

Appalachian Council of Governments Begins CEDS Annual Report

On August 23, 2002, the Appalachian Council of Governments' Board of Directors adopted a fully revised version of the Regional Strategic Plan for Economic Development, which serves as the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), as required by the Economic Development Administration. Projects must be identified and included within the regional economic development strategy to qualify for EDA grant funding. The plan now covers the five-year span from 2002 to 2007. In each of the interim years (2003-2006) an annual report, tracking project status, economic development activities, and necessary adjustments to the plan is required to be developed and submitted for approval.

The annual report will be a short document, readily accessible to the public and decision makers in the region, and will include the following information:

- Adjustments consistent with the overall strategy of the plan that have developed due to unforeseen opportunities or unexpected problems;
- A report on the previous year's economic development activity and any significant changes in the region's economic conditions;
- An evaluation that measures the effectiveness in meeting the goals of the strategy; and
- A schedule of achievable goals for the coming year.

To produce the Progress Report, copies of each county's project



and strategy sections will be distributed to county steering committee members. County steering committees are comprised of citizens, elected officials, and professionals involved with economic development, including infrastructure projects and initiatives related to water, sewer and transportation. The steering committee will report on the status of projects currently included in the plan, list a schedule for projects that will likely begin within the next year, and list any additional, significant economic development projects that have been identified since the plan was adopted last year. Once this information is received from the steering committees and is endorsed by each county, the full annual report for the region will be developed and submitted to the Appalachian Council of Governments' Board of Directors for approval on June 25, 2004.

The CEDS focuses on infrastructure and resource development projects that are necessary to support economic development.

Please contact Shawn Colin with the Appalachian Council of Governments with any questions.

Appalachian COG Elects New Officers

Meeting in Greenville on March 26th, the Appalachian COG elected new officers for 2004-2005.

Eddie Wynn, formerly with the Clemson University Extension Service, and a member of the COG Board since 1982, was elected Chairman. Eddie also serves as Chairman of the COG's Water Quality Advisory Committee and is a member of the Executive and Budget Committees. On the state level, he is an ACOG representative to the South Carolina Association of Regional Councils.

Marion Lyles, a retired Delta Airlines pilot from Westminster, was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors. Marion, who is a member of the Oconee County Council, was appointed to the COG Board in 2001. He has served as COG Secretary-Treasurer and as the Oconee County representative to the COG's Economic Development Information System (EDIS) Partnership.

Philip Cheney, Assistant Director of the Anderson County Public Library and a member of the Anderson City Council, was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Philip has been a COG Board member since 1997, and serves on the EDIS Partnership and the Appalachian Development Corporation Loan Review Committee.

Congratulations to these public service-oriented individuals on their election and new responsibilities.



William D. Workman III Receives John D. Whisman Award

William D. Workman III, former Mayor of Greenville, South Carolina, was the 2004 recipient of the John D. Whisman "Vision" Award presented by the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) at its annual conference in Arlington, Virginia. His nomination for the award was prepared by the Appalachian Council of Governments.

Over 300 local development officials representing 72 economic planning and development districts in Appalachia attended the conference.

The DDAA presents the John D. Whisman "Vision" Award each year to an individual who has provided exemplary service and leadership in Appalachia and demonstrated a commitment to the ideals of state and federal cooperation.

In addition to serving as Mayor of Greenville from 1983 to 1995, Workman served as the Executive Assistant to S. C. Governor James B. Edwards and acted as the Governor's Alternate to the Appalachian Regional Commission during the mid-1970s. During this period, he was instrumental in setting up regional health districts, both in the Appalachian region of South Carolina and throughout the state. He served as vice-chairman and chairman of the S. C. Appalachian Health Council from 1972 through 1975. In his position as advisor to Governor Edwards, he was also very supportive of the state's regional councils as those organizations sought to increase their sphere of influence by participating in the growing number of federal categorical grant programs. Workman was honored for the "significant and valuable contributions that you have made as a champion for regional planning and development throughout your exemplary career." The award cited him for "strong leadership and vision as the Mayor of Greenville ... the ongoing commitment and dedication that you have provided in both the public and private sectors has truly had a



Photo by Linda Spillers/Courtesy of ARC

positive and meaningful impact in support of the Appalachian region and its people."

