

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
October 11, 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, Ernie Armstead, Connie Bentley (staff), Ed Bloomer, Ken Brooks (staff), Lynn Brunner, Bea Clappin *, Don Crespino, Kendra Huber*, Robert Laird (staff), Charlene Mabey, Beverly Meyers, Tezera Pulice (staff), Stephanie Schleuderer (staff), Dottie True, Dawn Wallant*and Molly Whitbeck * = **Zoom**

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Lula Anderson, Michelle Deyo, Judy LoPresti, Lillian Moore, Florence Ohle and Jeffrey Ruso

With 14 members present, plus five staff, a quorum was available. Robert Laird, the new Bus Driver was introduced. Robert just started with the department and is currently in training. He is a retired Vet. He may start driving next week. Albany trips are expected to start up again in the Spring.

The meeting opened 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 September 13, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.	Ed 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, partnerships, HIICAP and Outreach.	<p>HIICAP open enrollment is October 15-December 7 for those considering changing their Medicare Plans. Staff meetings with the insurance representatives are occurring this week. Outreach efforts regarding insurance help were shared.</p> <p>Connie shared information and contact on an adaptive telephone free for those who have hearing loss.</p> <p>Connie shared the annual reporting of gaps and barriers in service will address the critical lack of volunteers and transportation challenges. Potential</p>			

<p>BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT</p>	<p>Ken Brooks provided information on the 2023 budget, the Helping Hands program, Senior Angels and the recent meeting regarding Mountain Top Services & the Jewett Senior Center.</p>	<p>solutions are always being looked into to address any gap in service. Connie reported the department is short Caseworker hours as Tami Bone is in training as Business Manager- taking over in March 2023 upon Ken's retirement.</p> <p>Ken shared that the proposed 2023 budget is done and in review. The budget will be presented at a public hearing on October 26th at 6:00 at Catskill High School.</p> <p>Ken shared that the Helping Hands Program with the Rotary is still going strong. This is the time of year calls come in for screens and air conditioners to be taken out.</p> <p>Senior Angels kicked off in the first week of October with letters being sent to seniors/DSS/Programs regarding the 2023 Senior Angel Program. For this year, Ken, Tami and Bonnie Snyder serve on the committee. Senior Angels will have a table at the Athens' Victorian Stroll.</p> <p>In response to the concerns expressed at the September meeting regarding Mom's Meals and Mountain Top Services, Ken, Stephanie and Ed Bloomer attended an October meeting at the Ashland Town Hall. 55 people were in attendance. The challenges in recruiting volunteers for Home</p>	<p>Dawn Wallant offered Common Grounds' services to assist in getting resolution on these issues. Common Ground can assist in working on</p>		
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<p>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</p>	<p>Nutrition Services Info</p> <p>Stephanie shared Ruth's report.</p> <p>Public Hearing Dates for the Annual Plan of Services- 2023</p>	<p>Tezera shared the centers will have turkey dinners in advance of Thanksgiving. Tezera reported an expected turkey shortage this year.</p> <p>Staff changes and recruitment for a Senior Services Center Manager were discussed.</p> <p>New volunteers were reviewed. Outreach for recruitment—at libraries, rotaries, and community events—was shared. Word of mouth still is the most successful recruitment tool.</p> <p>Due to the spike in COVID, the Recognition Event for volunteers will be held in spring.</p> <p>Crafter events and donations were shared. The Elks donated yarn and crafting supplies.</p> <p>Ruth is working on the America Seniors pilot grant (3-year grant).</p> <p>The Board discussed the upcoming meetings and the representatives who will attend. Katy will send out dates and locations once finalize.</p> <p>Update: Sent to Board via email: Tuesday, November 1, 1:30 p.m. Jewett Municipal Building - Beaches Corners, Jewett Wednesday, November 16, 1:30 p.m. Rivertown Senior Center - 39 Second Street, Athens Thursday, November 17, 1:30 p.m. Town of Coxsackie Senior Center - 127 Mansion Street, Coxsackie</p>	<p>Please follow up with Ruth directly if there are any concerns with new volunteers.</p>		<p>X</p>
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Council Member Announcements & Updates

Ernie shared that Catskill had a new pool table donated by HBO following their filming. Ernie also shared information on a *Stuff the Bus* event collecting donations at the Life Church in Catskill. Ernie also provided a gentle reminder that how we speak to one another is important—Be kind and watch our words carefully.

Dick and Ken discussed how to potentially address a telephone pole issue on their property for a local senior.

Lynn shared information on the Athens Halloween Party at noon on October 28th. Lynn started a discussion on the concern for the salaries of county employees and how the pay rates are impacting services and the County.

Beverly share information on the Greenville Seniors Christmas Party (12/2), a Cairo Turkey Dinner and a December 4th Alzheimer's' holiday event in Greenville.

Dottie discussed posters made for volunteer recruitment—please post in post offices, churches, Stewarts, etc. Dottie welcomed Stephanie as the new Executive Director.

Charlene addressed the concerns and challenges with services on the Mountain Top. We were reminded these are still very challenging times and everyone is doing the very best they can with the resources available.

Molly shared information on the three grants Catskill Mountain Housing is currently working on in hopes of securing funding.

Kendra shared information on open enrollment and the medical equipment locker.

Ken shared that for the Senior Angel Thanksgiving Dinner currently being planned for Athens, 50 people need to be signed up or the dinner will be cancelled. At the time of the meeting, 16 people had registered for the Thanksgiving Dinner. He shared that the LGBTQ+ Training by Lyndon Cudlitz held in September was well received.

Meeting ended at 3:20. Notes respectfully submitted, Katy Drake

Next meeting – November 15, 2022 @ 2:00 (Change due to Election Day)

Meeting Notes approved by a quorum at the November 15, 2022 Meeting.