

**ADVISORY COUNCIL to
GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT for the AGING**

JANUARY 13, 2015 MINUTES

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: 6 of 15 members: Richard Golden, Linda VanEtten, Florence Ohle, Lynn Brunner, Kim Kaplan and Walter Thompson

Department Staff: Executive Director Terry McGee Ward, Connie Bentley, Ken Brooks & Tezera Pulice

Excused: Phyllis Beechert, Lillian Moore & Dawn Wallant Dept Staff: Ruth Pforte

Absent: Michelle Black, Larry Gardner, Ernest Harris & Larry Krajeski

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER MINUTES: Motion to accept minutes was tabled till February meeting.

PROGRAM REPORTS & UPDATES:

Ruth Pforte, RSVP – No report

Tezera Pulice, Nutrition Report:

- Starting to plan for Mayors for Meals in March. Danielle coordinating with Ruth to get more elected officials to participate.
- National Bank of Coxsackie will be doing presentation on Elder Finance
- Rivertown Center will be sponsoring art classes on Tuesdays after meal
- Athens Community Foundation has awarded a grant to be used for exercise classes, ballroom dancing, & Zumba classes at Rivertown
- MtnTop run to Albany ó No signups; Greenville to Albany well received but only 8 (minimum); Next trip 1/23

Connie Bentley, Aging Services:

- NYS pushing information on protecting insurance from fraud; protects Medicare information ó Connie working on scheduling presentations, Dates TBA
- Researching other homecare agencies to present better opportunities to seniors, currently we only have contracts with 2 agencies; Mountaintop agencies already have provision for mileage for aides so not a problem
- Has received inquiries about emergency HEAP; we do not do, DSS handles

Ken Brooks, Finances:

- Having problems with one homecare agency & delays in receiving paperwork (bills coming in late; changes within agency causing problems)
- Senior Angel ó collected over \$9500 & served 165 seniors, including nursing homes/assisted living; some major items such as stove, rent, etc. covered
- Budget good ó 9% overall under budget; might have problems with matching grants due to this
- New bus - \$22,500 in last year's budget, another equal amount in 2015
- RSVP fuel raffle saw \$755 profit

Terry McGee Ward, Executive Director:

- Meeting with Ruth regarding need for volunteers; attempting to get word out via new avenues (organizations, churches, media, etc.)

- AIP ó Due Dec 5, 2014; still not approved ó New NYS rep; many questions; Per Ken, past reports did not equal county amounts; 2015 approved money spread out over all line items
- ECHO cottages ó loved one can remain independent while living on same property; council members seeking further information, see Terry
- 2015 Senior Day ó Initial meeting on Jan 30 at 2:30pm, advisory members welcome to attend; Terry will chair for 2015 (Date: Fri May 15 at The Point)
- Met with representative from The Pines ó rehab good but looking to setup program for follow-up interaction once discharged from facility
- Rivertown Center ó Changing name to Club 39; looking to schedule after-hours activities periodically ; center planning committee to discuss
- RTN ó numerous printing errors in January issue; Daily mail to correct by crediting account; Attempting to cut costs by mailing directly (no envelope)
- Halcott Center ó Terry has met with & discussed issues; researching possibility of bus to Kingston for shopping
- NY Connects
 - Terry, Ken & Connie looking at potential for money (BIP); working on plan; do we or don't we attempt funding?
 - Must be fully compliant by Sept 30 with regulations if accept funds; states what funds can & can't be spent on
 - Terry meeting with other agencies (DSS, MH, PH & Admin) to see if worth pursuing
 - Software issues & staffing complications; don't see capability due to staffing issues
 - Will be discussing at next aging caucus meeting
 - "No Wrong Door" could have all county calls come here & knotty just those over age 60
 - Creating "new DSS" as now would assist with Medicaid apps, etc.
 - Many unanswered questions, including if we don't take money, must we still meet if subcontract?
 - Program standards seem contradictory; need careful review
 - State holding agency accountable could result in more responsibilities, requirements & expectations to maintain compliance
- Ombudsmen program ó Current staff (Gwen & Rose) prohibited from doing NY Connects work due to conflict of interest; NYS changing program to regions, may not be one for every county; Ending Sept 30 through DFA (outside organization to take over but if no one named, program will continue until one is named)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Richard Golden:

- YMCA open with 2000 members; plans for Y have been exceeded, possible expansion

Linda VanEtten, **DSS**:

- Emergency HEAP has opened; repair & replacement is done

Phyllis Beechert: No report

Michelle Black, **Veterans Affairs**: Absent, no report

Lynn Brunner:

- Rivertown planning committee to meet regarding activities at center

Larry Gardner, **Legislature**

Ernest Harris: No report

Kim Kaplan, **Public Health:**

- Shingle vaccines available
- Syringe kiosks have 2 new locations; giving a total of 7 in county
- Medication drop boxes at Catskill PD and Coxsackie PD
- Rabies vaccine clinics begin in March
- Ebola planning ongoing

Larry Krajeski: No report

Lillian Moore, **RSVP:** No report

Florence Ohle, **Community Action:**

- Tax preparation to begin on Tues & Thurs as of Feb 17
- Part of Columbia-Greene Housing coalition ó attempting to count homeless in area; also working with DSS on STEP (Solutions To End homelessness)
- Received grant money from Athens Community Foundation for assistance to residents of Town of Athens
- Seeking to network organizations for holidays & avoid duplication of services
- Gray Fox Blue Grass Festival ó donating to CA food pantry

Wally Thompson;

- Jewett site in need of volunteers; staff overworked
 - Tezera reported that she is revising when meals go out & food maintains temperature, suggesting 11am; working with Ruth so volunteers are aware
- No winter meeting for club, resuming in March
- Receiving phone calls regarding new suggested donations; seniors panic if can't pay
 - Terry stated that it needs to be stressed DONATION, not mandated to pay & no bill; "suggested" donation extends to all including "unable or unwilling"
- Volunteered to be in-home support for phone calls
- Suggested creating a family recipe cookbook to include best recipes of each center from appetizers to desserts

Dawn Wallant, **Common Ground:** Excused, no report

OLD BUSINESS:

- Elections tabled to February
- Vacancies on council tabled to February

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion on services to seniors experiencing rent problems; various other organizations can be networked for assistance
- Salvation Army ó Wendy Flannery, grant writer (755-4342) works with area vendors who work with Salvation Army

Next meeting: Tues Feb 10 at 2pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Murphy, GCDHS Administrative Assistant
Florence Ohle, Secretary