



MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019 – 10:30 A.M.
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Members Present:

Ernest Riley, Rep. Ann Thayer, Cindy Wilson, Mack Durham, Ted Mattison, Dennis Claramunt, Henry Jolly, Ed Elliott, Lyman Dawkins III, Joe Dill, Lillian Brock-Fleming, Don Godbey, Grady Butler, Rep. Mike Burns, Rep. Mike Forrester, Jane Hall, Michael Fowler, Elbert Tillerson Sr., Dana Moore, Bob Winchester, John Elliott, Rep. Neal Collins, Roy Costner III, Ensley Feemster

Guests Present:

Ms. Brandi Simmons, Michele Grecco, Curtis Reece, and Kevin Walker | Opioids Epidemic – Phoenix Center; Angie Omer | Senator Lindsey Graham’s Office; Mr. Joel Dill; Mr. Daniel Gamble

Staff Present:

Steve Pelissier, Brooke Ferguson, Chip Bentley, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer, Tim Womack, Lance Estep, Denise Ernul

Chairman Joe Dill called the meeting to order. Invocation lead by board member Elbert Tillerson. Steve Pelissier welcomed all guest and presenters, to include two new board members (Mr. John Elliott – Oconee County Council and Mr. Lyman Dawkins III – Cherokee County Council). Then after a motion to adopt December 07, 2018 meeting minutes was approved unanimously by the board.

Financial Statements

For review, SC Appalachian Council of Governments’ Revenue and Expenditure Report for the 2019 Fiscal Year to month end (July 1, 2018-December 31, 2018) are in the Board Packet.

The Opioid Epidemic in South Carolina and the Upstate: Part 2

Ms. Brandi Simmons, Public Education Coordinator | bsimmons@phoenixcenter.org | 864.467.3927

Ms. Michele Grecco, Child Abuse Prevention Director, GHS, | mgreco@ghs.org | 864.455.1408

Mr. Curtis Reece, Manager of Prevention Services | creece@phoenixcenter.org | 864.467.3790

Phoenix Center – 1400 Cleveland St., Greenville, SC 29607

Ph. 864.467.3790 | E-Mail <http://www.phoenixcenter.org/contact-us.php>

Ms. Simmons, Ms. Grecco, and Mr. Reece from Phoenix Center addressed prevention initiatives, youth outreach, regulations, and enforcement efforts as this session follows up the presentation from the October Board meeting when Dr. Kevin Walker spoke.

- The Phoenix Center is a non-profit agency, legislated as the authority on substance abuse in Greenville County by South Carolina Act 301. With over 35 years of experience, this center is the county's largest provider of substance abuse services. Because they believe that substance use disorders are both preventable and treatable, they offer an extensive range of services to meet the ever-changing needs of our community, to include services for young children and adolescents.
- The direct and indirect use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs have affected the youth of our community. In Greenville County, 17% of adolescents have a need for substance abuse treatment for addiction. Adolescents try alcohol, tobacco and other drugs for many reasons. They may be doing what other family members do. They may be trying to impress friends. They may be curious and seeking thrills or they may be trying to dull the pain of their lives. Whatever the reason, it is dangerous behavior and the child is at risk of developing a pattern of substance abuse or addiction. Research proves that the earlier the intervention, the better the prognosis.
 - Phoenix Center Programs for Children & Adolescents with substance use disorders include:
 - Adolescent Outpatient
 - Adolescent Residential (White Horse Academy)
 - Program for Infants and Children (PIC)
 - Drug Screening
 - Youth Board
 - Can you recognize a Drug Environment...
 - Doesn't discriminate age, gender, or income levels
 - Can be found in any neighborhood: regarding of home value
 - Can be acquired anywhere: from gas stations to hotels, doctor's offices, etc.
 - Can be prescribed a physician or sold by any individuals
 - What drugs are children exposed to...
 - Prescribed medications, alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs found in the home or disposed of incorrectly
 - Born with harmful substance in their system derived through utero
 - Heroin, Marijuana and its subparts, Opioids, Fentanyl, Street Drugs, and other synthetics derivative, including cocktails of many at one time.
 - Who is a drug endangered child...
 - Children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation or distribution
 - They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe nurturing

