

**Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging**  
**April 14, 2024 @ 2:00 – DHS Office, 411 Main Street, Catskill**

**PERSON CONDUCTING MEETING:** Dick Golden

**RECORDER:** Katy Drake\*/Consultant \*Zoom

**ATTENDANCE:** Chair Dick Golden, Lula Anderson, Ed Bloomer, Tami Bone (Deputy Director), Ann Krieg, Judy LoPresti, Charlene Mabey, Jeff Ruso, Kathie Scanlon, Stephanie Schleuderer (Executive Director), Dottie True, Vice Chair Linda Van Etten, Dawn Wallant and Molly Whitbeck

**GUESTS:** Danielle Kane, Ruth Pforte and Phyllis Panetta

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Ernie Armstead, Don Crespino, Michelle Deyo, Beverly Meyers, Lillian Moore and Florence Ohle

With 12 members present—plus 4 staff and the consultant -- a quorum was available.  
 The Chair opened the meeting at 1:58 with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE		
<b>Review of Previous Minutes</b>	The March 12, 2024, meeting minutes were approved as written.	Judy made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lula seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			
<b>BOARD MEMBERSHIP</b>	The Board discussed recommendations for the appointment of the vacant board spot representing Athens.	Ed made a motion to recommend Marcus McGregor to represent Athens on the Advisory Council for the Greene County Department for the Aging, replacing Lynn Brunner. Molly seconded the motion. With all in favor, the Board is requesting Marcus McGregor be recommended for appointment.	Upon appointment, Marcus will be contacted with Board information and the meeting schedule.		
<b>AGING SERVICES</b>	Report by Danielle Kane on Aging Services	Danielle reported all is going well - no changes or updates at this time.			
<b>NUTRITION</b>	The nutrition report was presented by Stephanie as Tezera is delivering meals	Stephanie shared an update on nutrition services, noting two vacancies for Athens. A part time food service position is in			

<p><b>VOLUNTEER SERVICES</b></p>	<p>today.</p> <p>New Volunteers</p> <p>Survey on Services</p>	<p>recruitment along with a full time cook.</p> <p>Ruth reviewed names of new volunteers for Home Delivered Meals and Medical Transportation.</p> <p>Ruth shared that 258 clients received surveys, with 98 surveys returned (38%). 76% of those who responded reported that they felt increased social support &amp; less lonely due to services. 88% feel they can remain in their home with these additional supports. For Medical Transportation services, 110 surveys were sent out and 37 were returned (34%).</p>	<p>Please contact Ruth with any concerns regarding new volunteers.</p>		
<p><b>DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT</b></p>	<p>Helping Hands- Program with the Rotary</p> <p>Budget</p> <p>Grant Opportunity with Public Health regarding Seniors &amp; Vaccinations</p>	<p>Ruth shared that six clients have received support through the Helping Hands program this past month.</p> <p>Tami shared that she has a full year of fiscal experience now. In terms of the budget, rising costs, with no increase from the state to offset the increases, remains a challenge as the office works to help seniors stay in their homes.</p> <p>Tami shared information on grants being worked on with the Department of Health focusing on a survey on barriers to vaccinations for seniors with a goal of addressing issues such as transportation, access to vaccination clinics, health insurance gaps, etc. before winter to help seniors get their necessary vaccinations.</p>	<p>The Rotary was able to handle all Helping Hands requests this month.</p> <p>Wages were raised for Home Health Aides.</p>		
<p><b>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</b></p>	<p>Staffing Update, Program</p>	<p>Stephanie shared additional information on</p>			

<p><b>2024 SENIOR AWARDS</b></p>	<p>Update, Information on Volunteer Recruitment</p> <p><b>Slyvia Hasenkopf</b> of Cairo will be awarded Greene County Senior Citizen of the Year.</p> <p><b>Steve Whateley</b> of Athens will be awarded Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen.</p>	<p>the two staff positions open at Athens, on the new van with a wrap to address volunteer recruitment, the new office being built for the NY Connects representative to be hired and a new order of animated animals and senior board games.</p> <p>The Greene County Legislature will be presenting the awards on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. All Board Members are encouraged to attend.</p>	<p>Members planning on attending the ceremony please respond to Maureen Murphy by May 6<sup>th</sup> to confirm your attendance.</p>		
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**Council Member Announcements & Updates:**

**Dick** shared the availability of 14 boxes of diapers along with the donation of a hospital bed. The ILC accepts donations, as space and needs warrant, and loans out equipment. The Board requested ILC brochures to pass out.

**Linda** shared information on the initiatives to build an animal shelter in Greene County.

**Jeff** discussed the planned closing of a clinic in Ravena, noting that all patients will need to travel to Delmar or Albany for services. The need for transportation for seniors to go to these clinics was shared. Jeff also shared information on the Seniors Picnic being planned for September and noted that a vaccination clinic at such an event may be a successful collaboration.

**Lula** shared information on activities on the mountain top, upcoming senior trips and work being done to set up a blood drive. Advocacy for increased services on the mountain top such as Urgent Care, a mammogram van and a dental van is ongoing.

**Judy** shared information on the speakers planned for the club meetings.

**Dottie** reported that the grant for the Cairo Community Center is still pending. She shared information on new businesses opening in Cairo—a motorcycle shop and a Juice Bar.

**Charlene** discussed new building opportunities for a senior center and planned senior programs. She commended the partnership with the Independent Living Center and thanked Kathy Scanlon for the outreach efforts.

**Dawn** shared information on the services offered by Common Ground, noting no referral for services is required. The benefits of the Decision-Making Program for seniors—a free service as seniors and family members face challenging situations – was discussed. Conflict Coaching is another program available through Common Ground.

**Kathy** shared her appreciation for the warm welcomes when visiting the senior clubs. Kathy discussed the challenges seniors are facing with affordable and available housing.

**Molly** provided the Board with information on the Access to Home grant which helps address accessibility issues (tubs, ramp, stairlift, etc.). \$100,000 is available with some funds already designated. Referrals are appreciated. Molly also shared information on the Trailer Replacement Project with five replacements set for 2024 with the potential of one additional replacement still available.

Tami commended the accessibility project, noting the importance of a program that keeps seniors in their homes. The need for accessibility in situations when seniors are being discharged from the hospital was discussed. Referrals from public health for accessibility projects were noted. It was also noted that the VA may be able to install ramps for veterans.

Shared information on the subsidized, family housing being developed in Cairo. There will be 28 units offering 1-, 2- or 3-bedroom options. With the subsidy, the rent works out to approximately 30% of monthly income. Currently, there are only 7 people/families on the wait list. Tami shared that James Hannahs, Greene County Economic Development, is working on a Senior Housing Study for Greene County. Results of the study will be shared once available.

**Contact: Molly Whitbeck/Executive Director—Catskill Mountain Housing -- [mwhitbeck@cmhdc.org](mailto:mwhitbeck@cmhdc.org)**

**The meeting adjourned at 2:46.**

**Notes respectfully submitted by Katy Drake/Consultant**

**Notes approved by a quorum at the May 14, 2024 Meeting.**

Next meeting – May 14, 2024 @ 2:00 – Greene County Office Building, Training Room