

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
May 9, 2023 @ 2:00 – In person with option to join via Zoom

PERSON CONDUCTING MEETING: Dick Golden

RECORDER: Katy Drake*/Consultant * = Zoom

ATTENDANCE: Chair Dick Golden, Lula Anderson, Ernie Armstead, Ed Bloomer, Tami Bone (staff), Lynn Brunner, Kendra Huber, Judy LoPresti, Charlene Mabey, Beverly Meyers, Florence Ohle, Jeffrey Ruso, Stephanie Schleuderer (staff), Dottie True and Vice Chair Linda Van Etten
GUESTS: Ann Krieg*/DSS (Guest), Danielle Kane (Staff) and Christine Jackson (Staff)

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Bea Clappin, Don Crespino, Michelle Deyo, Lillian Moore, Dawn Wallant and Molly Whitbeck

With 13 members present, plus 4 staff and 1 guest, a quorum was available.

The Chair opened the meeting at 2:00 with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The meeting started with the announcement that the 2023 Senior Awards will be presented on May 17th at 6:30 upstairs in the Legislative Chambers. Board members are encouraged to attend. Members were asked to RSVP to Maureen Murphy by May 10th.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE	DUE	DONE
Review of Previous Minutes	The April 11, 2023 meeting minutes were approved as written.	Florence made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lula seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			X
AGING SERVICES	Danielle Kane provided an overview of Aging Services.	Christine Jackson, a new Case Manager who started with the department on April 24, was introduced to the Board. Christine serves 73 clients and is already out doing visits to homes and the senior centers.			
Nutrition	Stephanie shared an update as Tezera is in Athens working.	The department is fully staffed with a new Senior Center Manager starting in Athens. The MDD was lifted as of May 11 th . The centers are seeing an increase in attendance and activities. Senior Farmers' Market Coupons were			

<p>Volunteer Services</p>	<p>Stephanie shared Ruth Pforte’s report providing information on new volunteers, training, and recognition event plans.</p>	<p>discussed. Information will be sent out on which markets participate and where the coupon booklets will be distributed. These coupons are good towards fresh produce at participating farmers markets.</p> <p>Volunteer recruitment remains a focus with a critical need noted for Medical Transportation Volunteers. Plans were shared for the October 5th Volunteer Recognition Event to be held at the Community Life Church in Catskill.</p>			
<p>DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT</p>	<p>Tami Bone provided information on the 2023/24 budget, Rate Increases for Aides, the Helping Hands program and Senior Angels.</p>	<p>Tami is currently working on the NYSOFA budget. Ken is returning several days a week to assist with the budget and transportation. Tami noted an exceptional level of support from NYSOFA and from within the county offices during this transition. Tami shared that pay rates are increasing for aides, but the budget did not expand at all to assist with those increased costs. The Helping Hands Program may be transferring to Ruth as the Volunteer Coordinator. Donations are coming in for Senior Angels. Plans are being made for a 2023 Thanksgiving Dinner.</p>			
<p>DIRECTOR’S REPORT</p>	<p>Stephanie shared information on senior activities, staffing and services.</p>	<p>Stephanie discussed the Bingo-cize contract for 2 times a week for ten weeks rotating at each senior center. Stephanie shared that three-month reviews are currently in process with the Case Managers to discuss services and</p>			

		ensure the budget remains on track. Consideration is being given to hiring a cleaning company versus using aide's time to clean. This may stretch the budget and availability of services.			
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Council Member Announcements & Updates

Dick shared information on donations from Ferguson of scratch and dent appliances, and that the Rotary is participating in a walk around the track at C-A High School in support of Mental Health Awareness Day on May 20th. All are invited.

Florence noted that food service programs have been extra busy since the additional SNAP benefits ended in March. Farm Stand Tuesday is expected to begin again before the end of May. Information on the NY Food for Families Grant was shared. This grant allows for purchases from local farmers for eggs and milk. A local egg vendor is being sought. Community Action has started a “Garden War,” with staff tending garden beds. May is National Community Action Month, and Community Action will be hosting a free Movie at the Drive in with Ice Cream on May 19th. An “Everything and the Kitchen Sink” Sale is planned for May 26th.

Florence asked the Board and the Senior Angel Program to consider a joint Thanksgiving Dinner with Community Action and the Elks due to limited resources. In the past the CAGC/Elks delivered over 300 meals. The Elks Lodge, which is centrally located in Catskill can accommodate up to 300 people for an in-person meal, as well. Good parking was noted. Transportation may be available. Meal delivery would be available. No objections were noted at this time. The possibility of joining resources for the 2023 Thanksgiving Dinner will be further discussed.

Ernie wished all a Happy Mother’s Day and noted that May is the month of prayer, with blessing for all Board Volunteers. The Ray Brooks Memorial Youth Fishing Derby at the Catskill Point is being planned, with some fishing rods and bait to be provided.

Lynn shared information on the May 11th Mother’s Day Celebration in Athens, with dinner and music.

Beverly requested information on the re-start of the Dept. bus to Colonie Center, while recommending a central pick up in Greenville, in order to reduce transportation time and increasing shopping time. She also shared that Greenville has the Field of Flags up for Memorial Day.

Jeff questioned the availability of Notary Services to homebound seniors. It was suggested that Adult Protective Services, under DSS, may be the contact for those supports. He shared information on New Baltimore’s Veteran’s BBQ at Cecil Hallack Park (off Route 51) scheduled for July 15th. A Senior BBQ is being planned for September—with more information to follow.

Lula discussed the benefits of the new Senior Center on South Street & 23, hopefully opening by September. The center is all on one level, is much more accessible and has a big parking lot. Crafting is being scheduled for the summer- contact Lula for details.

Dottie shared that the Cairo Center has a new stove. Information on the Vet2Vet program, a Coffee Hour for Veterans, on Mondays at the Cairo Library was shared, noting ten vets were in attendance for the program. The banners for veterans are up for Memorial Day.

Charlene posed a question on a Helping Hands Program in the Albany area.

Lillian shared details on the October 5th Volunteer Recognition event being planned. The event, will be held at the Community Life Church in Catskill, with Catskill students serving the lunch.

Katy shared that Larry Krajieski was in touch to report that Molly Whitbeck is out of the office and Larry is covering her leave. Larry wanted to remind the Board that funds are available for senior home repairs through the RESTORE program.

Kendra provided an update on medical equipment loaners and giveaways. An almost new child sized bath chair is available for anyone in need.

Due to so many upcoming events, Chair Dick Golden requested an email of all the events be sent out as soon as possible so people can share the information and participate. A listing of events was sent 5-10-23 and, as applicable, will be noted in the June Roundtable News.

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Next meeting – June 13, 2023 @ 2:00
Meeting Notes Approved—June 13, 2023