

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
May 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, Ernie Armstead, Ed Bloomer, Ann Krieg, Judy LoPresti, Florence Ohle, Jeff Ruso, Stephanie Schleuderer (Executive Director), Dottie True, Vice Chair Linda Van Etten, Dawn Wallant and Molly Whitbeck

GUESTS: Jim Carr (Veterans Services), Ruth Pforte and Tezera Pulice

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Tami Bone (Deputy Director), Don Crespino, Michelle Deyo, Charlene Mabey, Beverly Meyers, Lillian Moore and Kathie Scanlon

With 13 members present, plus 2 staff, a guest and the consultant -- a quorum was available.

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:59 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Guest Jim Carr, representing Greene Veterans’ Services was welcomed. Dick announced that May is Greene County Older Americans Month.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE		
Review of Previous Minutes	The April 9, 2024, meeting minutes were approved as written.	Lula made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ernie seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			
BOARD MEMBERSHIP	An update on an appointment for the vacant board spot representing Athens on the Board was discussed.	The application for an appointment to the Aging Advisory Board is in the process of being updated to include more information on the nominee.	Stephanie will draft a letter requesting the appointment once the application is set. Upon appointment, Marcus will be contacted with Board information and the meeting schedule.		
AGING SERVICES	Stephanie reported out on Aging Services	There are no significant changes or updates at this time. Stephanie did note that at this time Case Managers are serving about 100			

<p>NUTRITION</p>	<p>The nutrition report was presented by Tezera.</p>	<p>seniors on their caseloads. The department could benefit from an additional Case Manager.</p> <p>Tezera shared information regarding a new hire for Athens. An additional cook is being sought for times when Shane is out. Tezera shared information on a Senior Prom scheduled for June 19th. The event is open to all seniors, with a dinner being served at the Athens Senior Center.</p>	<p>Reservations are required for the Prom on June 19th. Please RSVP by 6/10 to 518-945-2700.</p>		
<p>VOLUNTEER SERVICES</p>	<p>New Volunteers</p> <p>Volunteer Recognition Event</p> <p>Helping Hands - Program with the Rotary</p>	<p>Ruth reviewed names of new volunteers for Home Delivered Meals and Medical Transportation.</p> <p>The fall date for the Recognition Event is pending and will be announced once set.</p> <p>Ruth shared information on the partnership with the Windham Rotary, which assisted with two Helping Hands requests over the past month.</p>	<p>Ruth was commended for her work securing so many new volunteers these past few months. Please contact Ruth with any concerns regarding new volunteers.</p> <p>A contact number for the new Catskill Rotary connection was requested.</p>		
<p>DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT</p>	<p>Tami Bone was representing Greene County at Older NYers Day (Senior Awards Presentation) in Albany, so Stephanie provided the Board with an update.</p>	<p>Stephanie reported work on state vouchers, noting slow review by the state.</p> <p>Regarding assistance through Senior Angels, Stephanie discussed the impact of the rise in Mid- Hudson cable costs for</p>	<p>The DHS is looking for Senior Angel to help offset the increase in cable costs.</p>		

DIRECTOR'S REPORT	Staffing Update, Program Update, Information on Volunteer Recruitment	seniors. The increase from \$25/month to \$60/month is more than many seniors can afford even though cable may be their daily source of entertainment, company and information. Rose Bundy has been promoted to Aging Service Specialist/NY Connects. The wrap on the new van is very visible and attention getting!	Florence suggested window antennas that get major networks for \$20 for two antennas at Walmart. Congratulations Rose!
	DHS action necessary for difficult client situations.	Stephanie wanted the Board to be aware of a challenging situation that resulted in a police report. A transportation issue on the bus resulted in a client becoming abusive and required contact with the sheriff's department.	Parking the van in a visible spot on weekends was discussed. Stephanie confirmed there are cameras on the bus and actions taken so this client cannot put staff and other clients in a disrespectful or abusive situation again.
2024 SENIOR AWARDS	Legislature Presentation of Awards – May 15 th at 6:30	All Board members are welcome at the Award presentation.	Please RSVP to Maureen if you are planning to attend.

