

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
September 12, 2023 @ 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, Ed Bloomer, Tami Bone (staff), Ann Krieg#, Judy LoPresti, Charlene Mabey, Lillian Moore, Florence Ohle, Stephanie Schleuderer (staff), Dottie True, Vice Chair Linda Van Etten and Molly Whitbeck
 # = Appointment
 Pending

GUESTS: Tezera Pulice and Danielle Kane

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Lynn Brunner, Don Crespino, Michelle Deyo, Beverly Meyers, Jeff Ruso and Dawn Wallant

With 11 members present, plus 4 staff, the consultant 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.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE	DUE	DONE
Review of Previous Minutes	June 13, 2023, meeting minutes were approved as written.	Lillian made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Linda seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			X
AGING SERVICES	Report by Danielle Kane on Aging Services	Danielle shared a brief overview of services, noting no news is good news right now. Staffing is set. Assessments are ongoing.			
NUTRITION	Nutrition report by Tezera Pulice	Tezera provided an update on center equipment, noting a new convection over and a returned damaged ice maker. Information on Halloween parties for all centers was shared. The menu for the Senior Day Picnic was reviewed.			

<p>VOLUNTEER SERVICES</p>	<p>Tami provided an update on Volunteer Services as Ruth Pforte was not able to attend the meeting.</p>	<p>The names of new volunteers were read off for the Board. Tami shared recent recruitment efforts for volunteers, including the Youth Fair and local concerts in the parks.</p>	<p>If there are any concerns regarding new volunteers, please contact Ruth or Tami.</p>		
	<p>October Volunteer Recognition Luncheon</p>	<p>The invitation to the October 5th luncheon was reviewed. Please RSVP as soon as possible as a final count is needed. Not all members received a formal invitation beyond the save the date information.</p>	<p>Ruth resent the invitations via email on September 14th.</p>		
	<p>Thanksgiving Dinner</p>	<p>Tami shared that the Department will be looking to connect with Community Action and the Elks to collaborate on the 2023 Thanksgiving Dinner. Home Delivery would continue, as well as in person dining at the Elks Lodge.</p>			
	<p>Senior Angel</p>	<p>It was noted that Danielle now serves on the Senior Angel Committee and that her knowledge of local seniors in need is extremely helpful.</p>			
<p>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</p>	<p>2024 Budget</p>	<p>Stephanie and Tami discussed work on the 2024 budget and some grant opportunities. It was again noted that the budget remains the same year after year, despite food and gas prices remaining high. Stepanie shared the office is fully staffed and doing well.</p>			
		<p>Information was shared on Medicare</p>	<p>The Board</p>		

AGING SERVICES FOUNDATION	COVID Tests	<p>Open Enrollment and HEAP.</p> <p>Stephanie reported that 800 COVID tests were ordered.</p> <p>An initiative with the Elks was discussed. In 2022, the Elks provided Greene County seniors pet food and a \$25 gift card to help with pet expenses. The committee discussed at length the challenges facing seniors with high cost for food and pet care. The Board exchanged information on local support for animal clinics (Hudson ASPCA, Tractor Supply & some local food banks for animal food).</p>	<p>discussed how it is important to use resources to navigate Medicare Options & to beware of scams.</p> <p>100 Covid tests will be distributed to each senior center for distribution.</p> <p>In 2023, the Elks will be providing Seniors with new bedding.</p>		
	Senior Board Games	<p>Stephanie passed around large print board games- Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble, Life, Timeline—from NYSOFA. The Board discussed supplying Senior Centers and Libraries with these games. The Board enjoyed playing a quick round of Timeline.</p> <p>No further action is planned at this time by the Aging Advisory Board.</p>	<p>Family Game Day at the Athens Senior Center was discussed.</p>		

IN PERSON MEETINGS		The Board discussed that going forward the meetings will be in-person.	The Consultant will continue to join via Zoom to take notes & plan follow-up actions.		
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Council Member Announcements & Updates:

Dick shared the current challenges the Coxsackie Food Pantry and other food pantries are facing due to significant rise in people using food pantries.

Florence talked of the increased numbers of food pantries and the mobile pantry, both of which are unable to keep up with the increased demand. Information on a local farmers’ grant was shared which will bring in fresh produce, meat and eggs. Information was shared on C.O.A.D - Community Organization Active in Disaster. Details on how to register were provided. Florence informed the Board that the Weatherization Contracts are set now, and the money will be in soon. The success of several back-to-school programs was shared – Essendant provided 100 backpacks and the Dyson Foundation provided students gift cards for new shoes.

Ernie provided information on Book Club & Game Days at the Senior Center. Ernie also shared that he is a liaison for Hop-O-Nose Housing addressing local housing issues. Ernie reported on a good backpack event for the return to school.

Lula informed the Board the WAJPL club is happy in the new building. 42 Seniors attended a Potluck lunch the day before. Flu shots will be offered at the center. The challenges of limited services on the Mountain Top were discussed.

Judy shared that she writes a weekly article for the Daily Mail and will be submitting an article on ElliQ.

Dottie questioned how the Aging Advisory Board could assist with all the challenges that seniors are facing in the county, from housing to transportation to animal shelters. The board agreed that the sharing of information and resources is helpful. Dottie provided an update on the Cairo Senior Center and the town is applying for a grant.

Charlene told the group about her great experience visiting the Acra Senior Center with Dottie.

Lillian shared concerns regarding an individual who is homeless in Catskill. Information was shared on how to best help, providing information on Community Action and the Department of Social Services.

Ed shared the struggles of the Athens Food Pantry.

Molly provided the board with information on the “Access to Home” grant which provides funding for ramps & lifts. Molly reported the waiting list to Autumn Grove is closed due to over 500 individuals on the wait list, with over a three and a half year wait minimally. The lack of affordable housing in Greene was discussed by the board at length.

Stephanie shared the local article in the Daily Mail on Ernie’s service on September 11th at the Twin Towers and the impact on first responders over the years.

The meeting adjourned at 3:21.

Notes respectfully submitted by Katy Drake/Consultant

Next meeting – October 10, 2023 @ 2:00 at Greene Department of Human Services Meeting Room

Meeting Notes Approved by a Quorum on October 10, 2023