

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

**MARCH 10, 2015 MINUTES**

Call to order at 2pm by Vice-Chairperson Linda VanEtten followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** 7 of 15 members: Linda VanEtten, Phyllis Beechert, Lynn Brunner, Ernie Harris, Larry Krajeski, Walter Thompson and Dawn Wallant.

Dept. Staff: Terry Ward, Connie Bentley, Ruth Pforte & Tezera Pulice

**Excused:** Richard Golden, Florence Ohle, Kim Kaplan and Lillian Moore

Dept. Staff: Ken Brooks

**Absent:** Michelle Black & Larry Gardner

**Guests:** Nancy Martin (Public Health) and Maria Thompson

**FEBRUARY MINUTES:** Motion to accept all minutes by Lynn Brunner, seconded by Ernie Harris.  
Approved

**PROGRAM REPORTS & UPDATES:**

**Ruth Pforte, RSVP:**

- Meeting on Thursday regarding recognition lunch in fall
- Installing RSVP officers later this month
- Meeting with various organizations in an attempt to recruit new volunteers.
- Homebound transportation driversørecognition on 3/25
- RSVP Health Fair in Catskill on 3/26
- Presentation by Richard Muggeo on 3/11 in Catskill on local ice industry

**Tezera Pulice, Nutrition Report:**

- ◆ Save Energy workshops upcoming at centers
- Healthy Brain presentation
- Senior Day menu: Sweet & sour pork with rice, Cole slaw and Pineapple Delight
- Serve Safe seminar in April; Tezera, Gayle & Tami attending
- Hamlet bus has been consistent; Colonie bus run still experimental, successful in some areas & not meeting minimum for run in others
- Meals from Jewett center will now go out 1 hour later; volunteers to be notified
- Wally brought up several issues regarding the Jewett
  - Grease trap problem ó Tezera is aware of the problem & is working on getting resolved
  - No soap/towels available ó Tezera will investigate & report back
  - Need for volunteers ó Tezera will check with local schools to see if culinary program that could help; Will check menus in advance to know when meals that require extra help are being served
  - Rumor that center is closing ó Terry is aware of this & will draft a press release to contradict & state facts
  - Other minor issues ó Tezera asked Wally to speak with her after the meeting

**Connie Bentley, Aging Services:**

- Busy!
- HIICAP training in April
- Caregivers Conference in Albany on 4/8
- HEAP closes on 3/27
- Medicare Savings Plan enrollment scheduled for 3/27 by appointment only
- Annual Monitoring & Evaluation time ó busy; looking into ways to improve

**Ken Brooks, Finance:**

- Thrift Shop vouchers available for those in need under extenuating circumstances
- AIP 4/1/15 through 3/31/16
  - Still getting questions from NYS requesting clarification

**Terry McGee Ward, Executive Director:**

- Happy 82<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Wally
- Senior Day: 5/15 (see flyer)
- SAMS (Synergy) software
  - Due currently for renewal
  - NYS seeking bids for state-wide program
  - Will probably have to pay for renewal as state date not till October
  - May maintain both programs so as to allow a smooth transition
- RTN news still in adjustment stage
- NYS evaluation (December 2014)
  - Report fairly decent
  - Need to improve monitoring & policies
  - Corrective plan due April
  - Need for notation of follow-ups stressed
  - State mandates generating paperwork issues due to conflicts with DSS (will not release information to DHS without client's permission)
- BIP
  - Reiterated NYSOFA stance that if errors, county will not be responsible for fine
  - No decision yet if enrolling; deadline April
  - Will update Advisory in April

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Richard Golden: No report

Linda VanEtten, **DSS**:

- Senior Recognition awards decided - Will announce winners at March meeting

Phyllis Beechert: No report

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

Lynn Brunner: No report

Larry Gardner, **Legislature**: No report

Ernest Harris: Requested information on assistance for church repairs; several options provided

Kim Kaplan, **Public Health**:

- Nancy Martin reported that flu shots are still being encouraged; immunization review of all aides

Larry Krajeski **Catskill Mtn Housing**:

- Accepting applications for trailer replacement
- Waiting on home improvement grant

Lillian Moore, **RSVP**: No report

Florence Ohle, **Community Action**:

- Tax season starting; available Tues & Thurs by appointment only
- Government proposing eliminating funding for domestic violence services
- Weatherization program ó In contract negotiations
- 2015 Prom Dress program ó hoping to increase numbers in 2015; if not might discontinue
- Food Pantry ó busy
- Wheels for Work - Decreasing

Wally Thompson ó Rumors circulating about Jewett; will speak to Tezera

Dawn Wallant, **Common Ground**:

- Columbia County presenting forum óLandlord/Tenant Informationö on 3/25 ó will send to all centers
- Revision in court system causing a trickling effect; unfunded mandates

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Elections tabled to April
- Vacancies (2) on council tabled to April
- Senior Awards
  - Leon Goodrich of Hunter ó 2015 Senior of Year
  - Mike Pirrone of Athens ó Outstanding Contribution by a Senior
  - Sent on to NYS for recognition
  - County to recognize at May Legis. meeting

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

On motion of Lynn Brunner, seconded by Wally Thompson, meeting was adjourned as no further business to discuss.

Next meeting: Tues April 14 at 2pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen Murphy, GCDHS Administrative Assistant