

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**For GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES**  
**AUGUST 11, 2015 MINUTES**  
**ANNUAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

Call to order at 2:00 p.m. by Richard Golden followed by Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Richard Golden, Linda VanEtten, Florence Ohle, Phyllis Beechert, Michelle Black, Lynn Brunner, Ernie Harris, Larry Krajeski, Walter Thompson & Dorothy True

Staff: Terry McGee-Ward, Ken Brooks, Connie Bentley, Tezera Pulice

Excused:

Absent: Larry Gardner, Nancy Martin for Kim Kaplan, Lillian Moore, Dawn Wallant

Guests: Edward Kaplan County Attorney

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Mr. Golden welcomed Mr. Kaplan to the meeting.

**JULY MINUTES:** Motion made by Lynn Brunner, seconded by Linda Van Etten, to accept July minutes.

**PROGRAM REPORTS & UPDATES:**

**Ruth Pforte, RSVP:** ABSENT – Report given to Terry McGee Ward to read:

RSVP participated in the Youth Fair. RSVP Fund Raising Committee held a fundraiser 3 of the 4 days of the fair. Selling handmade items.

We are short of volunteers in Catskill and Jewett for Meal routes. Catskill does have a newly approved volunteer. ARC from Greene County was able to fill in for additional routes. Jewett we have 2 new approved volunteers, 2 awaiting background checks. There are 5 background checks that have been sent out that I am waiting results from. Two I anticipate will be medical transportation volunteers. RSVP received a one time increase in funding from the National Corporation of Community Service we anticipate using the funds for a new computer and printer for the program.

We have also been randomly selected for an IPERA audit. A brief financial check that will look at the past 6 months of payments made from the RSVP Federal grant monies.

Terry also added that we are in desperate need of volunteers.

**Tezera Pulice, Nutrition Coordinator:** Flu Clinics have been scheduled: Sept: 28th – Coxsackie, Sept. 29th – Jewett, Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – Athens, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>- ACRA (TENATIVE) interferes with Volunteer Recognition Day. Catskill Center handles their own. Time of Clinic is 9:30am – 11:30am.

Farmers Market Coupons will be available until the week of 8/24/15. Tezera will be returning unused coupons at the end of August.

Home Delivered Meals: numbers are down, added quite a few people but overall still down, Mountaintop & Catskill are up while Acra & Coxsackie are way down.

Tezera also stressed WE ARE IN DESPARATE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS.

**Connie Bentley, Aging Services Coordinator:** Savvy Caregiver Program has been initiated. Connie Bentley, Gwen Starke & Andrea Benjamin-Legg will be hosting a 5 class training seminar on Wednesdays 2-4 pm starting 9/30/15 and ending 10/28/15.

Case Managers: As of August 2015 case managers will start re-assessments every 6 months instead of once a year.

Wait list: 0 – caregivers, 14-15 on Home Care & PERS units. This is due to Location of client and budget restrictions.

HEAP: Mailings will commence in August 2015 (sometime around the middle of the month). The HEAP Plan stays the same as 2014-2015, no changes to the limits or program.

**Ken Brooks, Business Manager:** Greene County was randomly selected by an audit firm assigned by CNCS to conduct an audit of the RSVP books from Oct 2014-Mar 2015. Ledger reports were scanned and sent to them (as requested), waiting for next response.

Hamlet Bus delivery was postponed, now tentative date is Aug. 19, 2015.

Ulster Greene ARC Bus system may be delayed in starting. They are still waiting for NYS DOT to sign off on contract. October 1, 2015 may be a soft start.

BIP Grant has been very time consuming. Still awaiting approval, with a tentative date on 10/1/15 to start.

Senior Angel has been helping clients in need. Helped 2 clients this past week.

**Terry McGee, Executive Director:** Terry explained to the committee, her recent request for a leave of absence.

Shane Dillon, cook at Athens Center is the proud father of a baby girl. Shane has requested an hours/schedule change to accommodate daycare.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**BY-LAW Change:** A second motion was made to accept the proposed change to the By-laws. That being to modify Article V Section II from:

“The term of office shall be for one calendar year (January through December). The Chairperson may not hold the office for more than two consecutive terms.

