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## MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019 – 10:30 A.M.  
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

**Members Present:**

Francis Crowder, Ernest Riley, Rep. Ann Thayer, Mack Durham, Dennis Claramunt, Ray Graham, Ed Elliott, David Cauthen, Willis Meadows, Butch Kirven, Joe Dill, Lillian Brock Flemming, Don Godbey, Ennis Fant Sr., Rep. Mike Burns, Rep. Mike Forrester, Jane Hall, Roger Nutt, Michael Fowler, Elbert Tillerson Sr., Larry Chappell, Jack Mabry, Manning Lynch, Dana Moore, Bob Winchester, Ensley Feemster, Margaret Thompson

**Guests Present:**

Ms. Elizabeth M. Smith | SC Small Business Development Centers; Ms. Susan Cyr | Silver Hair Legislature; Ms. Rochelle Garrett | AECOM Engineers; Mr. Joel Dill; Mr. Daniel Gamble

**Staff Present:**

Steve Pelissier, Brooke Ferguson, Chip Bentley, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer, Tim Womack, Bryana Mistretta, Denise Ernul, Lance Estep, Mia Fuller, Beth Lewis

Chairman Joe Dill called the meeting to order. Invocation lead by board member Elbert Tillerson, Sr. Steve Pelissier welcomed all guests and presenters. Then after, a motion to adopt January 25, 2019 meeting minutes was approved unanimously by the board.

**Financials: January 31, 2019**

No action taken on review on information of the Financial Statements.

**Anniversary Milestone Recognition of ACOG Staff Members**

Joe Dill, Board Chairman and Steve Pelissier, Executive Director – SC ACOG Board

The Board recognized three of the six staff members reaching anniversary milestones at the COG. Three other staff members were unable to attend but will be receiving recognition at the next staff meeting.

> Anniversary Milestones Chart

20 Years	10 Years	5 Years
Beth Lewis Mia Fuller	Kim Bridges	Lance Estep

**Overview of Services Provided by South Carolina Small Business Development Centers**

Elizabeth W Smith, Spartanburg Area Manager & Consultant - SBDC  
 Spartanburg Community College - Tyger River Campus  
 1875 East Main Street – Suite 4, Duncan, SC 29334  
 (864) 592-6318 | ES2@clemson.edu

The mission of the SBDC is to advance South Carolina’s economic development by helping entrepreneurs grow successful businesses. The organization offers a variety of services and training programs to accomplish this purpose. Ms. Smith provided an overview of SBDC activities.

- > Economic development organization providing business management assistance to small businesses
  - Operate under SBA and ASBDC national accreditation standards
  - 1 Lead Center with 20 locations in urban & rural South Carolina
  - A team of 35 professionals who provide:
    - Referrals & joint services with service partners
    - Educational workshops and seminars
    - Tools, resources and information
    - Individual, private consulting sessions – no cost
  - Serving a variety of the population...44% women, 46% minorities, 20% veterans in South Carolina (2018) in several areas of business
  - Small businesses throughout S.C.
    - Established businesses
    - Entrepreneurs starting new businesses
    - All industry segments
- > Consulting Areas and Additional Specialty Services
  - Strategic Planning and Organizational Effectiveness
  - Business Planning & Market Strategy Operations

- > Internal Financial Management
- > Supplier Development
- > HR Systems & Compliance
- > Marketing/Sales, Websites, Social Media
- Access to Capital (lenders, angels, VC)
- Export Assistance (targets, networking)
- Government Contracting (site registration, bids)
- Technology Commercialization
- Specialty Services
  - > Global Supply Chain (logistics, software)
  - > Guidance on developing and taking new products to market
  - > Basic Quality processes, metrics, SPC tools
  - > Market/Product Diversification plans/fit with core business
  - > Certifications (WOSB, VOSB, etc)

### **Appalachian Region 2018-2019 Aging Services Needs Assessment**

Mr. Tim Womack, Aging Director, Appalachian Area on Aging - SC ACOG  
30 Century Circle, Greenville, SC 29607  
(864) 242-9733 | [twomack@scacog.org](mailto:twomack@scacog.org)

A link to the report is available on the home page of the ACOG website at [www.scacog.org](http://www.scacog.org). To request a printed copy, please contact Denise Ernul at [dernul@scacog.org](mailto:dernul@scacog.org), or by phone at (864) 242-9733.