Established in 1976 by the executive directors of Appalachia's local development districts, the DDAA provides professional and technical training opportunities for local economic development officials and community leaders, directs an annual "Best Practices" conference, and promotes improved communication and quality of service throughout the Appalachian region.

City of Westminster Awarded \$1.6 Million

The City of Westminster has been awarded \$1.6 million to undertake water system improvements. The funds include \$1,000,000 from the U. S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA) and \$600,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The project involves improvements to the Westminster Commission of Public Works (CPW) water treatment plant to include a new 20 million-gallon pre-settling basin, a new disinfection system, and other upgrades. The project will also involve the construction of a 500,000-gallon elevated storage tank in the vicinity of U.S. Highway 123 and

S.C. Highway 11 to accommodate industrial growth in the area. The project is estimated to cost a total of \$2 million.

The increased water capacity and reliability will benefit the entire population of Westminster and also the customers of Pioneer Water District, which purchases water from Westminster CPW. Several industries in the area have indicated that they plan to expand their operations due in part to the new water tank, which will provide adequate water supply for fire protection needs.

The ACOG staff assisted Westminster in preparing the ARC and EDA applications and will administer the project for the City.

Needs Assessment of Aging Services Underway

Surveys have been distributed throughout the region to give individuals an opportunity to speak out about services needed for older adults in their community. The survey distribution targets community leaders and individuals either using services or in need of services. Information gained from surveys, in conjunction with other demographic information and resources, will be utilized in an area plan being developed by the Appalachian Area Agency on Aging for the Office on Aging in the Department of Health and Human Services. Citizen input is vital for policy makers to gain a better understanding of issues facing senior citizens and their caregivers in South Carolina.

If you would like to complete a survey, please contact Beverly Allen at 242-9733. You can also visit the COG's website, www.scacog.org, go to Aging/Workforce page, and click on senior services survey to complete and return the survey. The finalized plan should be available in May for review and comments.

WIA 2003 Outstanding Program Participant Named

The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board named Amanda Stansell as the recipient of the 2003 Pendleton District Outstanding Workforce Investment Board Program Participant.

Here is just a short version of her wonderful success story. When Amanda was enrolled in WIA, she was living in subsidized housing, drawing



unemployment benefits, receiving food stamps, and she did not have a driver's license. She describes her life before WIA as a "no-win" situation. She had been laid off and was existing on unemployment insurance benefits and food stamps. She depended on her mother or others to take her to work or anywhere else she needed to go. She had no transferable work skills or any training to make her marketable in tough economic times.

During a visit to the Liberty One-Stop Workforce Center she was introduced to Gaynelle Harrison, a WIA Intensive Services Case Manager. She became a participant in the WIA program. While receiving Intensive Services, Amanda and Gaynelle determined Amanda needed skills training and that certified nursing assistant training would be appropriate. She already had a desire to help people and was comfortable in the health care environment. She enrolled in certified nursing assistant training.

During training, she was still dependent on others for transportation. Her case manager continued to encourage her to get her driver's license. It

only took three days of study and driving practice for her to successfully pass the exam. Amanda now has a new found sense of freedom and independence. She now helps transport others as a way of paying back what was done for her.

Amanda completed training and is now a certified nursing assistant at Countryside Village in Easley. She is working at a job she "thoroughly enjoys" and at a place she "truly loves." Her success is the result of hard work and determination on her part. She is thrilled to work in an environment in which she feels she makes a difference. She says, "It is almost not working when you get paid to do something you enjoy doing." She feels optimistic that her life is on the right track and that she is in control of her destiny.

Congratulations to Amanda Stansell!

The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board Outstanding Participant Award is presented annually to an individual in recognition of outstanding participation in the WIA programs. Ms. Stansell was recognized at the March 18, 2004, Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board meeting and was presented a plaque.

South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association Meeting — ACOG Sexual Harassment Briefing



At the March 2004 South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association Continuing Education Seminar

in Columbia, nearly 200 judges and court staff attended educational sessions on Criminal Domestic Violence Law, Protection and Restraining Orders, Criminal Domestic Violence Court, Victim's Bill of Rights, and Sexual Harassment.