- Drug exposure can occur...
 - when a child touches surfaces with drugs on them
 - is in the room/environment when drugs are smoked or cooked
 - through inhalation or ingestion
 - through prenatal exposure
- Opioid Statistics
 - In the U.S.
 - In 2017 the U.S. consumed 99% of the worlds Opioids (Washington Post)
 - In the U.S. the majority of drug overdose deaths (66%) involve an opioid (CDC 2018)
 - On average, 130 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose. (CDC 2018)
 - 8.7M children (12.5% in US) live in a household with at least one parent who had a substance use problem within past year (SAMHSA, 2017)
 - Opioids can affect your brain and cause dependency in just 3 days (Justplainkillers.org)
 - In S.C.
 - In 2016 in SC: 550 residents died from opioid-related drug overdose 512 deaths in 2015, 464 in 2014 (SC DHEC)
 - In 2016, nearly 5 million opioid prescriptions were dispensed in SC for a population of 4,961,119 (57,337 births) (SC DHEC)
 - In 2016 SC EMS administered Naloxone 6400, 4600 times in 2015 (SC DHEC)
 - In 2016, 3,752 SC Children were placed in foster care, 15% were infants, in 17% of cases parental substance use was a factor (AAP 2018, aap.org/OpioidFactsheets)
- More legislation needed for prevention, outreach, and substance/addiction services
- Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) provides real-time overdose surveillance data across jurisdictions to support public safety and health efforts to mobilize an immediate response to an overdose spike. It links first responders on scene to a mapping tool to track overdoses to stimulate real-time response and strategic analysis across jurisdictions. It is a mobile tool, capable of being used in the field on any mobile device or data terminal connected to an agency CAD system. Agencies sign a teaming agreement and have the ability to upload data and view the map in real time; the general public does not have access to this system.
 - Acquiring real-time data and collection process will assist with communicating, detecting and targeting services for high traffic areas. Benefits to acquiring such a program in our area:
 - Provide real-time data
 - Link public health and safety entities
 - Cross jurisdictional information sharing
 - Promote evidence based solutions
 - Keep it simple
- Why does this matter...
 - Opioid abuse is the deadliest drug epidemic in our country's history, and is killing thousands of people every year. For every person directly affected, there are often even more children who are caught in the crossfire.
 - "It is not IF something happens, it is WHEN something happens"- 17 yr. old high school student

Request for Special Distressed Area Designation in Accordance with the recently amended SC Textile Communities Revitalization Act

Mr. Don Godbey, Chair, Regional Economic Development Committee and Ms. Brooke Ferguson, Economic Development Director

Ms. Ferguson discussed the particulars for the first request received under the amended SC Textile Communities Revitalization Act.

- The Central Mills Project requested this designation to acquire tax credits under this act for Pickens County tax map numbers 4065-13-14-8286 and 4065-09-15-5545. Maps shown during presentation represent adjacent areas fall in line with designation, however the economic committee had to look at a broader perspective of the property to ensure all criteria's were met, despite properties proximities to other four distressed areas.
 - This specific area lacked demographical data to adjacent designated distressed areas. However, information comprised in Economic Committee meeting were summarized regarding committee approval.
 - 1 mile radius is 43% of the median national household income.
 - Less than 1 mile, 50% of household income make less than \$25K annually.
 - 51% of the national per capita income
 - In close proximity to Opportunity Zone but not close enough
 - Met amended designation criteria

Regional Economic Committee Chair, Mr. Godbey motioned to approve the Central Mills Project, as identified by the tax map numbers 4065-13-14-8286 and 4065-09-15-5545 was approved by committee for Special Distressed Area Designation in Accordance with the recently amended SC Textile Communities Revitalization Act and approved unanimously by the Board.

Appalachian Region 2018-2019 Aging Services Needs Assessment

Mr. Tim Womack, Aging Director

Due to time constraints, Mr. Tim Womack accepted request by Board Chairman, Joe Dill, to move this session to February's meeting agenda.

Election of Board Officers to Serve for the April, 2019 – March, 2020 Term

Mr. Dennis Claramunt, Board Officer Nominating Committee Chair

Mr. Claramunt discussed the Board Officer Nominating Committee's motioned to re-elected the current officers for a second term. Approved unanimously, Chair Joe Dill, Vice Chair Mike Forrester, and Treasurer Henry Jolly serve a second term with no further nominations.

South Carolina 2019 Legislative Preview

Ms. Brooke Ferguson, Economic Development Director

Ms. Ferguson previewed potential legislation to be addressed during the 2019 session of the South Carolina General Assembly, with emphasis on items of interest to local governments.

- The two year session will focus on 4 key priorities: Education Reform, MASC, SCAC, and the Upstate Chamber Coalition.

- #1 Priority – Education Reform
 - districts with dire needs
 - consolidating small districts
 - decreasing non-teaching demands on teachers
 - increasing teacher pay
- MASC Priorities
 - districts with dire needs
 - consolidating small districts
 - decreasing non-teaching demands on teachers
 - increasing teacher pay
- SCAC Priorities
 - Local government fund
 - Nuisance properties
 - Transportation and infrastructure
- Upstate Chamber Coalition Legislative Priorities
 - Education and workforce
 - State retirement system
 - Infrastructure
 - Taxes and regulation
 - Energy

Ms. Ferguson advised members to contact her for any other items that they would like for her to listen out for during her attendance of the South Carolina General Assembly.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Steve Pelissier, Executive Director, concluded the meeting with important information on various topics.

- Mr. Pelissier motioned to offer the other Regional Member seat to Mr. Francis Crowder was seconded and ratified by the Board unanimously.
- Effects of the partial government shutdown: had no apparent disruption due to most major function of the organization, however EDA grants were affected due to furloughs in that agency waiting to be processed (specifically grants for Oconee County).
- COG had committed funds to assist with our meals program since monies appropriated were exhausted as deemed. Due to changes in federal regulations, the Lieutenant Governor's Office as of December, now named SC Dept. of Aging, need help to spend a surplus of monies offered quickly, which the COG rendered their service to oblige. More details to come to alleviate the need to shift in funds for the COG.

The next Board Meeting will be at 10:30 am on February 22, 2018.

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

Mr. Joe Dill, Chairman

The South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments has complied with the Freedom of Information Act in scheduling and conducting this meeting