

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
September 13, 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, Connie Bentley (staff), Ed Bloomer, Lynn Brunner, Bea Clappin *, Don Crespino, Kendra Huber (guest), Judy LoPresti, Tyler Lynch*(guest), Charlene Mabey, Lillian Moore, Stephanie Schleuderer (staff), Dottie True, Vice Chair Linda Van Etten and Molly Whitbeck (guest) * = **Zoom**

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Ken Brooks, Michelle Deyo, Beverly Meyers, Florence Ohle, Jeffrey Ruso and Dawn Wallant

With 12 members present, plus three guests and two staff, a quorum was available.

The meeting opened at 1:57 with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The new Executive Director, Ms. Stephanie Schleuderer and Catskill Mountain Housing’s new Executive Director, Ms. Molly Whitbeck were introduced to the Board.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE	DUE	DONE
Review of Previous Minutes	The June 14, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.	Lillian made a motion to approve. Judy seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			X
ELLIQ	Presentation by Chris Lewoc & Tami Bone	An interactive video of ElliQ in use was shown to the Board. The ElliQ system was on the table so members could see ElliQ. Judy shared information on the actual use of ElliQ with her mom. ElliQ is designed for people home alone for five hours or more a day. Through state funding, Greene County has 10 ElliQ systems available free for seniors who qualify. ElliQ is a companion program—it plays music, tells jokes, offers reminders, shows pictures & videos and can call programmed contacts. ElliQ does not call 911. Judy explained that her mother has her PERS on the same table, and that system can call 911.			

<p>MOM’S MEALS</p>	<p>Presentation by Tezera Pulice and Danielle Kane-Wade</p>	<p>Due to severe ongoing staff and volunteer shortages, Mom’s Meals has been contracted to serve approximately 60 residents on the mountain top for a six-month time frame. While not ideal, this is the best solution at this time to ensure clients are getting meals.</p> <p>Lula provided some points for consideration of the Mom’s Meals delivery: 10 meals are packed in a box. The box weighs between 30 – 35 pounds. Getting the box inside and unpacked may be a challenge for some. The menu has print too small to read. Meals are adequate—not bad, but not necessarily good. Portion sizes can be small. Substitutions are not available (i.e., juice for milk).</p> <p>Judy reported that people miss the daily check and friendly face with Home Delivered Meals. She believes the face-to-face contact is more important to many than the food. Judy also shared there is a lot of packaging that is difficult to get rid of with the Mom’s Meal’s box.</p>	<p>Danielle is the contact for contract cancellations.8 of the 60 contacts have cancelled.</p> <p>If delivery is a concern, Danielle should be notified as she can reach out to family members or contacts to let them know the individual needs help bringing in the ten-meal package.</p>		
<p>NUTRITION SERVICES REPORT</p>	<p>Tezera provided an update on staffing challenges and services.</p>	<p>Tezera shared the challenges the nutrition department is facing currently due to being extremely short staffed. Recruitment is tough as the pay rate for the county positions is lower than fast food restaurants or Walmart are paying.</p>	<p>Tezera is seeking applicants who are interested in being involved in helping their community.</p>		
<p>AGING SERVICES</p>	<p>Connie Bentley provided an overview on staffing, partnerships, HEAP, HIICAP and Outreach.</p>	<p>Connie shared information on staff training. Two new partnerships were highlighted- Care Patrol (Helping Seniors transition out of their home) and the Healthcare Consortium (Medical Transportation Program).</p>			

Council Member Announcements & Updates

- * Dick reported that the Senior Center in Coxsackie is open. Adaptive and Medical equipment is being stored there if anyone is in need. Dick shared information and challenges for the Regional Food Bank.
- * Ed discussed some of the Regional Food Pantry regulations. Staffing challenges across all areas were discussed.
- * Bea shared the DOH regulations are still pending, with a now anticipated date of December 2022. Bea believes there will be a push to Consumer Directed services due to staffing challenges. Unfortunately, Consumer Directed Services are also greatly impacted by lack of available staff.
- * Tyler Lynch reported that the ribbon cutting for the opening of the Dwyer Center will be on 9/27/22. The center provides peer to peer counseling for vets along with supports with mental health challenges. The passing of the PACT act was reviewed – this legislation expands benefits for vets. Tyler shared that applications for the fall “Honor a Vet” program are still be accepted. The application will be forwarded to all members following the meeting via email. In closing, Tyler noted that Veteran’s services is still hiring drivers for medical appointments.
- * Molly shared her experience with Catskill Mountain Housing working with Senior and Disabled Housing initiatives. Molly also discussed the impact of being short staffed.
- * Don shared Greene Transits staffing challenges. Two new drivers are in CDL training. Don reminded members that Seniors and Vets ride for free and that his office provides travel training for those new to public transportation. Dial-a-Ride was reviewed, but the program is limited at this time due to the driver shortage.
- * Judy share frustrations with the aide shortage and services on the mountain top. Lula also discussed shrinking services on the mountain top, in terms of car service. Lula reported art classes went well this summer. The new location across from Chicken Run is working well. Lula was commended for her recent article.
- * Dottie shared the availability of a Pickle Ball court at Cairo Park - Paddles can be signed out at the library. Dottie provided the Board information on extra fees now found on Central Hudson’s Bill—Senator Michelle Hinchey is advocating for assistance for the bills and the new “RDM” fee. Dottie reported that the Cairo Golden Agers are back meeting as a small group- Dottie is hoping the addition of some younger people will give the club a boost in activities & events. The new building is still pending, with no new update. Dottie requested a presentation on MCAT for a future meeting.
- * Charlene furthered the discussion on staffing and volunteer challenges and suggested working with the Human Services Course Instructors at CGCC.
- * Kendra reported that the Independent Living Center is still providing rides for COVID vaccinations until 9/30/22.

Meeting ended at 3:19. Notes respectfully submitted, Katy Drake

Meeting notes approved by Quorum at 10/11/22 Meeting