**GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**4-YEAR PLAN PUBLIC HEARING**

Date: October 29, 2024

Location: Rivertown Senior Center, Athens

27 in attendance: 24 seniors (12 via ZOOM) + 3 members of Aging Advisory Board

5 DHS staff members + Kevin Forbes, Greene County Administration

Interim Executive Director, Kimberly Kaplan, thanked all for attending & introduced the following staff:

Tami Bone, Deputy Director & today’s facilitator

James Murphy, Junior Accountant

Tezera Pulice, Coordinator of Nutrition Services

Maureen Murphy, Office Manager

Kevin Forbes, Greene County Administrator’s office

Purpose of hearing:

* To explain the Department’s 4-year plan (attachment A) for NYS & get feedback from county seniors
* Plan to include updates, goals & services available
* How can we best serve Greene County
* Overview of what we offer
* Funding sources for programs

Nine goals:

* Keep individuals in home as long as possible
* Work w/ other agencies & be collaborative for clients
* Eliminate waiting lists
* Increase outreach & community presence of Dept. – Be a face in community
* Need to have Dept brochures in public places
* Respite and caregiving
* Health insurance counselor (NY Connects rep or Case Managers) for insurance questions

Demographics for Greene County

Needs Assessment

**Questions & Answers:**

**Q.** MtnTop has very poor internet service so problem for seniors. What are plans to help?

**A.** Kevin Forbes, replied that the county is working with all service providers to improve conditions. It is hoped that within a few months, entire county should be fiber optic & have better service.

**Q.** Medicare very confusing & area participating insurance keep changing. What to do?

**A.** NYSOFA provides up-to-date insurance information to Department. Staff available to assist clients with individual insurance questions. Staff work with area brokers to find the best plan for individuals. Contact Rose in the office for further information.

**Q.** Keep hearing about Community Action. Who are they?

**A.** Community Action of Greene County (CAGC) empowers disadvantaged individuals and families to grow and thrive through advocacy and person-centered services. CAGC promotes collaboration to strengthen the community.

Community Action Program offers:

* [Emergency Services:](https://cagcny.org/emergency-assistance/) [Food Pantry,](https://cagcny.org/emergency-assistance/emergency-food/) [Soup Kitchens,](https://cagcny.org/emergency-assistance/emergency-food/#soup-kitchens) Clothing and Household Items
* 24 hour [Domestic Violence Hotline & Shelter:](https://cagcny.org/victim-services-program/) Individual and Support Counseling, Legal Advocacy, Assistance with Orders of Protection, Aftercare and Educational Outreach
* [Housing:](https://cagcny.org/housing-assistance/) STEHP (Solutions to End Homelessness) and [HUD Supportive Housing Projects](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/new_york)
* [Weatherization Assistance Program:](https://cagcny.org/weatherization-assistance-program/) [Empower NY and](https://cagcny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Empower-Program.pdf) Weatherization Plus
* [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA):](https://cagcny.org/income-tax-assistance/) Receive free help with your income tax preparation and electronic filing.
* [Columbia Greene Crime Victims Advocacy Program:](https://cagcny.org/victim-services-program/) Provides resources, counseling, advocacy and referral for victims and their families.
* [Information and Referral:](https://cagcny.org/referral-services/) Partnerships and know what services are offered in community by partner agencies.
* [Family and Community Services:](https://cagcny.org/community-development/) Family Development seeks to help all families achieve self-sufficiency.
* [Pay it Forward Thrift Store:](https://cagcny.org/thrift-store/) Provides quality goods at affordable prices, encourages citizens to recycle, and helps generate income for Community Action programs.

They are located on Route 9W in Catskill, phone # 518-943-9205

**Q.** Are there plans to build more senior housing in Greene County?

**A.** Unsure as this is not a Department service. County is undergoing a survey to assess need & it is a goal of the county to acxhieve. We work with private firms who do senior housing: Catskill Mountaion Housing, Bethany Village (CRM Management) and Rivertown Housing.

**Q.** Do we plan to offer more activities for seniors?

A. Yes! All senior nutrion sites sponsor activities. The Department is encouraging, through NYSOFA, a game night that can be intergenerational. Sponsoing NYSOFA Get-Set-Go plans programs. Work with YMCA to sponsor activities such as Bingocize.

**Q.** Do programs have an income requirement?

**A.** Some do while others don’t.; answer is based on specific service. Certain in-home services operate on a sliding scale while home delivered meals is not based on income. HEAP and Farmers Market checks are state programs that have income eligibility requirement.Don’t hesitate to contact the office rergarding a service because of income. We will work with you. Department has sheet of suyggested donation levels for services (see attachment B) but we never refuse anyone because of their inability to pay or choice not to contribute.

**Closing:**

Contact Tami Bone is questions or comments after today’s meeting.

Interim Director Kaplan thanked all for attending.

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Link to 4-year plan**

**ATTACHMENT B**

**GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES**

**CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY**

 For services under the Older Americans Act and in Community Services for the Elderly which propose contributions, such contributions must be used for costs allowable under applicable regulations and incurred during the budget period that contributions were received. The suggested contributions will not be more than the actual cost of the service. The purpose is to offer participants the opportunity to contribute and to increase the units of services, particularly to those in greatest need. Envelopes are provided to participants that desire to make voluntary and confidential contributions. **Services will not be denied to anyone unable or unwilling to contribute.**

**Consultation and Assistance:** This includes such client assistance activities as case assistance, Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP), help with public benefit applications, etc. The suggested level is $5.00 per office visit *(Actual cost $20.00/hour)*.

**In-Home Services:** This is discussed with the client by the case manager at the time of assessment. The suggested level of contribution is $3.00 per hour

**Legal Services:** The suggested level of contribution is $10.00 per attorney consultation

**Nutrition:**

·  **Senior Congregate Meal or Home Delivered Meals:** The suggested level of contribution is $4.00

·  **Nutrition Counseling:** Clients requesting diet counseling from the Registered Dietitian are provided with an opportunity to contribute. The suggested level of contribution is $5.00. *(Actual cost $65.00/hour).*

· **Health Promotions:** There is no suggested contribution for this service. Donations always accepted.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

·  **Shopping Bus:** The suggested level of contribution is $3.00 round trip

·  **Senior Center Transportation:** The suggested contribution is $1.00 for round trip.

·  **Medical (Homebound) Transportation: T**he suggested contribution for this service is a sliding scale based on mileage

 0 – 10 miles $3.00 round trip

 11 – 20 miles $5.00 round trip

 21 – 40 miles $9.00 round trip

 41+ miles $15.00 round trip

*Remember to make checks payable to Greene County Department of Human Services*

*& note in memo the service.*