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30 Century Circle
P.O. Box 6668
Greenville, SC 29606
(864) 242-9733

VIEWPOINT

Appalachian Council of Governments Quarterly Newsletter

Third Quarter 2014

Upstate Care Transitions Coalition Program (UCTC) Receives National Recognition

The Upstate Care Transitions Coalition (UCTC) - a pilot Community-based Care Transitions Program (CCTP) funded by the Affordable Care Act - recently received a 2014 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation.

To create this program, the Appalachian Area Agency on Aging partnered with a physician based organization, four hospitals, three home health agencies and multiple short term rehabilitation facilities in Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union Counties. The program serves Medicare Fee-for-Service and Dual Eligible beneficiaries discharged from one of the four hospitals.

In addition to receiving care transition services, other short-term and long-term needs of the participant are recognized and addressed. UCTC was approved January 2013 and started accepting patients April 2013. The program utilizes an evidence based care transitions intervention to meet the following goals defined by Medicare:

- Reduce Unnecessary Readmissions
- Improve Quality of Care
- Improve Transition from Hospital to Home
- Document Measurable Savings

Currently, the program's enrollment is close to the anticipated monthly target and the program has received multiple recognitions, including:

- The aforementioned NADO Innovation Award, which recognizes hard work and commitment to promoting economic development in rural and small metropolitan communities across the country. Award recipients have created innovative solutions that build on the unique strengths and challenges of their regions, all while continuing to promote sustainable economic growth not only now, but for many years to come.
- The four hospitals were recognized by the Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME) - a Medicare Quality Improvement Organization - for reduced readmissions in various diagnoses included in the program. CCME also recognized UCTC with an Award of Excellence in improving care coordination and reducing readmissions.
- Medicare recognized UCTC as a top performer among the programs across the U.S. and invited the core group to speak in August 2014 and again at a conference in November 2014.
- The group was invited and presented at a state-wide conference for preventing avoidable readmissions in July 2014 in Columbia, SC.

The unique strategies of ramping up the UCTC program by hiring coaches and increasing enrollment, along with development of strong relationships between the hospitals and other partners, are considered major contributors to the success of the program.



Progress Report for the CEDS 2013-2017: Building 21st Century Economic Development Capacity

The ACOG Planning Division recently completed the progress report for the region's 5-year "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy", or, as most people refer to it – *the CEDS*. ACOG updates the regional CEDS every five years and prepares annual progress reports for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). *CEDS 2013-2017* summarizes not only important regional and county-level economic data, it also emphasizes key areas of economic development including (1) Clusters, Target Industries and Innovation Capacities; (2) Workforce Development; (3) Infrastructure; (4) Available Sites and Buildings; (5) Entrepreneurship; (6) Access to Capital; and (7) Local Asset-Based Development.

The second year of CEDS 2013-2017 was a tremendous period in the SC Appalachian Region. Each of the strategy's original *Seven Areas of Emphasis* saw exciting developments and capacity expansion. The cluster-based, target industry strategy is yielding outstanding results, with over \$4 billion in capital investment (528% higher than last year); over 5,700 new jobs (177% higher than last year); and over 73 announcements since September 2013.

Other highlights for the year include the Inland Port, which opened less than a year ago and is only beginning to have its anticipated transformational impact on business logistics. In coming months, thanks to federal economic development partners, the new *Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit* will be complete—establishing a customized on-line planning tool for local communities to attract and develop local entrepreneurs. To view *CEDS 2013-2017* on-line, visit www.scacog.org/OurServices/PlanningServices.aspx. For more information, please contact David Shellhorse, Economic Development Planner, at (864) 241-4649 or dshellhorse@scacog.org.

Senior Centers of Cherokee Receives a Visit - and a Surprise - from the Lt. Governor!

South Carolina's Lt. Governor J. Yancey McGill visited Senior Centers of Cherokee County on July 22. A 26-year Senate veteran, McGill is familiar with senior programs and services. "We were excited to share and visit with Lt. Governor McGill. He was very interested in our recreational, wellness, and social activities," said executive director Amy Turner. During this visit, the governor told residents, "When I return to the State House, I am going to find money in the budget to help improve these facilities. You currently have a small television that does not enable you to see the captions at the bottom of the screen. There is no reason why this facility cannot have a 60 inch flat screen television."



On August 28, the Lt. Governor made good on his promise, and the Senior Centers of Cherokee received a 60 inch VIZIO TV and a Blue-ray DVD player! The seniors were very excited and surprised to find their new TV hanging on the wall. Senior Centers of Cherokee would like to thank Lt. Governor McGill and the Office on Aging for their support of our belief that seniors should be empowered to live with dignity, and that they should be connected in their communities and have access to programs, services and activities that promote their independence and well-being.

ARC Awards Grants for Infrastructure Improvement Projects

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) recently awarded grants to enhance economic development and infrastructure in the region.

Anderson County was awarded \$60,000 to continue environmental remediation and cleanup activities at the Gossett Street brownfield. The project involves the removal of 2,000 tons of debris from the old Toxaway mill site, thus clearing the way for the 14-acre site to be capped as prescribed by the remediation plan. The completion of this project will facilitate the conversion of unusable acreage into property available for public purposes.