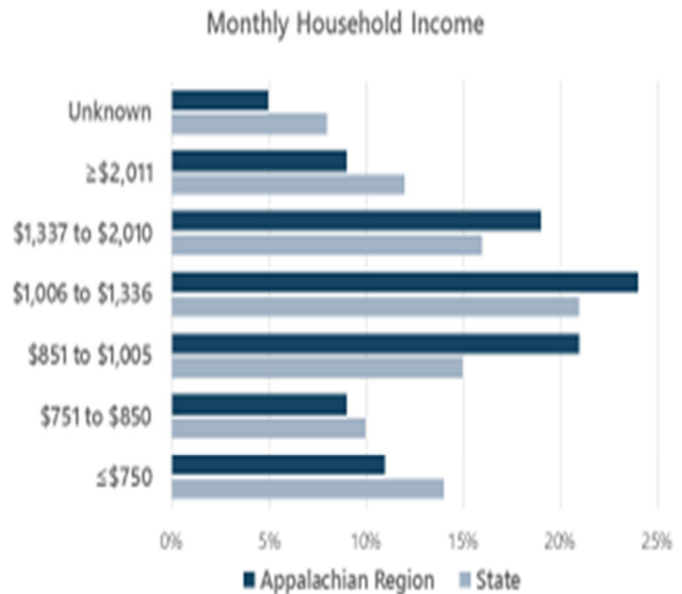
AAAs (Area Agencies on Aging) are required by federal law to develop a needs assessment that is used to target services in a manner that most effectively serves the elderly population of the region. Mr. Womack presented findings from the recently completed 2018-2019 report.

- > Entered over 1000 completed assessment forms
- > The goal of the Needs Assessment is to determine the service needs at the state and regional levels for seniors 60 or older

## 2018 Needs Assessment

The goal of the Needs Assessment is to determine the service needs at the state and regional levels for seniors 60 or older.

Seniors Surveyed			
Area	Total	Female	Male
Statewide	8,608	73%	22%
Appalachian Region	1,408	74%	25%



### > Top Needs

#### Statewide

1. Yard Work (41%)
2. Concerned about falling (27%)
3. Housework (27%)
4. Transportation (22%)
5. Paying Bills (21%)
6. Laundry (20%)
7. Need to Exercise (20%)

#### Appalachian Region

- Yard Work (37%)
- Housework (27%)
- Concerned about falls (26%)
- Transportation (21%)
- Laundry (21%)
- Isolation (18%)
- Grocery Shopping/Cooking (17%)

> Concerns of Independence

Statewide	Appalachian Region
1. Dental Care (28%)	Physical Health (26%)
2. Home Repair (28%)	Dental Care (20%)
3. Physical Health (26%)	Home Repair (18%)
4. Bills (25%)	Bills (17%)
5. Eyeglasses (22%)	Can't Afford Nursing Care (14%)
6. Can't Afford Nursing Care (21%)	Eyeglasses (13%)
7. Hearing Aids (16%)	Mail/Paperwork (12%)
8. Weatherization (15%)	Hearing Aids (12%)
9. Can't Afford Prescriptions (14%)	Family Issues (10%)
10. Mail/Paperwork (14%)	Insurance Premiums (9%)

**Update on the Aging Services 2019 RFP Process**

Mr. Steve Pelissier, Executive Director, Mr. Tim Womack, Aging Director, SC ACOG  
 30 Century Circle, Greenville, SC 29607  
 (864) 242-9733 | [pelissier@scacog.org](mailto:pelissier@scacog.org), [twomack@scacog.org](mailto:twomack@scacog.org)

ACOG is currently administering a procurement process for aging services. In April, the Regional Aging Advisory Committee will forward recommendations to the Board for the selection of service providers. The initial contract period will be July, 2019 through June, 2020 to provide services to over 4000 seniors currently served; however, ACOG has the option of extending contracts for up to three additional years.