Appalachian COG Training Coordinator Donna Kazia conducted a session on Sexual Harassment. Donna discussed acceptable standards of work behavior, made suggestions as to how to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace, and advised attendees on how to conduct an investigation into alleged sexual harassment. Seminar attendees were informed that in most cases offenders are unaware that their behavior is unwelcome and could result in a claim of sexual harassment filed against them. Donna also reminded judges and staff that if the comments, jokes, or physical contact would offend their mothers, wives, sisters, or daughters, then it should not be occurring in the workplace.

Local governments needing a training class on Sexual Harassment may contact Donna Kazia at the Appalachian COG.

Cherokee County Updates Its Emergency Operations Plan



Since last year, the Appalachian Council of Governments has been assisting Cherokee in a major update of its Emergency Operations

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The Family Caregiver Support Program

A Welcome Addition to the Family Caregiver Support Program Staff – Sam Wiley, Jr. joined the Family Caregiver Support Program staff in February 2004. Mr. Wiley is a graduate of Clemson University, having majored in Psychology and minored in Sociology. He comes to the ACOG having had extensive experience in working as an Information and Referral Specialist and Case Manager for SENIOR Solutions in Anderson County. He subsequently moved on to work with the Department of Social Services in the capacity of an Adult Protective Services Caseworker. His hands-on experience in our region has proven to be invaluable in helping him to deal with his daily caseload. His patience and understanding with the clients are wonderful assets. Welcome aboard!

The Database is Born! After quite a long planning, programming, and piloting period of nearly three years, the Caregiver database has officially been "birthed." The differences in operating day-to-day with an accessible system such as this are phenomenal. To be able to look up details on individuals while never leaving your seat or placing a caller on hold is just wonderful. The speed at which cases can be handled is greatly increased, as well as the efficiency in the tracking of resources. Many thanks go to Mary Poole, who worked tirelessly to feed the information into the database in order to generate the needed reports to the State and Federal officials in January 2004. Jeremy Newton was also instrumental in feeding data to expedite the process of making this database viable as a tool.

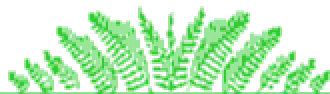
A Daily Sense of Fulfillment ... that is what keeps the members of the Family Caregiver Support Program coming in to work each day. Pauline West, Sam Wiley and Debra Brown work as a team to contact and help as many people as possible in the six-county Upstate area.

If you are aware of caregivers who might be in need of our services, please encourage them to fax or call our



office through any of the local county lines or through the 800 number provided below:

Anderson	225-3268
Cherokee	489-6960
Greenville	242-9733
Oconee	882-7538
Pickens	855-0163
Spartanburg	582-1403
Toll Free	1-800-925-4077
Fax	864-242-6957



Development Corporation News

A loan to Innovative Palmetto Quilting was closed and funded in the amount of \$200,000. ADC funds were combined with funds from Arthur State Bank and the seller's funding to allow this operation in Woodruff to open. The company will employ over 50 people within the next few months.

An ADC loan to Tewell Industries, Inc., was closed and funded in the amount of \$200,000. An additional SBA 504 loan was also closed with funding to take place shortly. These funds, along with primary financing

from Carolina First, will allow Tewell Industries to acquire the necessary assets to fabricate and install cabinets in residential and commercial projects. The company will employ over 30 people.

The ADC Board has approved a \$90,000 loan to Downtown Dimensions, a new spa locating in Easley. The ADC funds are combined with funds from BankAmerica to purchase and renovate a building, equip it, and open. It is expected that the loan will close soon and the business should open in the second quarter of 2004. Eight or more employees/contractors are expected to work at this location.

A loan of \$55,000 was approved by the ADC Board for Harvest Grain Bakery. The ADC funds are being combined with funds from BB&T of South Carolina to allow the principals to equip and establish a whole grain bakery on Woodruff Road in the Simpsonville area of Greenville County. It is expected that four to six employees will be hired to staff the operation.

A loan of \$150,000 was approved by the ADC Board to allow a current borrower, Brightwater Digital, to acquire the building it has been leasing. The owner has designed and finished the building as a recording and production studio. The business currently employs and leases space to seven people.

