

Office for the Aging Advisory Council Report

On the 19 June 2017 Meeting

To the July 2017 Taghkanic Town Board

The Advisory Council of the Office for the Aging met on Friday, 16 June 2017. It was the third of three scheduled spring meetings.

Agency News:

◆ OFA:

Farmers Market vouchers are available starting on Wednesday, June 21st. For more information, please call the OFA at 828-4258.

◆ Columbia County Department of Social Services

Colleen Bartle announced that Robert Gibson was appointed Administrator on this day of June 16, 2017. Charlotte Fox is the new Deputy for Financial Services and Michelle Ublacker is the Deputy for Legal Services.

HEAP Air Conditioning is available based on income and requires a doctor's note documenting medical need. Debby Simons can be contacted at 828-9411 for a fan or air conditioner as well as for furnace repair through September.

◆ Columbia Opportunities

Their Weatherization Program is a fee-for-service program. NYSEDA has grant money of up to \$300,000 per year and Columbia Opportunities also looks for other programs that can help defray costs. The basis for the weatherization program is the **free, non-income-based Energy Audit**. They also do furnace repairs through a DSS contract. Finally, Columbia Opportunities manages an Emergency Food Pantry with other food pantries and has received support from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation.

Council Reports:

Each town representative reported on the services they knew were available in their town. Kinderhook listed services describing a "senior friendly" community. They included Meals on Wheels, a Nutrition Site, buses from OFA and the Healthcare Consortium, Food Banks, Senior Group programs, church offerings of meals in the fall and winter, and community events. While these services are offered in every town, not every town uses or is aware of them and not every service is staffed to reach every community. The Advisory Council Program Development Committee continues to work on solutions to these and related service gap issues.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be 15 September 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Thompson

Town Representative to the Office for the Aging Advisory Council