- > Procured Services to growing senior population
  - Group Dining
  - Health Promotion
  - Home Delivered Meals
  - Home Care
  - Minor Home Repair
  - Transportation–Group Dining
  - Transportation–Non-Emergency Medical and Essential Shopping.
- > The deadline for submitting proposals was February 13, 2019. Mr. Womack provided an update on the process, and reported on the names of organizations that submitted proposals.
- > Challenges of some areas are limited to or does not having a dedicated senior center to promote or provide services; collaborative efforts with other agencies to assist with challenges.

- > Elaborated on being neutral in the voting process when rendering decisions on the RFP. Board Members should avoid writing recommendation letters when asked, to avoid conflicts of interest in staying impartial.

### South Carolina 2019 Legislative Update

Ms. Brooke Ferguson, Economic Development Director, SC ACOG  
30 Century Circle, Greenville, SC 29607  
(864) 242-9733 | [bferguson@scacog.org](mailto:bferguson@scacog.org)

Ms. Ferguson discussed pending legislation from the 2019 session of the South Carolina General Assembly, with emphasis on items of interest to local governments– Most in Committee Review

- > H.3759 - Education Reform
  - New teacher salaries would increase to \$35,000
  - Pay raises for other teachers
  - Strengthen the “Read to Succeed” law (end social promotion for 3rd graders w/o grade-level reading skills and provide help for students struggling in K-2)
  - Teacher “bill of rights”
  - Four statewide tests would be eliminated, saving an estimated \$3.1 million and giving teachers more time for classroom instruction.
  - A “Zero to 20” committee would be created to monitor and recommend ways to modernize the state's education system with a focus on students and teachers.
  - Small and poorly performing school districts would be consolidated with other districts.
- > Torts Claims Act Changes
  - S7
    - > Existing caps on damages increase from \$300,000 to \$1 million per individual, from \$600,000 to \$2 million per occurrence. (333 percent increase in the existing caps.)
    - > Caps are both indexed to increases to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Current fiscal impact statement on the bill predicts a \$40 million dollar increase in premiums charged by the Insurance Reserve Fund. The actual fiscal impact will be much higher when all entities not insured by the IRF are taken into account.
  - S386
    - > Would allow multiple occurrences to arise out of a single event. This could lead to potential “stacking” of the caps when an injured party argues that multiple occurrences caused the event that caused their injury.

- > Allows for third party claimants to bring a bad faith claim against an insurer. Amends the exceptions section by removing one exception and creating new standards for other exceptions.
- Solar Energy (H.3659, S.332)
  - > If the sun ever comes back out to actually allow the production of solar energy and this bill is approved, it would:
    - Require the Public Service Commission to initiate a new proceeding to review and approve rates and terms provided to large-scale solar facilities, streamlining the process and ensuring contract terms are reasonable for such projects;
    - Allow large energy consumers, such as industrial manufacturers, to negotiate directly with a renewable energy supplier to more easily realize savings from solar;
    - Eliminate the net metering caps and extend the existing residential solar rates for two years until the Public Service Commission determines a successor program;
    - Provide for more transparency and competition in long-term utility generation planning;
    - Establish a neighborhood community solar program designed to expand solar access to low-income customers.

### Executive Director's Report

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

- > Reminded attendees of March NADO conference to ensure all has information from Denise Ernul, Office Manager
- > Passed on appreciation from Mayor Henry Jolly for the thoughts and prayers during him & his family's time of bereavement and values being a part of this board.
- > Steps of the FY 2020 Budget Process
  - Personnel Committee meeting at 9:30 am on March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Mr. Riley, Rep. Thayer, Mayor Jolly, Mayor White, Mayor Hamadan, Mr. Winchester, Mr. Costner
  - Finance Committee meeting in April
  - April is also the time to express desires for committee assignments, change, or to discontinue assignment
- > Board Officers meeting immediately following the board meeting in the training room  
Ms. Hall, Mr. Dill, Mr. Forrester, Mr. Claramunt



**The next Board Meeting will be at 10:30 am on March 22, 2019. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.**

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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