A loan in the amount of \$800,000 to North American Heritage, d/b/a Beacon Blankets, of Westminster was funded through the ADC's SBA 504 program, allowing this manufacturer to continue to grow at its site in Oconee County. The company is up to 50 employees and is producing blankets for a variety of customers.

Did You Know?

Campbell's Covered Bridge, one of South Carolina's historic sites of interest, was built in 1909. This landmark was restored in 1964 and was actually relocated to its present home!

Compatibility Between Roommates is Important for Successful LTC Adaptation



It makes a great deal of difference who long term care (LTC) residents have as their roommates. In her book, *Caring for the Psycho Geriatric Client*, Priscilla Ebersole states that the influence that residents have on each other may have a significant impact on each resident's adaptation and the overall effects of the environment. Many times, insufficient consideration is given to the roommate selection process. Most of us wouldn't consider living with someone we hadn't chosen, yet we quite unthinkingly expect our elders, who may be even more established in their own particular lifestyles, to become accustomed, without resistance, to living with strangers.

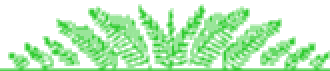
It's possible that the common problems roommates often complain about, such as decisions about heat or cold, whether windows should be opened or closed, one roommate using the other person's things, playing the radio or television at all hours, and constant chattering, are only superficial indicators of deeper feelings of intrusiveness, lack of privacy, and individual consideration. These issues aren't really that different from those any of us may experience with significant others.

When we are allowed little space or time to ourselves, we may complain about minor issues rather than addressing larger ones. Even when given careful consideration, the problems of having a roommate may emerge. It is probably a good idea to establish certain rules of conduct for roommates before such problems arise and to exercise great care in roommate selection.

Some of the factors to consider in the roommate selection process include pairing up those of similar age

and abilities; having a discussion with each individual prior to assigning them a roommate, which focuses on specific lifestyle issues significant to each person; identifying mutual assistance they may provide for each other; and determining times when each person will be able to have some privacy.

*Information retrieved from:
Monthly Mini-Lessons in Care of the
Aging, December 2003.*



(EOP continued from page 3)

Plan (EOP). The EOP is the county's step-by-step guide for dealing with a large number of manmade and natural disasters ranging from tornadoes to terrorism. The plan also contains inventories of assets, facilities, communications, contact lists and contingencies for coordinating with numerous other state and local agencies during a major emergency.

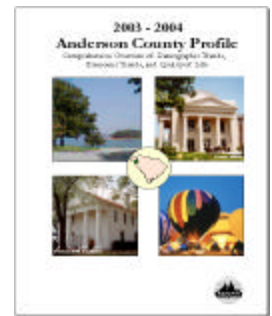
The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) recently directed South Carolina counties to update and expand their emergency plans. Longtime ACOG staff member George McDaniel has worked closely with Cherokee County Emergency Management Director John Brasington during the past few months to complete this important task. Funding for this project was provided through a grant from SCEMD. The plan update has been completed and the final document has been sent to the state for approval. Questions regarding EOP updates may be directed to George McDaniel at the Appalachian COG.

2003-2004 County Profiles Now Available Online!

Persons in search of comprehensive socio-economic data, charts and maps may now access the newly-released 2003-2004 *County Profiles* at any time of day, from the convenience of their personal computers! The Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) Information Services Department now offers online purchase of these and other publications. Upon secure payment through *Pay Pal*, the customer may download a full-color report, complete with data tables, charts, graphs, and maps. The online publications are available in a portable document format, so the customer can easily open the report upon downloading a free copy of the document viewer. Pre-printed reports may still be purchased from the ACOG by phone, mail, or walk-in.

The *County Profiles* provide an overview of the demographic, economic, and quality of life characteristics of each county in the region. The Appalachian Council of Governments researches and produces these publications annually for Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg Counties. The 2003-2004 editions are filled with new and updated information from agencies such as the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, S.C. Employment Security Commission, and the State Data Center. Even the covers characterize the unique qualities of each county with a montage of carefully selected color photographs.

For more information, or to purchase a new *County Profile*, visit our website at www.scacog.org, or contact the Information Services Department.



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