

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL for GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES  
MARCH 11, 2014 MINUTES**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Richard Golden, Linda VanEtten, Florence Ohle, Phyllis Beechert, Lynn Brunner, Ernest Harris, Connie Bentley, Tezera Hoovler & Terry McGee Ward

Excused: Lillian Moore, Dede Thorpe & Dawn Wallant

Absent: Michelle Black, Larry Gardner, Kim Kaplan & Dawn Wallant

Guests: Nancy Martin (GCPH) & Ken Brooks (DHS Jr Acct)

**FEBRUARY MINUTES:** On the motion of Ernie Harris, seconded by Tezera Hoovler, the February minutes were accepted as recorded.

**PROGRAM REPORTS & UPDATES:**

**Tezera Hoovler, Nutrition Report:**

- Presentation from Cornell Cooperative Extension in May/June on organizing household records
- Presentation by dietician from Hannaford - TBA
- Senior Day 2014: 17 vendors to date
- NYS Nutrition evaluation on Thursday – will be visiting Rivertown
- Q & A:

- ◆ Richard Golden: Do volunteers know protocol for clients to receive meals? Many misconceptions are in the community, especially regarding income eligibility.

What should volunteer do regarding clients with disabilities (hard of hearing) & delivering meals? It was suggested doing explanation of Homebound Meals policies for clients & volunteers. Also, a PR blitz to make community aware.

**Tezera's response:** Income is not an eligibility factor in determining who can receive meals; client must be homebound per NYS definition of such. By NYS code, meals cannot "just be left". If no one answers door, some volunteers are not comfortable opening door of residency & going in/yelling. Also, there exists a potential for a safety risk for seniors if door is accessible to public. Some clients do not notify office if won't be home when meal delivered. If DHS notices a pattern and habit of such, a reassessment will be done. No practical suggestions on alternatives for hard of hearing seniors.

- ◆ Phyllis Beechert: How many locations are there where meals disbursed? Suggested a mini-information session for volunteers on protocol at pick-up site; this way all hear same speech  
Have routes been changed in Greenville? Several volunteers are unhappy with changes.

**Tezera's response:** Wouldn't be able to go over protocol when delivering. Ruth handles training of volunteers. Tezera is aware of a problem with area coordinator. All Greenville volunteers will be contacted to see if issues can be resolved. Route sheet is sent out from office with name, address & directions for all seniors on that route. It is presented as the office sees best to do. However, volunteer delivering route is free to do in order as most comfortable with doing.

**Connie Bentley, Aging Services:**

- Distributed information on Medicare Savings Program options; will be in April RTN  
No resource limit for NY residents—automatically qualifies for Part D Extra Help  
**QMB** - \$978 monthly income for an individual, \$1313 for a couple, covers Medicare premiums,

deductibles and coinsurance

**SLMB** - \$1169 monthly for individual, \$1571 for couple; Covers Medicare Part B only

**QI-1**—\$1313 monthly for an individual, \$1765 for a couple; Covers Medicare Part B premiums only, available on a first-come/first-serve basis until funding is exhausted

Will be doing 2 sessions in office for enrollment – March 21 (9:30 – 12:30) and another TBA; Clients must pre-register

- No changes with department wait list
- Monitoring & evaluating programs for annual NYS evaluation
- Upcoming training: Ombudsman & HIICAP

### **Terry McGee, Executive Director:**

- Turned report over to Ken Brooks, DHS JR Acct
  - ◆ April 1 new budget starts; still many uncertainties
  - ◆ Starting April: Monthly financial statements to department coordinators; will give them more responsibility in knowing where the money goes/balances
  - ◆ EBT: Clients can use Food Stamps for meal donations; need to complete paperwork to do so
  - ◆ RSVP mileage sheets: Many volunteers are not submitting; encourage them to do; must be submitted within 60 days in order to get paid.
    - Richard Golden stated he is a volunteer who does not submit – Reason “Simply, I am a volunteer”. If a volunteer does not wish to submit & be paid, leave alone.
    - Ken responded that since the next volunteer delivering may not have that attitude & could seek reimbursement it will affect the budget. Plus some consider it “income” and not “volunteering”.
  - ◆ Tax credit: If volunteer wishes to use mileage as a charitable donation on taxes, can be done. Need to contact Ken for information.
  - ◆ RSVP: Change in funding from government; will be put in a more competitive grant pool with many funding sources; will need to prove recruitment of volunteers to government. Possibility of losing funding due to change. No word on current grant 2014-2015 under AmeriCorps. Services under RSVP funding: % of salary/administrative, supplies, events (e.g. recognition luncheon) & volunteer mileage from/to home to/from meal site. **NOT RSVP: Medical transportation and mileage for delivery of specific meal route (from center to all clients receiving & back to center). If hear rumors in community regarding RSVP, no luncheon, etc. advise people to contact this office for facts to avoid a fear factor.**
  - ◆ State/federal funding of meals: If under age 60, can charge set fee; if over age 60, “suggested donation”
- NYSOFA: Planning to announce a Request for Proposals for the creation of NYS software. Cost will be county portioned. If this happens, department could save significantly in the future as will no longer have to pay Harmony for the SAMS program we currently use for data entry. NYS sees this being more cost effective for state & county.
- Will be out of office March 27 – April 4. Call after April 8 if need to speak to her.
- Budget: On minds, being vigilant
- Pointed out cartoon in room regarding seniors; was donated; planning to have framed & put on display
- Catskill Center: Many stories are circulating in the community; met recently with AnneMarie Moran (Catskill Center manager) regarding issues (phone, kitchen use & supplies). All are addressed in contract with Town of Catskill – signed & executed with Mr. Leggio, Town Supervisor. Direct calls to Terry if any seniors call & she will give facts.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Cairo Advisory Board rep: Not discussed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Lynn Brunner** – Contacted by consumer regarding issue at The Elliot; Complaint has been filed; Matter referred to Ombudsman; Terry explained that Ombudsman program goes thru this office

**Ernie Harris** – Shared information from a presentation on suicide that he attended; found to be very informative; many seniors affected by it & now Greene County Mental Health sponsors elderly programs in relationship to suicide

**Nancy Martin, Public Health:** County has named Laura Churchill as Interim Director; flu & syphilis rates increasing; working on Annual report – more directives, less money; many non-mandated services cut; shingle vaccines available

**Florence Ohle** – VITA ongoing; transportation services have ended due to lack of funding; offering assistance to homeless; this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Community Action; will have booth at Health Fair (3/27) & Senior Day (5/15); Weatherization increasing services

**Linda VanEtten** – HEAP closes on Friday March 14. Will be absent from next meeting.

**Richard Golden:** - YMCA hoping for summer opening; currently sponsor “Circle of Champs”, a program for seriously ill children in area (similar to Make a Wish, just smaller scale)

Motion to adjourn: Motion by Florence Ohle, seconded by Linda VanEtten. Motion carried.

**Next meeting: Tuesday April 15, 2014 2pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Murphy  
GCDHS Administrative Assistant

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



**MEETING DATE:  
TUES. APRIL 15, 2014 2PM  
GREENE COUNTY TRAINING ROOM  
G.C. OFFICE BUILDING, CATSKILL**

*Please reply to 719-3555 or [mmurphy@discovergreene.com](mailto: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 March minutes*

**Program Reports and Updates**

*Coordinator of Nutrition - Tezera Hoovler*

*Coordinator of Aging Services - Connie Bentley*

*AAA Director - Terry McGee Ward*

**Old Business**

*Council vacancies*

**New Business**

**Announcements**

***Adjournment***