Council Member Announcements & Updates:

- * Chairman Richard Golden, District 2 Coxsackie: Discussed the impact the high cost of food is having on the food pantry. Local food pantries are having a difficult time keeping up with the demand. Dick reminded everyone about the Senior Awards Ceremony on May 15th.
- * Vice-Chair Linda Van Etten, District 7, Halcott, Lexington & Hunter:
- * Secretary Florence Ohle, Community Action: Shared that the Community Action Food Pantry is extremely busy with the mobile food pantry going out weekly. Florence provided information on the grant CAGC received to buy from local farms and shared that May is National Community Action Month. Community Action is offering a free family movie next Friday (5/24). Shrek is being shown with free Sundaes for the first 100 people.
- * Ernie Armstead, District 1 Catskill: Wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day. Ernie shared information on the Silver Lining Club & the Memorial Day Luncheon.
- * District 3 Athens – VACANT
- * Jeffrey Ruso, District 5 New Baltimore: Informed the board he is out of retirement assisting a nursing home in shutting down due to staffing shortages. Jeff discussed that Nursing Homes receive a \$5,000/day fine if staffing requirements are not met and many Nursing Homes are struggling to meet minimum requirements. Jeff discussed equipment that may be available with this closure. Storage of the donations may be a challenge for

some programs. Katy will connect Jeff with Kathie Scanlon of the Independent Living Center in regard to donations to the ILC medical equipment loan/donation program.

* Lula Anderson & Judi LoPresti, District 6 Prattsville, Ashland, Windham & Jewett: Lula shared information on the Historical Society's tour of local parks with two buses/trolley's full of seniors attending. She reported 80 people signed up for the spring luncheon. Arts and crafts are starting back in June with ceramics and stained glass being planned. Monthly meetings are hosted by speakers. Lula shared her contact with a local physician and suggested that the Roundtable News be in Doctor's Offices so that the office and their patients are aware of local programs, events and resources. Lula added that vaccinations clinics on the mountain top would be very beneficial. Stephanie shared information about the current survey being conducted with Public Health on barriers for seniors to vaccinations. The board discussed that funding to provide traveling clinics and/or offering vaccinations at senior meetings would be very useful as accessibility and cost can be an obstacle for many seniors, especially in rural areas.

Judy shared information on an upcoming blood drive and planned senior trips.

* Doroty True, District 8 Cairo: Informed the board that Senior Center funding for Cairo is still being sought. The building funding has been secured but they are looking for grant opportunities for the kitchen, furniture and general supplies. Dottie complimented Veterans' Services on their new programs and offerings.

* Dawn Wallant, Common Ground: Shared information on Common Ground's programs seeking connections with local schools. A free training on Restore Circles- Tier 1 training is being offered to school districts. Common Ground is looking to partner with schools and colleges. Dawn shared that Common Ground is the local dispute resolution center for the Department of Agriculture and offers no fee services for farmers seeking dispute resolution.

* Ann Krieg, DSS:

* Edward Bloomer, GC Legislature: Shared information on Hope for Harvest, a new free program for Veterans. The program has partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension and is working on a mentor program for Veterans interested in working on a farm.

* GC Veterans, Jim Carr: Reported on the upcoming program to Honor a Vet at Catskill Point.

* Molly Whitbeck, Catskill Mountain Housing: Fielded a question on finishing a ramp and recommended that Vet Services may be an option.

* ABSENT: Beverly Myers, District 4 Greenville, Charlene Mabee, District 9 Durham, Lillian Moore, AmeriCorps Seniors, Don Crespino, GCT and Kathy Scanlon, ILC: Absent

The meeting adjourned at 2:47.

Notes respectfully submitted by Katy Drake/Consultant

Notes approved at the June 11, 2024, meeting by a quorum.

Next meeting –June 11, 2024 @ 2:00 at Greene County Office Bvuilding, Training Room