**MINUTES**

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARDROOM

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

### Members Present:

### Barbara Jardno, Beth Grant, Charles Pinson, Dorothy Manning, Edna Pitts-Reid, Glenda Manigault, J.T. Boseman, Mae Frances Sarratt, Pat Grate, Steve Luck

### Members Absentee:

### Bob Briggs, Britt Gillespie, Jane Hall, Joe Dill, Judy Caywood

### Guests Present:

Catriona Carlisle, Nichola Bricco, Christina Gebbia, Lillian Brock Flemming, Jack Hinson

### Staff Present:

Shelly Mitchell, Dani Vankirk, Jessica Winters, Terry Mendola, Pam Anderson, Amanda Mlinar

The meeting was called to order at 10:33am by Mrs. Mitchell and an invocation was offered by Mr. Boseman. Prior minutes from August 23, 2023, were approved by Mr. Pinson and a second by Mr. Luck. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Recognition of Guests: Shelly Mitchell, recognized and welcomed:

Jack Hinson with Claris Health Care presented an innovative program to assist in socialization of home bound seniors. Utilizing a tablet programmed with specific abilities tailored to a client’s individual needs and technology comfort, enables seniors to stay connected with others. Catriona Carlisle and Nichola Bricco presented how effective and engaging the tablets have been with Greenville Meals on Wheels clients.

### Family Caregiver Program Update:Amanda Mlinar, presented:

### November is National Family Caregiver month. We will have the following 2 events to recognize our family caregivers: goodie bags will be hand delivered by the staff to 150 recipients and we have partnered with Bon Secours to host a free event on November 3rd at Senior Action. Currently, there are 50 registered to attend the event in Greenville.

### Ombudsman Program Update:Jessica Winters, presented:

### During our first quarter:

* 78 cases opened
* 73 cases closed
* 330 friendly visits (we currently have 30 volunteers)
* 302 consultations
* 6 in-service training sessions

October is resident’s rights month so we will be focusing on educating the residents living in a facility of their rights.

The Ombudsman Winter Wishes Project is underway. This initiative adopts 1-2 low-income facilities to provide gifts to their residents for Christmas. Each resident will identify a few items they would like or need that will be provided for by the person adopting that senior. In addition, everyone gets toiletry items, a snack bag, a blanket, socks, hat, gloves, and other goodies provided by monetary donations we receive. Last year, we focused on a facility in Spartanburg, this year we chose a facility in Oconee. We rotate this program throughout the region each year.

### Home Care Program Update:Terry Mendola, presented:

We currently contract with 8 service providers that provide home care and personal services. Home Care clients receive 3 hours of service bi-weekly while Personal Care clients receive 2 hours of service twice a week. We currently have 196 clients after being able to add 36 clients off the wait list. Currently, 338 clients are on the wait list for the region.

### I&RA and Assessment Program Update:Pam Anderson, presented:

### We have been able to move many clients off the wait list since receiving our state funding allocations in July. Here is where we are for each service we offer:

* 338 – home care & personal care
* 180 – lawn care (5 counties)
* 35 – transportation
* 120 – minor home repair (5 counties)

We have 3 assessors on staff and look to add an additional staff member in January.

### Nutrition Update:Dani Vankirk, presented:

We have opened Honea Path’s Senior Center in Anderson County. Over 100 people attended the Grand Opening with 30 people attending this center on a regular basis. We have 24 senior centers open: 9 in Spartanburg, 1 in Cherokee, 2 in Pickens, 4 in Anderson, 6 in Greenville, and 2 in Oconee.

### Finance Update:Shelly Mitchell, presented:

We will be going out for procurement for all services in all counties. The packets will be posted on the website in December with bids being due in February 2024.

We are on schedule with spending our Federal funding and will shift to utilizing our State funds that were allocated in July. With the “clawback” we received additional State funding that has been allocated in the areas of greatest need.

Connie is working on her budget presentations to ACL. In years past, we haven’t been able to ask for additional funding, but the state is moving in the right direction so this may change. The state office has made allocations of state dollars with the consideration of the AAAs ability to spend. This will certainly help to move money and decrease the amount that is left on the table.

We had our transportation monitoring, and all went well. In addition to our monitoring, Megan and I visited Able Care Transportation. In January we will visit Senior Solutions and Meals on Wheels of Anderson to learn more about their transportation programs. SHIP monitoring will occur on Monday and I&RA had their monitoring this morning.

The new database was to be rolled out in October. This launch has changed to a “soft-launch” to allow users to identify issues and become more familiar with the program. Many components are being built and adjusted as issues arise. We continue to utilize AIM for our unit entry and reimbursement support.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:05pm.

*Next Meeting is December 6, 2023*