

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
January 10, 2023 @ 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, Ernie Armstead, Connie Bentley (staff), Ed Bloomer, Ken Brooks (staff), Lynn Brunner, Don Crespino, Kendra Huber*, Ann Kreig/DSS* (guest), Charlene Mabey, Beverly Meyers, Judy LoPresti, Florence Ohle*, Ruth Pforte (staff), Jeffrey Ruso, Stephanie Schleuderer (staff), Dottie True, Dawn Wallant*and Molly Whitbeck

* = **Zoom**

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Tami Bone (staff), Bea Clappin, Michelle Deyo, Tyler Lynch*(guest) and Lillian Moore

GUESTS: Katie Oldakowski, Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) - **Presenter**

With 16 members present, plus 4 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 November 15, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.	Judy made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Linda seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			X
PRESENTATION	Katie Oldakowski presented on the Greene County Mobile Crisis Assessment Team.	Katie will be added the Advisory Board guest list and plans to attend meetings when available.	Katy Drake will connect Katie and Ernie to discuss volunteer opportunities.		
AGING SERVICES	Connie Bentley provided a brief overview on staffing and outreach.	Connie discussed the annual review of gaps in services with a focus on mountain top services at this time. Connie announced her January 20 th retirement.	Best wishes Connie!		

<p>Nutrition</p>	<p>Tezera provided an update on nutrition services including the lifting of the Major Disaster Declaration (MDD) under covid and staffing.</p>	<p>The office found out in December that the MDD was lifted in September and those added to home delivered meals during covid now require an assessment to stay on. Tezera reported that roughly 90% of those who came on during covid have continued getting home delivered meals. Tezera also shared that staffing at the centers is better.</p>			
<p>Volunteer Services</p>	<p>Ruth Pforte provided information on new volunteers, Hats for Hope and the AmeriCorp's Grant.</p>	<p>Ruth reviewed the names of new volunteers starting with the department.</p> <p>Ruth provided an overview of the Hats for Hope project which has now restarted after covid restrictions. Ruth reported receiving approval for the 3-year AmeriCorp grant.</p>	<p>If Board members are aware of any concerns with volunteers, please speak with Ruth or Ken.</p>		
<p>BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT</p>	<p>Ken Brooks provided information on the 2023 budget, the Helping Hands program and Senior Angels.</p>	<p>Budget reviews going forward will be for 23/24. Ken shared that Senior Angels has raised a record breaking \$25,367.25. Donations ranged from \$3 to \$5,000. Funds not spent on holiday gifts go into the Emergency Fund to help seniors. Ken reviewed the Helping Hands program, noting a slow period as requests often are seasonal/weather related (storm/screen windows, A/C in windows, shoveling, etc.)</p>			

<p>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</p>	<p>Stephanie shared information on level two aide contracts, restructuring due to Connie's retirement and department interviews.</p>	<p>Stephanie reported that the county has subcontracted with Unlimited Care and that level 2 aides have started to provide services on the Mountain Top. The contract will hopefully address the waiting list for aides in the county. Stephanie shared 3 interviews have been held for the receptionist and four interviews for a case manager position.</p>		
<p>ELECTION OF OFFICERS</p>	<p>The Board held the annual vote for officers.</p>	<p>Ed Bloomer nominated Dick Golden for Chair. Jeff Russo seconded the nomination. With all in favor, Dick was elected Chair.</p> <p>Molly Whitbeck nominated Linda VanEtten for Vice Chair. Ernie Almstead seconded the motion. With all in favor, Linda was elected Vice Chair.</p> <p>Lula Anderson nominated Florence Ohle for the position of Secretary. Judy LoPresti seconded the motion. With all in favor, Florence was elected Secretary.</p>		

Council Member Announcements & Updates

Dick shared that the Cossackie Food Pantry is seeing a great demand for toiletries and household supplies. Community donations will be greatly appreciated.

Florence reminded the committee of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services-- For Free Help with Tax Returns please call: 518.943.9205 to schedule an appointment.

Molly Whitbeck shared information on the Restore Project. The project limit has been raised to \$20,000/project. The \$100,000 in funding is expected to go quickly with Catskill Mountain Housing contacting clients who were declined in 2022 due to being over the \$10,000 previous limit. Molly also shared information and conditions (must own property) on the 1.2 million available in a Trailer Replacement Fund.

Don gave an update on Greene Transit. New drivers have been hired and in the next 30 days some routes are expected to be re-started.

Dawn shared that Common Ground is adding a part time position to assist with custody petitions.

Ernie shared a reminder that kindness matters. Ernie provided an update on the Catskill Senior Center.

Lula shared the success of the Christmas Luncheon and crafting events such as wreath making. More craft project events are being planned due to popular demand. Lula also stressed the importance of kind words.

Jeff shared the work he has been doing since his retirement assisting community members with nursing home placements.

Dottie reported on the success of a Central Hudson Representative attending a center meeting to address billing/service concerns. Dottie suggested that the representative attend an Aging Advisory Board meeting so that members are aware of issues and resources. Dottie provided Katy contact information to set up a meeting once the Central Hudson Representative has attended all the Center meetings. A progress report for the new center was given. The planning of the kitchen is being done with input from Tezera and grants are being sought for new furniture/appliances.

The Board discussed contacting Ferguson Distribution Center in Coxsackie for scratch/dent donations of appliances.

The Board discussed resources regarding the redrilling of wells for seniors facing large bills (\$17,000).

Kendra reminded the Board to encourage people who need adaptive equipment (canes, beds, etc.) to go through insurance first.

The Independent Living Center does have some medical supplies on hand, but insurance should cover incontinence supplies, etc. The Board was reminded that the Coxsackie Rotary has walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, canes and medical beds for free to those in need.

Stephanie shared an update for the Jewett Center—A new tin roof has been put on and the ramp is being replaced. All code violations must be addressed before the \$200 rent increase (from \$1266 to \$1466) will be considered.

Lula shared the progress on the new Senior Center. The center will be all on one level once opened. There are some items from the current center that will be donated—wheelchair lift, pool table, etc.)

Reminder: Greene Senior Award Nominations are due January 27, 2023—nomination forms were emailed to all members. Hard copy nomination forms can be requested from the office.

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Approved by Quorum on 2/14/23

Next meeting – February 14, 2023 @ 2:00