

Advisory Council for Greene County Department for the Aging
November 12, 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, Kim Kaplan (Interim Executive Director), Ann Krieg, Judy LoPresti, Florence Ohle, Kathie Scanlon, Dottie True, and Vice Chair Linda Van Etten

STAFF: Tami Bone (Deputy Director); James Murphy (Jr. Accountant), Ruth Pforte (AmeriCorps Seniors)

GUESTS: Robert Hawley (VRS MIHP)

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Jim Carr, Don Crespino, Michelle Deyo, Charlene Mabey, Beverly Meyers, Lillian Moore, Jeff Ruso, Dawn Wallant and Molly Whitbeck

With 10 members present—plus 4 staff, a guest and the consultant -- a quorum was available.

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:59 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/INFORMATION	FOLLOW UP		
<p align="center">Presentation on the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program by Robert Hawley</p>	<p>The Mobile Integrated Health Program operated by Valatie Rescue Squad is designed to provide comprehensive in-home care to residents in Columbia and Greene Counties.</p>	<p>Services, eligibility and benefits to the program were reviewed. A brochure on MIH services was emailed to all members and handed out at the meeting. The program is free for seniors in Columbia Greene Program, as two-year funding has been secured for this NYS pilot program. Currently the program serves seniors within a 45-minute radius of VRS. Referrals can be made by anyone as long as the senior is aware of the referral. The success of the program to date was shared along with the goals of expanding this valuable program.</p>	<p>For additional information or a referral form please contact:</p> <p>MIH@valatierescue.org 518-309-8200 ext. 122</p> <p>In response to the question on how the Board can support this program and the planned expansion, it was recommended members reach out to their legislators.</p>		

Review of Previous Minutes	The October 2024 meeting minutes were not reviewed at the meeting.		The October 2024 meeting notes approval will be added to the January meeting agenda.		
BOARD MEMBERSHIP	The Legislature will be finalizing Board appointments for 2025 in December.	Board members were asked to confirm their interest to serve in 2025 with the Chair or Maureen Murphy by December 1 st .	Members were thanked for their service in 2024.		
NYSOFA FOUR YEAR PLAN/PUBLIC FORUM	Tami shared an update on the public forum held on October 29 th at the Rivertown Center.	The four-year NYSOFA plan was presented at the meeting with the option for community members to join via Zoom as well. The public hearing was recorded. A 30-day comment period after presentation is required by NYSOFA.	Please contact Tami with any comments or questions regarding the plan.		
AGING SERVICES	Tami shared that there are no updates on services at this time.				
NUTRITION	Tami shared information on Nutrition as Tezera was covering a site.	The Nutrition Department is seeking a cook for Athens to cover when the Kitchen Manager is out.			
VOLUNTEER SERVICES	Ruth shared information on volunteer services.	The names of three prospective volunteers were shared. Volunteers for medical transportation are in great need. In response to a question on insurance, Ruth informed the Board that, if necessary, the car owner/volunteer's insurance provides the initial coverage and then the county has a policy for additional costs beyond the owner/volunteer's insurance. Ruth also clarified that volunteers do not lift or provide hands on assistance.	Please contact Ruth directly with concerns regarding volunteers.		

<p>DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT</p> <p>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</p>	<p>Helping Hands Program with the Rotary</p> <p>2025 AmeriCorps Seniors Grant</p> <p>Volunteer Recognition Event</p> <p>Tami Bone provided a budget update.</p> <p>Senior Angels</p> <p>Kim Kaplan shared information on the NYSOFA plan and public hearing.</p>	<p>Ruth reported 3 requests for assistance in the past month with all requests met.</p> <p>The 2025 AmeriCorps Seniors Grant was completed in August by Ruth. Funding was increased to \$75,000 plus \$350 per volunteer (with only 20% of volunteers being allowed under Community Needs. The county match for 2025 was dropped to 10% from 30%.</p> <p>Ruth shared that 126 people attended that Recognition event held on September 26 at the Community Life Church. Legislature Chairman Pat Linger served as the emcee and Senator Michelle Hinchey & Assemblyman Chris Tague attended the event and passed out certificates.</p> <p>Ruth discussed menu options for the December 10th Holiday Luncheon.</p> <p>The budget approval is pending until NYSOFA approves the four-year plan.</p> <p>Tami shared information on the requests coming in for Senior Angels and the collaboration with other partners to serve seniors.</p>	<p>The application requested \$140,450 for 2025 based on 187 volunteers (130 delivering Homebound Meals and 26 volunteers for Medical Transport).</p> <p>The Catskill Cat Auction will be providing a donation to Senior Angels.</p> <p>Kim will be serving as Interim Director until mid-December.</p>		
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Council Member Announcements & Updates:

* Chairman announcement: 2025 Senior Awards: Applications are available through the DHS Office. Nominations for **Senior Citizen of the Year** and **Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen** are due to the office by January 31, 2025.

Dick shared information on the Regional Food Bank's upcoming give away of Thanksgiving meal baskets for anyone in Greene County. Baskets can be picked up at the Cossackie Village Building starting at 10:00 on November 23 until the baskets run out. The Rotary is seeking 45 volunteers to work in two-hour shifts. 600 frozen meals are expected to be delivered as well through the Cossackie Food Pantry.

* Florence reported that Community Action and the Elks are not hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner due to the food distribution. Community Action is accepting referrals for the Weatherization Program. Information was shared on SAFE (Survivors Access Funding Emergency) in which funding may be available for emergencies such as car repair, childcare, etc. Housing challenges, especially for people with children and pets, were discussed. Florence reported that the Holiday Adopt a Family anticipates serving 400 – 800 kids this year.

* Ernie shared information on local Thanksgiving opportunities.

* Lula discussed the challenges with accessing services on the mountain top and the continued advocacy needed to secure a dentist, physical therapy and blood draw.

* Dottie shared the progress on the Senior Center, with a community room for the general public. The building has been identified, and grants are being sought.

* Kathie reminded members of the Independent Living Centers Supply Closet. A loan of equipment is available for the length of the need. Kathie also discussed local outreach efforts. Providers remain reluctant to attend Outreach Events as attendance has been low. Outreach directly in the community (i.e., table at grocery store in Prattsville) has been successful. Kathie and Florence discussed how to best partner to coordinate sharing information on Free Income Tax preparation and services. Kathie is going out to senior centers to share information. Tami discussed extended outreach to the Mountain Top area.

The meeting adjourned at 3:12. Notes respectfully submitted by Katy Drake/Consultant. Approved by a quorum on 1/14/25.

Holiday Lunch for the December 10th meeting—Noon @ DHS Office. Invitations to follow!

Next meeting –January 14, 2025 @ 2:00 at Greene Department of Human Services Meeting Room