The **Town of Pacolet** was recently awarded a \$31,736 grant to install a sewer line along West Main Street. This area was originally the business district for the town and fell vacant when Highway 9 was run through the town many years ago. The sewer line will allow for businesses to locate on this stretch of West Main. Currently, the Town has commitments from a hardware store/café, a consignment shop, and a personal fitness facility.

The **Town of Williamston** has received a \$66,130 grant to renovate the historic train depot into a farmers market. Their market currently meets in Mineral Spring Park on an intermittent basis. Renovating the depot will allow for indoor facilities and regular weekly markets during the growing season.



Williamston will be renovating the historic depot into a farmers market.

For additional information on these projects, or the Appalachian Regional Commission programs, call Dirk Reis or Caroline Wilson at the COG.

Sunday Afternoon with The Oaks!

On October 5, 2014 at 4:00 pm, the Oak Ridge Boys will be performing at the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium. This is a fundraising event for the Senior Centers of Spartanburg. The mission of this agency is to foster independence and allow seniors to age in place.

The agency has three senior centers located in downtown Spartanburg at the Archibald Rutledge building, Woodruff Leisure Center and the Pacolet Senior Center. The programs and services at these centers include: group dining, transportation, creative activities, volunteer activities, wellness programs, education, outreach, socialization, minor home repair, Bucket List Dreams Program, information/referral, and Shop N' Cart (a grocery delivery program). The funds from the event will allow the agency to increase services by spreading the raised funds throughout all the centers' programs and services.

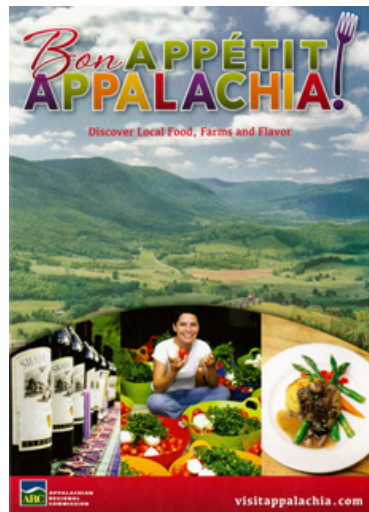
The Oak Ridge Boys have over 40 years of charted singles and 50 years of tradition with 30 Top Ten hits. Their hits include: *Elvira*, *Bobbie Sue*, *Dream On*, *Thank God for Kids*, *American made*, *I Guess It Never Hurts to Hurt Sometimes*, *Fancy Free*, *Gonna Take A Lot of River* and many more.

Please come out and support the senior services and programs of Spartanburg County On October 5 for this exciting event. For more information, please contact the Senior Centers of Spartanburg at 864-596-3910. Tickets are available thru www.Crowdpleaser.com.



ARC Launches "Bon Appétit Appalachia" Tourism Mapguide

CHARLESTON, West Virginia, July 15, 2014—The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) today announced the launch of the *Bon Appétit Appalachia* tourism mapguide at the Capitol Market in Charleston, West Virginia, in an event hosted by West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin.



Tomblin was joined by ARC Federal Co-Chair Earl F. Gohl, as well as by other federal, state, and local officials and by West Virginia food producers, in making the mapguide launch announcement.

Bon Appétit Appalachia showcases 283 of the Appalachian Region's most distinctive food destinations, including 21 in West Virginia, and is available as an insert in the summer 2014 issue of *Food Traveler Magazine*. Sites featured include local farms, farmers markets, farm-to-table restaurants, wineries, craft breweries, and other culinary destinations.

The mapguide's launch builds on ARC's efforts to promote Appalachia's local-food economy as the Region continues to grapple with declines in mining, forestry, chemical industries, and heavy industry. Supporting its growing food-systems sector is one of the important steps the Region has taken to diversify its economic base.

The growth in Appalachia's local food systems has been one of the most promising economic developments the Region has seen in decades and was the focus of a recent 13-state "Jobs and Local Food Systems" tour that Gohl undertook

with colleagues from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"West Virginia is home to an authentic and vibrant agricultural community, and it's an honor to host the national launch of the *Bon Appétit Appalachia* mapguide in the Mountain State," Tomblin said. "The diverse culinary heritage of West Virginia and the Appalachian Region provides us with a wonderful opportunity to build upon agritourism and allows us to showcase our local farms, farmers markets, and a number of other culinary destinations and events."

Gohl, drawing on his extensive travels in the Region, underscored the changing economic landscape resulting from an invigorated local-food economy: "Local food systems are growing throughout Appalachia, and their growth is making important economic contributions in rural communities. Our *Bon Appétit Appalachia* mapguide showcases a broad range of exciting destinations for tourists in the new food landscape of the Region."

In addition to being published as an insert in *Food Traveler Magazine*, the mapguide is available as a detailed interactive feature at www.visitappalachia.com.

ARC media events and educational workshops are taking place throughout the Region this summer to help local communities promote the sites featured in the mapguide.

Published in the summer 2014 issue of Food Traveler Magazine, the Bon Appétit Appalachia local-food mapguide showcases 283 of the Appalachian Region's most distinctive food destinations.

