

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL for
GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES**



**MEETING DATE:
TUES. FEBRUARY 11, 2014 2PM
GREENE COUNTY TRAINING ROOM
G.C. OFFICE BUILDING, CATSKILL**

Please reply to 719-3555 or mmurphy@discovergreene.com indicating whether or not you will be present

AGENDA:

*Call to order by Chairman
Pledge to the flag
Roll Call of Members
Introduction Guests
Review of January minutes*

Program Reports and Updates

Coordinator of Nutrition - Tezera Hoovler

Coordinator of Aging Services - Connie Bentley

AAA Director - Terry McGee Ward

Old Business

*Election of officers for 2014
2014 Senior Award committee report
Cairo rep for Council vacancy*

New Business

Announcements

Adjournment

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL for GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES
JANUARY 14, 2014 MINUTES**

Call to order at 2pm by Chairman Richard Golden followed by Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present: Richard Golden, Linda VanEtten, Phyllis Beechert, Lynn Brunner, Ernest Harris, Larry Krajeski, Lillian Moore, Florence Ohle, Dede Thorpe, Tezera Hoovler & Terry McGee Ward

Excused: Dave Hart, Kim Kaplan & Connie Bentley

Absent: Michelle Black, Larry Gardner, Marie Ostoyich & Dawn Wallant

DECEMBER MINUTES: On the motion of Lillian Moore, seconded by Linda VanEtten, the December minutes were accepted as recorded.

COMMUNICATIONS: It is with regret that a letter was received from member David Hart stating his intention to resign from this council. An appreciation card will be sent to him on behalf of Chairman Golden and the entire Advisory Council.

PROGRAM REPORTS & UPDATES:

Tezera Hoovler, Nutrition Report:

- Cossackie Nutrition site will be offering a 5-week computer class
- Rivertown Senior Center has received the Athens Community Foundation grant. Funding will be used for Zumba Gold and other classes.
- 2014 Senior Day – Date set for May 15; first organizational meeting to be held on January 31

Connie Bentley, Aging Services:

- MIPPA – Department now apply to apply for grant; staff will reach out to low-income seniors regarding Medicare Savings to help pay premiums, deductibles, or Extra Help for prescription costs
- Senior Awards – Committee to be named & will meet 1st week of February (after Jan 31 deadline for applications); Press release information circulated to all media outlets & is on web page; 2 applications requested but none received back yet; Verification of information will need to be done; Have yet to hear of NYSOFA deadline but assuming mid-March like last year

Terry McGee Ward, DHS Executive Director:

- 2013: Books open until end of January
- 2014: Money tight; “doing more with less”; Audits ongoing; Procedures for department being reviewed
- Volunteers: MUST return forms for reimbursement within 60 days or will be denied; Ken drafted notice to volunteers of procedure if they want to declare mileage on tax forms & not receive as a check; Brief Q & A time on mileage protocol; Ruth Pforte (Volunteer Coordinator) now supervised by Terry
- Transportation: Meeting to be held on January 24 with Planning Department (for county bus); department supervisors & both chauffeurs/bus driver
- Several snow closings already – Announced on local TV & radio; working with Greene County Emergency Services to establish a data base for Code Red (county notification system) for call to volunteers & seniors when centers are closed

OLD BUSINESS:

- 2014 Senior Awards – Committee to remain same as in past years: Connie Bentley; Lynne Brunner; Lillian Moore; Florence Ohle and Linda VanEtten

NEW BUSINESS:

- Council vacancy – Members were asked to consider possible candidates, preferably from the Cairo area & report back with names of interested parties; Terry will contact Cairo legislators & town officials to see if they have names to recommend

ANNOUNCEMENTS:**Dick Golden, Chairman:**

- YMCA has excellent program on spinning and Parkinson's; will send information to department for RTN
- Questioned if information on prescription disposal; Can contact GC Sherriff's Dept for information, as well as some pharmacies have receptacles

Linda VanEtten, DSS:

- NYS has reorganized DSS system; more clients being sent to a centralized area for assistance rather than through local DSS; Clients have been notified of change & advised to carefully read communications from NYS

Florence Ohle, Community Action:

- Catch A Ride will be ending on January 31, 2014; agencies will need to better work together to assist on public transportation
- VITA: Again doing tax assistance; will be on Tuesdays & Thursdays by appointment only; additional tax service available thru web site
- Prom Dress Drive – Expanding this year
- Here Comes Christmas – Huge demand in 2013
- Will be requesting more data from food pantries to assist in county-wide service; Terry mentioned that the February RTN will be listing food pantries & soup kitchens in county
- Community Action celebrating 50 years of national service

Phyllis Beechert:

- Questioned a school back-pack program at Greenville; Florence provided generic answers on programs but not any specifics to coordinator or Greenville

Michelle Black, Larry Gardner, Kim Kaplan & Marie Ostoyich, Public Health: Absent, no reports

Lynn Brunner, Ernie Harris & Lillian Moore: Nothing to report

Larry Krajeski, Catskill Mtn Housing:

- Applying for RESTORE funding (emerg funds for senior home repairs)
- Converting units to Smoke Free zones/policy
- Requested reminder of monthly meetings

Dede Thorpe:

- Has vegetable donor; Tezera gave permission for goods to be brought to Jewett center for seniors
- Ads in RTN? Yes, we accept; contact Ken for information; Department will always include a disclaimer stating we do not endorse any vendors
- How is Wayne Speenburgh? He is scheduled to come home from hospital this week; many rumors circulating

Dawn Wallant, Common Ground: Absent, no report

Motion to adjourn: Motion by Phyllis Beechert, seconded by Lynn Brunner to adjourn. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Tuesday February 11, 2014 2pm

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Murphy, GCDHS Administrative Assistant