

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
For GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES
JANUARY 12, 2016 MINUTES
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

Call to order at 2:00 p.m. by Linda Van Etten followed by Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present: Phyllis Beechert, Michelle Black, Lynn Brunner, Ernest Harris, Lillian Moore, Florence Ohle, Walter Thompson, Dorothy True, Linda VanEtten, Dawn Wallant

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

Excused: Richard Golden, Larry Krajeski

Absent: Larry Gardner, Nancy Martin

Guests: John Orso, Athens's Center Manager

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Tezera Pulice introduced John to the Advisory Council, went around the table and everyone introduced themselves to John.

NOVEMBER MINUTES: Motion made by Florence Ohle, seconded by Dottie True, to accept November minutes with no changes.

PROGRAM REPORTS & UPDATES:

Terry McGee, Executive Director:

- NY Connect & RSVP grant applications were on her desk for review.
- Staff evaluations are proceeding, anyone wishes to contribute, please let Terry know after the meeting.
- The Annual Evaluation was held in December. It was a two day event; we are waiting for the final results.
- YMCA & Youth program may be partnering up in the future regarding a Tennis event.
- The lack of snow has reduced business revenue by 1/3, which will result in a tax loss of 1/3. Waiting to see what budget cuts will be requested.
- Senior Day is Friday, May 20, 2106 from 12PM-3PM (tentative) theme: HOEDOWN
- 2016 Work Place Violence training will take place on 10/6/16, to coincide with the nutrition training.

Ruth Pforte, RSVP:

- 8 New Volunteers. Names and responsibilities were announced to the Advisory council.
- Advisory Council Christmas Party was held at the Downtown Bistro, everyone enjoyed the luncheon.
- Afghan donation-Michelle Black asked if one of the Afghans (looked like the American Flag) could be used for a fundraiser. The fundraiser is to help get name plates to be installed on veteran's gravesites.
- The Bee Talk went very well at Catskill and Coxsackie.
- The fund raising committee opted out of the Victoria Stroll, and had an event in the lobby of the Main Office which raised \$121.00.
- The Fuel Raffle netted a profit of \$565.00
- MLK Jr. Community Resource Day will be March 24, 2016 – Washington Irving Center 9am – 2pm

Tezera Pulice, Nutrition Coordinator:

- Introduced John Orso to the group.
- Renee Raffiani will be training to become a Tai Chi Instructor.
- Have had a slight increase in HDM requests for Jan 2016.

Connie Bentley, Aging Services Coordinator:

- Setting up appointments with the local Senior Clubs to do a Service Presentation.
- Wait List – L1 – 9 people, L2-6 people, Caregiver – 1 person, PERS – 2 people

Ken Brooks, Business Manager:

- Senior Angel raised \$8,887.25 which benefited 255 Senior Citizens
- Senior Angel participated in the Victorian Stroll and raised \$143.25 in donations.
- The Senior Angel Ornaments were a HUGE Success, sold out of all 300.
- Senior Angels will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving Dinner at the Athens Center this year, more details to follow.
- Centers will now have a “Get Fit” Thursday, with Tai Chi, Chair Aerobics & Yoga in Athens and a “Walk with Ease” program in Cossackie. Will be meeting with Matt from the YMCA on 1/15/16.
- Donations and meals are down. Due to “snow birds”, and people working past 60.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Nov 8th meeting date has been changed to Nov 15th due to Election Day.
- Senior of the Year has started. Application deadline is 1/31/16. This year’s committee is: Linda Van Etten, Florence Ohle, Lillian Moore, Lyn Brunner & Michelle Black.
- The committee will be meeting on 2/9/16 @ 1:00 PM
- The Roundtable Newsletter now has a spot for the senior clubs to send in any events they would like published.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Richard Golden, Cossackie Area Representative: Excused

Linda VanEtten, DSS: NA

Phyllis Beechert, Greenville Area Representative: NA

Michelle Black, Veterans Affairs Director:

- Honor a Vet is May 21, 2016 @ 10am. Submission packets can be found on-line or can be picked up at the Veterans Office.

Lynn Brunner, Athens Area Representative:

- Athens is planning A Valentine’s Day celebration.

Larry Gardner, Legislature: Absent

Ernest Harris, Catskill Area Representative: NA

Kim Kaplan/Nancy Martin, Public Health: NA

Larry Krajeski, Director Catskill Mountain Housing: Excused

Lillian Moore, RSVP: NA

Florence Ohle, Director Community Action:

- Weatherization is up and running
- Christmas Program is complete, adopt a family helped 500-600 kids
- Tax Program kicks off on 2/16/16. Tues & Thursday (income based).
- Part time Outreach Specialist has been hired.
- Feeding America is still going on.
- Ulster Greene ARC volunteers on Mon., Wed., & Fri. 3:00pm
- A Wellness Group for staff has been formed. Resulting in a Yoga class from 12pm – 1pm
- We are a Biggest Loser participant. Weigh-ins can be conducted at the office
- Partnered with Prattsville Art Center to provide services in their area.

Wally Thompson Mountaintop Area Representative:

- Rumors are going around about the Jewett Center closing.
- WAJPL starts back up again in March 2016.

Dorothy True Cairo Area Representative:

- Cairo Public Library is holding Adult Coloring Workshops on Thursdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm.

Dawn Wallant, Director Common Ground:

- Parent class's start on 1/21/16, there is a possibility that they will be expanding to grandparents, and this will get the seniors more involved.
- The creation of support groups (for after the classes) are in the works. They would be run by a certified facilitator.

Meeting was adjourned by Florence Ohle and seconded by Michelle Black.

Next meeting: Tuesday Feb. 9, 2016 Aging Training Room 411 Main St. Catskill NY 12414.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. Brooks Jr. Business Manager GCDHS