To:

“The term of office shall be for one calendar year (January through December).

The motion to change the By-laws was made by Dorothy True and seconded by Ernest Harris, all accepted.

The By-laws will be changed and a new copy will be sent to the Advisory Council.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Tami Bone, Athens Center Manager gave a Rosie the Riveter presentation to the Advisory Council. Updating everyone on schedule and events taking place on 8/29/15 at the Point in Catskill.

Mr. Golden had announced that Kim Kaplan had sent a letter to the Council requesting that Nancy Martin take her place as representation from the Department of Public Health. **This request must be done through a resolution to the legislature committee. Terry will have Maureen take care of this.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Richard Golden, Coxsackie Area Representative:** Due to the extensive repair needed on the Church wall that currently houses the Coxsackie Food Pantry, the Food Pantry has temporarily been moved. Nortonhill Lumber has donated the use of their building located across the street from their facility. The Coxsackie Food Pantry is now located at 35 Bailey St. until the repairs are completed at the church (may take 4-6 months).

Stated that the Coxsackie-Athens Rotary Club would be taking back the Bell Ringer Program for this Holiday Season.

**Linda VanEtten, DSS:** HEAP, wanted to let everyone know that the HEAP mailing will be soon and the program is the same as last year.

**Phyllis Beechert, Greenville Area Representative:** Wanted to let DHS that they have been doing an excellent job on the Roundtable. She also expressed concerns regarding a local Nursing Facility. She was referred to our Ombudsman representative.

**Michelle Black, Veterans Affairs Director:** Veterans Transportation is available 5 days a week to the VA in Albany, or Catskill or VA directed Private Care. They currently have 2 drivers handling the transportation. There is no Wheelchair accessibility at this time. They also have a driver that is available when both vans are tied up. New Doctor at the clinic, Dr. "B", a transfer from Palms Springs Florida. Looking at a tentative date of Mid-September to move into the new facility on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**Lynn Brunner, Athens Area Representative:** Nothing

Larry Gardner, **Legislature:** Absent

**Ernest Harris, Catskill Area Representative:** Has had several people expressing concern over the Nationality Box on the Farmers Market Coupon form. Has expressed concerns and asked Director McGee-Ward to forward these concerns to the powers to be,

**Kim Kaplan/Nancy Martin, Public Health Absent**

**Larry Krajewski, Director Catskill Mountain Housing:** Still accepting applications for both the Trailer Replacement Program & the Home Repair Program. The monies will be available for a 2 year period.

The Owner of the trailer must own their own lot to qualify and the Home must be a single family occupancy.

**Lillian Moore, RSVP:** Absent

**Florence Ohle, Director Community Action:**

Very Busy.

Feeding America Program is on Mon, Wed & Fri.

This year's Sleepy Hollow Car Show will benefit Community Action.

Back to School program is up and running, there is talk that since so many give backpacks, something else may be used.

Wanted to let everyone know that the Salvation Army had no money available to Community Action. Was told all the funds went to Hudson. Mr. Golden & Ms. Beechert expressed concern over this.

Weatherization applications are now being accepted. October 30<sup>th</sup> is Weatherization Day.

**Wally Thompson Mountaintop Area Representative:**

9/21/15 12:00 noon – Open House at the W-A-J-P-L Senior Club located at the Hensonville Town Bldg. All Council Members are welcome.

Janet Osborn, the Hamlet Bus driver spoke to the Senior Club on 8/10/15, to encourage more people to ride the bus.

The club generally posts anything they need in the Windham Journal. They have always had a good response.

Wanted to let Tezera & Terry know that he has been receiving good reports regarding Jewett's Food and the Atmosphere in the Senior Center.

Wanted to thank everyone for the generous support he has received during his wife's Maria hospitalization.

He has been spreading the word on all the services Aging has to offer.

**Dorothy True Cairo Area Representative:** Nothing

**Dawn Wallant, Director Common Ground:** Absent

Meeting was adjourned. Motion made by Florence Ohle, seconded by Wally Thompson.

Next meeting: Tuesday Sept. 8, 2015 411 Main St. Catskill, NY 12414 Training Room at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. Brooks Jr. Business Manager GCDHS