 2:00 – In person with option to join via Zoom