

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
November 15, 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, Connie Bentley (staff), Ed Bloomer, Tami Bone (staff), Ken Brooks (staff), Don Crespino, Kendra Huber*, Ann Kreig/DSS (guest), Charlene Mabey, Beverly Meyers, Judy LoPresti, Tyler Lynch*(guest), Lillian Moore, Florence Ohle*, Ruth Pforte (staff), Jeffrey Ruso, Stephanie Schleuderer (staff), Dottie True, Dawn Wallant*and Molly Whitbeck

* = **Zoom**

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Ernie Armstead, Lynn Brunner, Bea Clappin and Michelle Deyo

With 15 members present, plus 5 staff and 2 guests, a quorum was available.

The Chair opened the meeting at 2:00 with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE	DUE	DONE
Review of Previous Minutes	The October 11, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.	Lillian made a motion to approve. Linda seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			X
AGING SERVICES	Connie Bentley provided an overview on staffing, open enrollment, HIICAP and Outreach.	Connie discussed the open enrollment process, noting to date 17 people have been served with many more appointments set up. The deadline for open enrollment is December 7 th . Connie also shared that staff have been doing outreach at local libraries—approximately 100 people have been served through these efforts.			
NUTRITION	Tezera was working at a center so nutrition services update will be included in Ken and Stephanie’s report.				
VOLUNTEER	Ruth Pforte provided information	Ruth reviewed the names of new	If Board members		

<p>SERVICES</p>	<p>on new volunteers, efforts by volunteers in October and the AmeriCorp's Grant.</p>	<p>volunteers starting with the department. She shared that the office delivered 462 meals in October. There are 39 volunteers for community needs and 18 volunteer drivers. Ruth thanked Veterans' Services for helping out with rides when possible. Ruth noted the AmeriCorp grants will be for 3 years.</p>	<p>are aware of any concerns with volunteers, please speak with Ken.</p>		
<p>BUSINESS MANAGER</p>	<p>Ken Brooks provided information on the 2023 budget, open staffing positions, the Helping Hands program and Senior Angels.</p>	<p>Ken reported that NYSOFA has approved the 22/23 budget. Ken shared the department was under budget due to aide and staffing vacancies. The 23/24 budget should be out in April with public hearings being held before the budget is finalized. It was noted for the Board that the budget contains no additional funding despite the significant increase in food and gas costs. Staff salary concerns were brought up at the recent Public Hearings. These concerns were directed to Civil Service. Union negotiations for a new contract after 12/2023 are expected to start soon. Ken reviewed the open positions and discussed recruitment strategies.</p> <p>Ken shared that Senior Angels has raised \$8,500 to date. Ken reviewed the Senior Angel program, noting an increase in gift/necessity requests this year.</p>	<p>If members want to recommend a Greene County resident for the Senior Angel Program, please reach out to Ken.</p>		

<p>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</p>	<p>Public Hearings for the Annual Plan of Services- 2023-2024</p>	<p>Unfortunately, due to lack of interest/reservations, the Thanksgiving Dinner was cancelled this year. Only 21 signed up by the due date.</p> <p>Ken provided free turkey coupons that the office received to the Coxsackie & Acra Food Pantries and Community Action. Coupons have no expiration date so can be used/distributed as needed.</p> <p>Ken shared that Greene County has 19 people on the waiting list for level 2 (hands on) care. These are clients across the county. Options continue to be explored on how to address these challenges. For a variety of significant reasons (safety, time and cost of travel, schedule, etc), aides cannot be mandated to work in specific settings.</p> <p>Stephanie shared information on the first public hearing in Jewett, held November 1st. Stephanie reported 15-20 people in attendance. Staff shortages, transportation challenges and the lack of availability of Level 2 HHAs were discussed as concerns. The Board discussed staffing shortages across industries and areas. The county is posting positions with hire rates now so applicants are aware of the salary when contacted for an interview. The starting wage remains a concern for many positions.</p>	<p>Upcoming Public Hearings: 11/16 @ 1:30 - Athens 11/17 @ 1:30- Coxsackie</p>		
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Council Member Announcements & Updates

- * Dick reported out on the food pantry's success in handing out 65 turkey breasts for Thanksgiving. Dick also noted a hospital bed is in storage if anyone knows of someone in need.
- * Linda shared information on a new volunteer pool system that seems to be working well so far. The pool of volunteers allows for flexibility and coverage so people are more likely to sign up to help out.
- * Florence reported that Community Action is not hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner this year due to lack of volunteers. Coordination for next year will be a priority. Florence shared that food pantries are swamped and hard to keep stocked. Concerns over a difficult winter due to heating prices were discussed. Florence shared the success of the Weatherization Program. Also mentioned was Community Action's Adopt a Family Program.
- * Bev noted the Greenville Christmas Dinner has been cancelled.
- * Jeff provided information on New Baltimore's free luncheon for seniors over 60 on December 7th at noon.
- * Lula shared the request for adult coloring supplies as holiday gifts. Upcoming events and trips for WAJPL were also shared. Judy discussed the progress with meal volunteers on the mountain top. The challenges of securing aides to work remain. Judy also provided an update on ElliQ. ElliQ has been so impactful with Judy's mother that ElliQ is now being explored for hospice patients.
- * Dottie shared that Cairo's Golden Agers' Holiday Dinner was held at Nellies with over 30 in attendance. On 12/7, the Cairo High School's Honor Society is hosting a turkey dinner at the school for seniors.
- * Tyler shared that the Veteran's office is seeking a part time driver. Ken and Tyler discussed coordinator for Senior Angels.
- * Don shared some of the transportation challenges Greene Transit is facing and is aware of the concerns voiced at the Jewett public hearing. Don reported two new drivers are in training.
- * Molly reported that the Restore Funding went quickly. A \$10,000 limit was an issue in several cases—A specific example of a roof repair was shared where the cost was over \$10,000 but the client was not allowed to offset the cost so the work could not be done under this funding. Next year the limit is expected to increase to \$20,000 and Catskill Mountain Housing will be reaching out to those who could not be served this year.

**Holiday Lunch planned for December-- Next meeting – January 10, 2023 – MCAT Presentation
Approved by a quorum on January 10, 2023.**