

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
For GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES
JUNE 16, 2015 MINUTES

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: Richard Golden, Linda VanEtten, Phyllis Beechert, Lynn Brunner, Ernie Harris, Dawn Wallant, Dorothy True, Wally Thompson

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

Excused: Florence Ohle

Absent: Michelle Black, Larry Gardner, Kim Kaplan, Larry Krajeski, Lillian Moore

Guests: none

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

MAY MINUTES: Motion made by Linda VanEtten, seconded by Ernie Harris, to accept May minutes as recorded.

PROGRAM REPORTS & UPDATES:

Ruth Pforte, RSVP:

- Spoke at Hensonville Golden Agers Club, Bethany Village Tenants Assoc, Coxsackie Area Seniors, Interfaith Council-Catskill, and Durham Republican Club concerning the need for more volunteers.
- Fill the Trolley: Raised \$2650 in monetary donations & 112 pounds of food
- Crafter's Tea – successful. Large donation of yarn received and distributed
- Conference in Hartford, Ct., was very informative. Key parts were Leadership training, Round Robin Tables – recognition ideas and Programming ideas for veterans.
- Attended the ACUU Conference in Albany, sat in of the Grant Writing & New Volunteer Programming classes.
- Home delivered Meal Volunteer training went well – 67 volunteers and 14 staff attended
- Progress reports for both State & Federal Grants have been completed.
- NEW VOLUNTEERS: Nancy Schoup-Med Trans., Dorothy True Advisory Council Member
- Pending Volunteer applications:** Donna Ingalls, Eileen Tracy, Gertie Sliker, Genevieve Hollowell, Kathy Palmateer, E. Thomas Palmateer & M. Kathleen Rundberg.
- Advisory Council Picnic is Tuesday July 14, 2015. Ruth will email or call (if no email available) the advisory council members to get a confirmed number of RSVP's and what each member will be bringing as a covered dish. The meat will be boneless chicken.

Tezera Pulice, NUTRITION:

- Farmers Market coupons are in and being distribution through various areas in Greene County. Coupons are valid at participating Farmer's Markets from July 2015 – Sept 2015 (while Markets are open)

- Attended ACUU Conference. Sat in on the Re-tooling Nutrition Class, learned how Erie County is dealing with trying to get Younger more Active Seniors to participate in the Centers. One way was through a staff member, Mr. Fitness who has created and teaches a Club 99 fitness class at all the centers using bands. The incentive: to get all seniors to live until 99. The second class was about Emergency preparedness.
- Tezera wanted the Advisory Board to know that she has been monitoring the Jewett Senior Center. She has received a couple of bundles of comment cards from the clients and for the most part they are coming back positive. The Board thanked Tezera for her due diligence.
- Jewett's Brunch will be held on Thursday 6/18/15. Wally will be attending and will report back at the next meeting.
- Due to many responses Tezera has talked to Mary and they have decided to remove Vegetable Lasagna off the menu.
- The "Farm to Table" Project has started. June we served Spinach and Mushrooms from Black Horse. July we will have Strawberries from Story's. Mr. Golden asked about getting donations from other farmers, Tezera is looking into other Farmers in the area. Terry wanted to make it clear that the food is not donated. We pay for the "Farm to Table" items.

Connie Bentley, Aging Services:

- Attended the ACUU Conference. Attended several classes on EISEP, Consumer Direct and Choice, NY Connect and BIP.
- Very busy with webinars and conferences regarding the new BIP (Balancing Incentive Program) Grant.
- Very busy with monitoring and evaluations.
- Homebound Transportation surveys are being returned (about 1/3 of them) and all seem to be very good responses.
- Also working on a NEW 6 question survey that will be going out to all the Volunteer Drivers this year.
- Other areas that will be reviewed are: Subcontractors, Legal, PERS, Case Management & Outreach.

Ken Brooks, Finance:

- The AIP has finally been approved by NYSOFA.
- The next AIP will be for 4 years 2016-2020. Terry and Ken will be attending an all-day training on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015.
- Starting the next round of six month meetings with the Senior Clubs. I am bringing Connie Bentley along. I will be handing the torch over to Connie. She will be doing the next round (Nov-Jan) on her own. Our first mtg. was with Coxsackie Senior Club on 6/15/15, 89 seniors attended/17 met with Connie to discuss our services. Ken handed out Farmer Market coupons to qualified seniors, and briefly spoke about the proposed transportation agreement between Greene County and Ulster-Greene ARC.
- Working on the new needs assessment to be handed out at the clubs and to send home with the Home Delivered Meals.
- Our next meeting is Monday 6/22/15 with Athens Senior Club.
- The new Hamlet Bus should arrive in Mid-August 2015.
- Our new transportation system is planned to start Oct. 1, 2015 with 7 daily routes (Mon-Fri), 2 Weekly Routes going to Hunter and Windham. (Weds & Fri)
- Starting 7/2/15, we will be offering day trips to North Lake. Seniors will be provided with a boxed lunch and a day out.

