

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
MAY 22, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judy Gilstrap, Wallace Shaw, Ed Elliott, Dennis Claramunt, Eddie Moore, Ted Mattison, J. W. Sanders, James Batchler, Grady Butler, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Bennie Cunningham, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Neil Smith, Connie Bowers, Heyward McDonald, Tom Hendricks, Randy Crenshaw, Renee Cariveau, O'Neal Mintz, Bob Briggs, Elbert Tillerson, Loretta Smith, Mike Forrester, and Jane Hall.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Van Cato and Phil Hopace, Sen. Lindsay Graham's Office; Kelly Walker and Lauren Hammond, S.C. Centers for Fathers and Families.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Joe Newton, Becky Hall, Dirk Reis, Carol Andersen, Michael Stogner, Barbara Jardno, Chip Bentley, and Cricket Jenkins.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwomen Gilstrap. The invocation was offered by Rev. Sanders. On motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Shaw, the minutes of the April 24, 2009, meeting was unanimously approved.

“Jobs Not Jails” – Statewide Alternatives to Incarceration

Ms. Hammond provided a briefing on S.C. Center for Fathers and Families initiatives to promote alternatives to incarceration for fathers, with the emphasis on fathers who are behind in child support payments. She stated that in 2007 the Alternative to Incarceration program received state funding. The mission of the Upstate Fatherhood Coalition is to increase the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children by assisting with

employment, peer support, child support, education and developing relationship building skills between fathers and families. The results of this coalition is that 501 fathers were served, 748 children were touched, over half of the fathers reported increased time spent with children, and \$331,930 in child support in arrears were paid through the fatherhood program.

Seniors Hospital Discharge Planning Initiative

Ms. Jardno provided a briefing on this initiative, which ACOG is undertaking in partnership with the S.C. Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, and the University of South Carolina. She stated that the purpose of this project is to provide seniors who are discharged from hospitals with resources that are necessary for them to remain in their homes. Ms. Jardno stated that there are two primary goals for this project: 1) develop an enhanced person-centered hospital discharge model for older adults and adults with physical disabilities, and 2) implement the enhanced model to achieve significant improvement in utilization of home and community based services for people being discharged.

Update on ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) Funding

Mr. Pelissier stated that on the S.C. Department of Transportation website is a link that shows where \$66.9 million of the stimulus money was allocated for transportation, for information on the Youth Summer Jobs Program for Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties, contact Nita Colman at WorkLink; stimulus funds for National Telecommunications Infrastructure Administration (NTIA) is a few billion dollars, but staff has yet to see the criteria or regulations. One of the criteria for accessing this money is to have a telecommunications broadband plan, which ACOG has just completed for Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. He stated that a challenge with CDBG stimulus funds is that CDBG requirements apply, which means the project has to be low-to-moderate income households, limitations on how they can be used, and the money has to be spent very quickly. He stated that there is \$841,000 in energy funds. The Office on Energy has asked ACOG to take applications and rank those projects.

Legislative Update

Mr. Newton provided a briefing on pending legislation in the S.C. General Assembly, emphasizing items of interest to local governments, which include budget, local government fund, cigarette tax, point of sale, comprehensive tax reform, and payday lending.

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ACOG Board Committee Appointments for 2009-2010

Ms. Gilstrap appointed Eddie Moore to the Executive Committee and Bob Waldrep as an Executive Committee alternate.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Chair

THE SOUTH CAROLINA APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS HAS
COMPLIED WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IN SCHEDULING
AND CONDUCTING THIS MEETING.