

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
For GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES  
OCTOBER 13, 2015 MINUTES  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Richard Golden, Phyllis Beechert, Michelle Black, Lynn Brunner, Larry Krajewski, Nancy Martin, Lillian Moore, Walter Thompson, Dorothy True, Linda VanEtten, Dawn Wallant

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

Excused: Florence Ohle

Absent: Larry Gardner, Ernest Harris

Guests: NA

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** N/A

**SEPTEMBER MINUTES:** Motion made by Nancy Martin, seconded by Walter Thompson, to accept September minutes with no changes.

**PROGRAM REPORTS & UPDATES:**

**Terry McGee, Executive Director:**

- Spoke briefly regarding the series of NY Connect (BIP) Webinars and meetings for the new Resource Directory that is being created by NY Connect.
- The new Peers Point computer system is scheduled to go live on 5/1/16.
- We have had 5 of the 6 public hearings. The counts have greatly improved over last year. Hensonville – 120, Halcott- 8, Tannersville – 29, Coxsackie – 68 & Greenville – 26.

**Ruth Pforte, RSVP:**

- Volunteer Recognition Luncheon held on October 1, 2015 at the Community Life Church went well. Dawn Wallant wanted Ruth to know the luncheon was wonderful. Linda Van Etten stated the same.
- Fuel Raffle has started. The tickets are \$5.00 each and the drawing will be on December 10, 2015.
- Will there be an Advisory Council Christmas Party? YES will be held on Tuesday 12/8/15 at regular meeting. Place will be determined and announced when decided on.
- Fill the Trolley that was suppose to be October 4, 2015 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm was postponed until Oct. 17, 2015.
- Volunteer Background Checks – Most have been returned.
- 13 New Volunteers. Names and responsibilities were announced to the Advisory council
- CNCS/RSVP sent Veteran/Volunteer pins to be distributed to Volunteers who are Veterans. Will get with Michelle Black to form a plan for distribution.
- Navigator Program: Health Care Consortium. A new Essential Insurance Plan for clients @ 200% of the Federal Poverty Level with no co-pays has been created.

### **Tezera Pulice, Nutrition Coordinator**

- Tami Bone of Athens Center Manager has resigned to take a new position with the Department of Public Health. Until someone is hired Tezera will be going to Athens 3-4 mornings a week.
- An 8 week Chair Yoga program started in Athens on 10/8/15
- Things are running smoothly at the centers
- Farm to Table will be ending in October 2015 with Potatoes and Apples provided by local farmers.
- Oktoberfest is Thursday Oct. 15, 2015 at the Athens Center

### **Connie Bentley, Aging Services Coordinator:**

- October is a very busy month with Trainings, Seminars and Conferences.
- The new NY Connect (BIP) is also keeping the staff busy with the Resource Directory, mybenefits.com page updates and all the webinars.
- HEAP & HIICAP is very busy.
- Free Health Clinic on 10/24/15 11am – 3pm @ Greene Medical Arts Centers (see attached Flyer).

### **Ken Brooks, Business Manager:**

- Terry & Ken attended an all day AIP training seminar.
- The County Budget is still being reviewed.
- Thrift Shop - Met with Lynn Brunner & Ruth after last month's advisory meeting to review issues we were having with the Thrift Shop Coordinator. After interviewing staff and Thrift Shop volunteers, Ken stated he felt that the current Coordinator should be removed from this position. She can however still volunteer. Terry also stated that since the New Center Manager will be in charge of the Thrift Shop a Coordinator will not be necessary. Until the new Center Manager is hired, the Thrift Shop Committee will oversee the daily operation of the Thrift Shop. A letter from the Advisory Council will be sent to the current coordinator.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A LIST OF 2016 MEETING DATES WERE HANDED OUT TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **Richard Golden, Coxsackie Area Representative:**

- **WELCOME BACK LILLIAN MOORE!!!!!!!!!!**
- There are ongoing issues with the Coxsackie Food Pantry. It may have to move twice before it is finally settled in. The current position requires some financial issues that may put a strain on the budget. The Village Mayor has offered another building but it may not be ready for some time.

#### **Linda VanEtten, DSS: NA**

#### **Phyllis Beechert, Greenville Area Representative:**

- Went on the Leaf Peeping Bus to see what everyone was talking about. Had a great day and the lunch at Jewett was wonderful.

**Michelle Black, Veterans Affairs Director:**

- Veteran Services is scheduled to move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Greene Medical Building by 10/20/15 (hopefully).
- VA Medical Clinic will be in within 90 days.
- There is a WWII Re-enactment taking place at the Crystal Brook Resort on 10/17/15.

**Lynn Brunner, Athens Area Representative:**

- The dedication ceremony for Evelyn Stearns went very well. Her family was pleased with the plaque and the honor.
- Oktoberfest at Athens 10/15/15 11:30 am

Larry Gardner, **Legislature:** Absent

Ernest Harris, **Catskill Area Representative:** Absent

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

- Talked about the Point of Distributions. Empowered deliverables.

**Larry Krajeski, Director Catskill Mountain Housing:**

- Home repair applications are still being accepted. The homeowner must own the property and the land. No age limit, but there is an income limit.

**Lillian Moore, RSVP:**

- Glad to be back.

Florence Ohle, **Director Community Action:** Excused

**Wally Thompson Mountaintop Area Representative:**

- Thank you to everyone that attended the WAJPL's Open House
- Will be bringing loaves of Bread on the 11/10 meeting for the Senior Angel Bake Sale.
- Really enjoys doing the In-home Contact and Support / Telephone Reassurance. Currently have 6 clients he speaks to regularly, including someone from Arizona.
- Still receiving complaints about the food coming out of the Jewett Center. Vegetables have no flavor, stew is tough.

**Dorothy True Cairo Area Representative:**

- Will be the Advisory Representative at the Acra Public Hearing on 10/14/15 @ 1:00 PM

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

Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Tuesday Nov 10, 2015 411 Main St. Catskill, NY 12414 Training Room at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. Brooks Jr. Business Manager GCDHS