- The Colonie Center trips are going well, we have changed the day from Friday to Thursday to coincide with the work schedule of the garage staff (they are off on Fridays in the summer).
- Attended the ACUU Conference, overall it was very good, the classes were informative.
- Our BIP (Balancing Incentive Plan) Budget was submitted on 6/12/15.

Terry McGee, Executive Director:

- Attended the ACUU Conference. The Directors met with the Chairman of the NYS Assembly on Aging. Discussed with him the difference between a county like New York City and a rural county. Also expressed concerns that the state always breaks the state down by New York City and ROS (Rest of State), other Directors chimed in as well that they agreed with Terry's comments.
- After a second round of interviews, we have selected a new part-time receptionist. Human Resources have been notified. If the applicant accepts, their name will be announced at the next meeting.
- ROSIE THE RIVETER celebration has been set for Saturday, 8/29/15 from 4-8pm at the Point in Catskill. There will be a USO Show and Hanger Dancer. This is in partnership with Greene County Veteran's Dept. Volunteers are needed and staff will be asked if they would be interested in participating.

OLD BUSINESS: Vacancy on Board – Mr. Golden has made the Board aware that there is a vacancy and if anyone has any suggestions to please let him know.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Richard Golden:

-Wanted to extend the Board's apologies to Dawn Wallant for the miscommunications and the lack of notice to her regarding the rescheduling date of the meeting. In the future any changes will be emailed to the Board and after two days if an email acknowledgment is not received a phone will be placed.

-Brought up the By-laws in particular Article V Section II that reads: "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. Mr. Golden wanted to make the Board aware that with his current 3rd year as President we are in violation of the By-laws and need to correct this immediately.

-After a long discussion a motion was made by Ernie Harris and seconded by Wally Thompson to change Section II to read: "The term of office shall be for one calendar year (January through December). **This By-law change will be emailed (or mailed where there is no email) to the ENTIRE Board to be voted on at the July 14, 2015 meeting.**

Linda VanEtten, DSS: Nothing

Phyllis Beechert:

There will be a 6 hour Driver Safety Program taking place at Country Estates on Wednesday 6/17/15

Michelle Black, Veterans Affairs: Absent

Lynn Brunner:

-Announced there will be a USA Red, White & Blue Patriotic Party at the Athens Club 39 Center.

Larry Gardner, Legislature: Absent

Ernest Harris:

-Made the motion to change the By-Laws Article V Section II

Kim Kaplan, Public Health: Absent

Larry Krajeski: Absent

Lillian Moore, RSVP: Absent

Florence Ohle, Community Action: Absent

Wally Thompson:

-The W-A-J-P-L Golden Agers have several trips scheduled. Proctors in Schenectady, Niagara Falls, Cooperstown & A Winery.

-Open House will be in September, will confirm the date. The whole Board will be invited. The members will display their artwork from the various Art projects they do throughout the year: Quilting, Ceramics and Stained Glass.

Dorothy True: Nothing

Dawn Wallant, Common Ground:

-Wanted to make Terry and the Board know that there has been a lot more mediations regarding Independent Living Facilities regarding disputes with Management,

-Aging calls regarding Medicare and family issues, where the Senior member of the family knows that the child is not being honest with them.

-Also discussed the Caregiver Grant (State Level) for Medicaid. Terry and Connie didn't feel that at this time we had the required manpower and will probably not be applying for it.

Meeting was adjourned on motion by Phyllis Beechert & Linda VanEtten.

Next meeting: Tuesday July 14, 2015 ADVISORY COUNCIL PICNIC at 12:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. Brooks Jr.

Business Manager

GCDHS

ATTN: All Advisory council Members

There was a motion made at the 6/16/15 Advisory Council Meeting to modify the current by-laws.

The motion was 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).

This motion will be voted on at the July 14, 2015 Advisory Council Meeting @ Dutchman’s Landing 12:00 PM.

