

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
for GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES
JUNE 10, 2014 MINUTES**

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: Richard Golden, Linda Van Etten, Phyllis Beechert, Lynn Brunner, Ernest Harris, Larry Krajeski, Lillian Moore, Florence Ohle, Connie Bentley, Tezera Pulice & Terry McGee Ward

Excused: Kim Kaplan & Dawn Wallant

Absent: Michelle Black & Larry Gardner

Guests: Ken Brooks (GCDHS) & Nancy Martin (GCPH)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Ken Brooks from Greene County Department of Human Services and Nancy Martin from Greene County Public Health Department were recognized. Each was in attendance to give a report for their department.

MAY MINUTES: On the motion of Florence Ohle, seconded by Linda Van Etten, the May minutes were accepted as recorded.

PROGRAM REPORTS & UPDATES:

Tezera Pulice, Nutrition Report:

- No new presentations scheduled
- Farmers Market program
 - ◆ Anticipated arrival by July 1
 - ◆ No changes in eligibility requirements
 - ◆ Registration form ó New suggested version allowing for proxy & signature vs past version with no allowance for proxy
 - Brief discussion on pros/cons of each
 - Tezera explained program & answered all questions from Advisory members
 - Vote taken on what form to use: 2 in favor of current, 2 in favor of proxy form & 3 abstained from voting ó Chairman Golden broke tie by casting deciding vote to keep current form; party receiving coupons must complete & pick-up

Connie Bentley, Aging Services:

- Homecare at point where can cut waiting list
- Surveys for transportation & legal services going out
- One new Ombudsman trained & certified (Rebecca Shields); Several stopped at booth on Senior Day & asked questions about Ombudsman

Terry McGee, Executive Director:

- Ken Brooks reported on the budget: Under in most areas, including meals; postage & printing costs up
 - ◆ Discussion on RoundTable News cost effective measures

- ◆ Questionnaire to go out to see if can increase email subscriptions; avoid wasted issues & costs
- Office staffing changes
 - ◆ Maureen coming off reception; staff to daily rotate coverage
 - ◆ Gwen unable to cover phones due to restriction as Ombudsman & NY Connects; Terry checking with NYS to see if Rose also affected ó May be changes in supervisor (currently Connie Bentley)
- Passed around flyer for Homeless Prevention Project sponsored by Legal Aid Society
- Attended meeting with Shaun Groden (County Administrator); Kira Pospesel (DSS) & Warren Hart on transportation issues within county. Currently researching needs of county residents regarding transportation services.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Vacancies on Board
 - ◆ Still need reps from Cairo & MtnTop
 - ◆ No Public Health rep for Marie Ostoyich's vacancy

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Richard Golden:

- Asked if any member knew of programs for area youth with cancer. Suggestions: Greene County Women's League; Cancer services through HealthCare Consortium & Ronald McDonald House

Linda VanEtten, **DSS**:

- DSS switching to insurance based on managed care; will keep council updated

Phyllis Beechert: Nothing

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

Lynn Brunner:

- BBQ at Rivertown ó July 3rd
- Fraud seminar to be presented

Larry Gardner, **Legislature**:

Ernest Harris: Nothing

Kim Kaplan , **Public Health**: Excused, no report

Larry Krajeski: Nothing

Lillian Moore, **RSVP**:

- Annual recognition ó October 9th

Florence Ohle, **Community Action**:

- Grand Reopening of ThriftShop in July ó Now working with retail authority to improve service; also having college students assist
- Financial Literacy looking for volunteers
- participating in Feeding America program
- Food pantry receives stale-dated perishable food including meat & produce from WalMart thru NorthEast Food Bank; anyone interested can just show up at CA on Mon, Wed & Fri between 8:30am and 4:30pm

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

Nancy Martin: **Public Health:**

- Flu season over
- High rate of whooping cough in area; advise getting immunized if around children

Meeting was adjourned on motion by Florence Ohle & Phyllis Beechert. Next meeting: Tues August 12, 2014 at 2pm. Reminder: No meeting in July as joint cover-dish picnic with RSVP council, Tuesday July 8th at 12 noon at Dutchmen's Landing..

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Murphy
GCDHS Administrative Assistant