

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
September 10, 2024 @ 2:00 – DHS Office, 411 Main Street, Catskill

PERSON CONDUCTING MEETING: Dick Golden

RECORDER: Katy Drake/Consultant

ATTENDANCE: Chair Dick Golden, Lula Anderson, Ernie Armstead, Ed Bloomer, Tami Bone (Deputy Director), Kim Kaplan (Interim Executive Director), Ann Krieg, Judy LoPresti, Charlene Mabey, Florence Ohle, Jeff Ruso, Kathie Scanlon, Dottie True, Vice Chair Linda Van Etten and Molly Whitbeck

GUESTS: Jim Carr (Veterans Services), Ruth Pforte and Tanya Skinner (Business Manager)

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Don Crespino, Michelle Deyo, Beverly Meyers, Lillian Moore and Dawn Wallant
 With 13 members present—plus 4 staff, a guest and the consultant -- a quorum was available.

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:57 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11.

The meeting began with a board discussion on resources and the referral process for a vulnerable senior living in Greene County. Resources were shared.

Kim Kaplan, the Interim Executive Director and Tanya Skinner, Business Manager were introduced to the Board. Tanya is assisting with a fiscal review.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE		
Review of Previous Minutes	The June 11, 2024, meeting minutes were approved as written.	Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jim 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 appointment of an Athens Representative is on hold. Ed Bloomer will serve in this role at this time.			

<p>AGING SERVICES</p>	<p>Tami reported out on Aging Services</p>	<p>There are no significant changes or updates at this time. Tami shared information on the fiscal meeting with NYSOFA and shared that 2025 will bring a renewed focus on Caregivers. The waitlist is being reviewed by Danielle. An aide shortage was discussed, noting that Greene has one full time and one part time aide serving Greene Seniors.</p>	<p>The renewed focus on supporting caregivers will be incorporated into future meetings and events. A Caregiver support newsletter – available at doctors’ offices and other locations throughout the county-- was discussed.</p>		
<p>NUTRITION</p>	<p>Tami shared information on Nutrition as Tezera was covering a site.</p>	<p>The Nutrition Department is seeking a full-time prep/cook for Athens. Wage and position responsibilities were discussed. Tezera attended the New Baltimore Seniors’ picnic and shared information along with farmers market coupons.</p>	<p>Additional ways of getting the farmers’ market coupons to seniors was discussed as many New Baltimore residents did not know about the program or where to get the vouchers.</p>		
<p>VOLUNTEER SERVICES</p>	<p>Ruth shared information on volunteer services.</p> <p>2025 AmeriCorps Seniors Grant</p> <p>Volunteer Recognition Event</p>	<p>The Greene County Youth Fair was well attended. DHS had a booth at the fair.</p> <p>Ruth provided information on the 2025 AmeriCorps Seniors grant. Funding was increased to \$75,000 plus \$350 per volunteer. Under the criteria, Ruth will be applying for \$140,450 based on 187 volunteers with 130 homebound meals delivered and 26 volunteers providing medical transportation. Ruth noted the county match for this grant has been reduced from 30% to 10%.</p> <p>Ruth shared information on the Sept. 26 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon to be held at Community Life Church.</p>	<p>Invitations are out with RSVPs due 9/17.</p>		

<p>DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT</p>	<p>Helping Hands- Program with the Rotary</p> <p>Tami Bone provided an update on the department.</p>	<p>Ruth reported 5 requests for assistance in the past month with 4 seniors receiving assistance through the program.</p> <p>From the recent NYSOFA meeting, 2025 will have a caregiver focus. The board discussed outreach to caregivers, ElliQ, Project Life Saver, the Sheriff's call-in program and Alzheimer's Associations Support Groups.</p> <p>Tami reported that Senior Angels is off to a strong start with donation letters from the program going out soon.</p>	<p>Following the meeting a photo will be taken of the Rotary 's Check donation to Senior Angels. All Board members are welcome in the photo!</p>		
<p>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</p>	<p>Kim Kaplan recently started in the role of Interim Executive Director. The Board welcomed Kim.</p>	<p>Tami is currently working on the NYSOFA Four- Year Plan. Kim and Tami discussed the notification requirements for the Public Hearing. It is requested that Board Members attend the meeting if available.</p>	<p>Once established, Public Hearing date(s) will be shared with the Board. Attending virtually will be an option.</p>		

Council Member Announcements & Updates:

- * Dick shared information on the Y-Tri with 52 runners attending the 10th year of this event.
- * Linda discussed recruiting volunteers.
- * Florence shared this month is Domestic Violence Awareness month. An awareness event will be held on October 10th at the Bridge Street Theatre—invitation to follow. The food pantry, mobile pantry and free farm stand have been very busy.
- * Ernie discussed the upcoming election process and the requirements for seniors receiving assistance with voting. The Board recommended that official voter information and deadlines be included in the next Roundtable News.
- Ed discussed the importance of focusing on Caregivers.

- * Jeff shared the success of the New Baltimore Picnic—thanking Tezera, Lula and Charlene for attending representing the Office and the Advisory Board. Jeff was interested in hearing more about potential resources for areas without centers. Tami shared information on agreements with local restaurants for meeting space when a town has no specific senior center.
- * Lula shared information on services that are returning to the Mountain Top area—dentist & physical therapy. The crafters are set to continue, and a companion day is being looked into.
- * Judy provided the Board information on an upcoming presentation at the center from the new Jewett Historian.
- * Dottie discussed the Fireman’s Parade in Cairo, and the 9/11 Services scheduled in Cairo Park.
- * Charlene discussed the challenges of getting information to seniors with no senior center in Durham.
- * Jim shared that the VA is backlogged in every department. Veteran’s services were discussed along with the impact from the physicians’ shortage.
- * Kathie reminded the Board about the ILC’s Medical Supply Closet and shared information on the upcoming Vaccination Clinic.
- * Molly shared information on the grant from the Bank of Greene County for Emergency Home Repairs for Seniors, the Restore Grant and the Access to Home funding available for modifications. The East View Garden Apartments -- multifamily subsidized housing—were discussed regarding availability.

The board further discussed the Farmers Market Vouchers and how to reach more seniors next year.

The Board discussed the needs for 1- Stand Up Lifts 2- Electric Scooters and 3- Portable Ramps.

The Board was reminded that Large Print Games and Puzzles went out to all centers for use by any of the clubs.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20. Notes respectfully submitted by Katy Drake/Consultant

Meeting notes approved by a quorum at the October 8th meeting.

Next meeting –October 8, 2024 @ 2:00 at Greene Department of Human Services Meeting Room