

**Office for the Aging Advisory Council Report to Taghkanic Town Board**  
**On the 19 June 2015 Council Meeting**

The Advisory Council of the Office for the Aging met on Friday, 19 June 2015. It was the third of the three scheduled spring meetings.

**Town News:**

Members reported many special celebrations scheduled for June and July. These included pancake breakfasts, an ice cream social, the COARC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and the Canaan Senior Group's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

**Specific information from agencies**

**OFA:** A new caseworker has just begun and will help address the recently doubled caseloads. Packets of five (5) \$4 Farmers' Markets Vouchers will be available on 1 July. There are now two new part-time workers at the Stockport center.

**DSS:** A look at the new website is in order. They are working to increase access and make it easier to use.

**Mental Health:** Referrals from healthcare providers are increasing. Helping the homeless get help from this agency depends on where the person is picked up. If a homeless person is a veteran the VA can be called.

**NY Connect:** There have been many changes over the past few years and there is a new program that will allow this group to expand its services over the next 18 months as well. Currently – and for the foreseeable future, they cover both aging and special needs clients.

**ICAN:** Independent Consumer Advocacy Network offers an ombudsman program for managed long term care services.

**Hudson River Care** at 750 Union Street offers dental care for seniors two days a week. Telephone is 751-3060. Fees are on a sliding scale.

**OFA Transportation Survey:**

Last year the Advisory Council of the Office for Aging conducted a survey about where Columbia County seniors go for doctors, hospitals, labs, pharmacies, groceries, clothing, worship, dining and entertainment. The first full analysis of this OFA Transportation Survey was presented to the council members at this meeting. Members were asked to take it home and review carefully. Suggestions and new ideas were solicited and will be reported in September. The link to this report is on the town website in the Town Board meeting on 13 July event slot.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be 17 September 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Thompson

Town Representative to the Office for Aging Advisory Council

9 July 2015