

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
For GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES
NOVEMBER 10, 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, Lynn Brunner, Ernest Harris, Larry Krajeski, Nancy Martin, Florence Ohle, Dorothy True, Linda VanEtten

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

Excused: Michelle Black, Walter Thompson, Dawn Wallant

Absent: Larry Gardner, Lillian Moore

Guests: NA

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: N/A

OCTOBER MINUTES: Motion made by Lyn Brunner, seconded by Linda Van Etten, to accept October minutes with no changes.

PROGRAM REPORTS & UPDATES:

Terry McGee, Executive Director:

- Public Hearing for the proposed 2016 County Budget will be held on 11/16/15 at the Catskill High School at 7:00 PM
- Our Annual Evaluation will take place some time during the week of 12/14/15.
- Working on the 2016 – 2020 AIP 4 year plan. Due date is Dec 4, 2015.
- BIP, grant was approved and awarded. It will be an ongoing project.
- Peer Place replacing Harmony effective 05/01/16. Parallel systems will be run for awhile.
- Peer Place Train the Trainer will happen within the next few months.
- NY Connect – Resource Directory is being update by MJ.
- AAA Directors Institute was very interesting.
- Office for Community Living. NYSOFA is still receiving surveys and reports. Deadline is 12/14/15

Ruth Pforte, RSVP:

- 6 New Volunteers. Names and responsibilities were announced to the Advisory council.
- MLK – fill the Trolley raised 244 lbs of food and \$1400 in monetary donations.
- Fund raising Committee will be at the Victorian Stroll Dec. 12 1 – 4:30 selling handmade items.
- Plans for the Veterans Pins are under way.
- Waiting for price quotes from several Restaurants before determining where the Christmas Luncheon will be.
- BEETALK – with Mr. Muggeo will be 11/19/15 11AM – Catskill & Dec 12/15/15 11AM – Coxsackie. Will contact ALI @ CGCC to see if they would be interested in this presentation.
- Michelle Black wanted to recognize our volunteer John Gottsche for being named Greene County Veteran of the Year for 2015.
- 20 Afghans were crafted for the veterans
- Green Lights – change one light to green in a visible location, and keep it glowing every day as a symbol of appreciation and support for our Veterans.

Tezera Pulice, Nutrition Coordinator:

- Continuing to search for a Center Mgr for Athens.
- George Obreminski (our kitchen helper in Acra) passed away.
- Danielle had a baby boy and will be out for 12 weeks.

Connie Bentley, Aging Services Coordinator:

- HEAP season starts on 11/16/15 – HEAP Hot line – 1-800-342-3009
 - HEAP Emergency runs from 1/4/16 until 3/15/16
 - Life Threatening Status: no fuel or utility to operate.
 - Emergency Crisis: Loss of heat is imminent.
 - Cooling Asst. Component runs from 5/2/16 until 8/31/16: creating a cooling room by fan or AC. AC less than 5 yrs old not eligible. \$800 all inclusive.
 - HERR: Home Energy Repair & Replacement 11/9/15
 - \$3000 or less available in resources, 12 or more months at residence, \$6500 maximum per applicant for 10 year period. No age requirement.
- HIICAP – thru 12/2/15 working with clients regarding changes.
EISEP – currently have a waiting list 5 for L@ & 10 L1

Ken Brooks, Business Manager:

- Working on the AIP 4 year plan
- Showing a 10% reduction in donations, due to the reduction in clients receiving services.
- Senior Angels has raised \$4979.00 to date, and the Bake Sale will be 11/12/15.
- Senior Angel committee is talking about having a Thanksgiving Dinner next year for the Seniors of Greene County.
- Hunter Mountain donated a Ski Package that we will be raffling for the Senior Angel Program

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Richard Golden, Coxsackie Area Representative:

- The Rotary Club provides Christmas Dinners to Bethany Village every year.
- Due to the commitment to pay the heat bills for the food pantry, the Rotary will not be providing Turkeys this year.
- Village of Coxsackie building new Food Pantry next to the Fire House
- Wal-Mart's will no longer allow unloading of trucks in their lot. Effective 1/1/16 they will be moving to Coxsackie Village Bldg 385 left side.

Linda VanEtten, DSS: NA

Phyllis Beechert, Greenville Area Representative:

- Wanted to acknowledge the loss of our two volunteers.

Michelle Black, Veterans Affairs Director: Absent but Ken Reported

- Veterans Services is NOW located on the 3rd floor of the Greene Medical Arts Bldg, Suite D303.

- Bridge Street Theatre's production of Bond: A Soldier and His Dog, which is currently showing; of which, 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the Adaptive Sports Foundation's collaborative effort with the Wounded Warrior Project, Warriors in Motion program.

Lynn Brunner, Athens Area Representative:

- Athens Trim a tree will be 11/19/15

Larry Gardner, Legislature: Absent

Ernest Harris, Catskill Area Representative:

- Wanted to share a personal experience regarding the importance of making sure you have enough set aside for retirement.

Kim Kaplan/Nancy Martin, Public Health:

- Staff is thinking about holding a Food Drive. It was suggested that Nancy keep in touch with Florence Ohle on this.
- Mr. Golden asked Nancy about "blockers" regarding Flu shots.

Larry Krajeski, Director Catskill Mountain Housing: NA

Lillian Moore, RSVP: ABSENT

Florence Ohle, Director Community Action:

- Weatherization is up and running
- Audit is costing \$500 - \$800 (this is an additional fee)
- Step Grant has started, staff is busy, utilities are included
- Looking into a possible community Thanksgiving Dinner next year. Now that the Town is not doing one, there is no place for people to go. Was wondering if the Senior Angels would like to work with Community Action and the Ecumenical Group.
- Small Business Day will be Saturday 11/28/15 11-5pm at the Cairo Durham Elementary Schools. 22 vendors
- Volunteer training for Tax Prep will commence at CGCC on 1/4/16. VITA guidelines \$65,000 income.

Wally Thompson Mountaintop Area Representative: Absent reported by Ken Brooks:

- Getting complaints that the Homebound meals are cold, tasteless & look terrible'
- We are in desperate need for volunteers in the Jewett Center.

Dorothy True Cairo Area Representative:

- Acra Public Hearing on 10/14/15 @ 1:00 PM went very well and was well received. 39 people in attendance.

Dawn Wallant, Director Common Ground: Absent

Meeting was adjourned by Dorothy True and seconded by Phyllis Beechert.

Next meeting: Tuesday Dec. 8, 2015 LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED THIS WILL BE THE HOLIDAY LUNCH. RUTH WILL BE SENDING OUT ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. Brooks Jr. Business Manager GCDHS