
MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025 – 10:30 A.M.
APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARDROOM
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Members Present:

Barbara Jardno, Beth Grant, Dorothy Manning, Edna Pitts-Reid, Glenda Manigault, J.T. Boseman, Joe Dill, Mae Frances Sarratt, Steve Luck

Members Absentee:

Bob Briggs, Charles Pinson, Jane Hall

Guests Present:

Jake Beaty, Karry Guillory, Chaela Johnson

Staff Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:40am by Mr. Dill and an invocation was offered by Mr. Boseman. Prior minutes from August 20, 2025 were approved by Mr. Luke and a second by Judge Guillory. The minutes from October 15, 2025 were also approved by Mr. Luck and a second by Judge Guillory. The minutes from both meetings were approved unanimously.

Recognition of Guests: Tim Womack, recognized and welcomed:

Chaela Johnson – Rebuild Upstate

Family Care Giver Update: Amanda Mlinar presented:

Over 60 caregivers attended a Lunch and Learn event held in October. In November, we delivered more than 120 caregiver appreciation bags to active caregivers in our region. Through our Seniors Raising Children program, we will sponsor 21 families (28 children) with Christmas gifts this year. Last year, we sponsored 11 families.

Ombudsman Update: Jessica Winters presented:

October / November: 35 cases opened, 25 cases closed, 254 friendly visits, 5 outreach events, 166 contacts, 8 resident/family council meetings attended

Four Ombudsman attended a two-day S.A.F.E. (Safe Accessible Forensic Interviewing for Elders) training in Columbia, which focused on interviewing clients, including individuals with dementia. Two Ombudsman attended the National Consumer Voice Conference in Arlington.

The Winter Wishes program adopted two mental health facilities this year—McKinney House and Easley Retirement. These are Medicaid facilities with residents ranging in age from 18 and older. Residents receive an average of \$90–\$100 per month; however, these funds are typically used for prescription expenses. The average cost of items on residents' wish lists is estimated at \$50, with some requests costing more depending on individual needs.

Senior Center Update: Dani Vankirk presented:

The new senior center in Easley has over 300 members.

Finance Update: Shelly Mitchell presented:

We received our state funding carryforward (HCBS) in the amount of approximately \$700,000, and these funds have been fully allocated. Due to the government shutdown, we are anticipating a delay in our federal allocations. Typically, once the Administration for Community Living (ACL) approves the budget in October, it takes approximately 4–6 weeks for the funds to reach the state office. Additional time is then required for the state to process the funds and allocate budgets to the AAAs. Because the government shutdown occurred during this timeframe, we now expect the funding to be delayed until late February or March. In the meantime, we are making adjustments and working to stretch our current allocations as effectively as possible.

Aging Update: Tim Womack presented:

General overview: The new database system, which rolled out in July 2024, is still not functioning properly. We continue to have the same four assessors and are fortunate to have experienced minimal staff turnover. This is the final week of open enrollment, and SHIP counselors have been working Saturdays to manage the high call volume. South Carolina will host the SE4A Conference in 2028. Tim met with two members of the Department of Public Health (DPH) to

arrange meetings in the local area. We must continue to build as many partnerships as possible to stretch our funding and avoid duplication of services.

Tim prompted a discussion regarding updated regulations, which now specify that Board Members may not hold a voting seat on the RAAC. It remains important, however, for Board Members to attend meetings and become knowledgeable about aging programs so they can effectively report back to the Board. As a result, this group will need to restructure its bylaws.

We currently have vacancies in all counties and must fill these positions with individuals who are willing to be active and serve as advocates within the community. A strong, vibrant advisory committee is essential. RAAC meetings are public, and anyone may attend at any time.

Member Updates and Discussion: All

- Discussion regarding monetary reserves and the potential pursuit of 501(c)(3) status: Neither the state nor the AAA maintains monetary reserves. While establishing reserves is considered a sound financial practice, doing so could place the state in a position of having to explain why waitlists exist when funds appear to be available. It could also limit the state's ability to request additional funding. Currently, we do not hold 501(c)(3) status.
- Discussion regarding the possibility of receiving the additional \$10 million: There is a good possibility. Senator Alexander is a strong supporter of receiving these funds and he holds a lot of influence in SC.
- Jake Beaty with Rebuild Upstate provided an update: Rebuild currently serves four counties—Oconee, Anderson, Pickens, and Greenville—and completed more than 160 projects over the past year in those counties. The organization will launch a pilot program in Spartanburg County in January 2026. The CoG will contribute some funding to assist with this pilot launch. Jake will be speaking at the Board Meeting on Friday.
- An apartment complex was built to house the chronically homeless. It is now fully functioning, and all 36 units are occupied.
- Cherokee County Senior Center has implemented new activities. Most recently they have added a line dance class. They also have bread donations and vegetable boxes that the community enjoys.
- Discussion on partnerships with Meals on Wheels: The partnership with MoW has been beneficial and has allowed additional services to be provided to our clients. They are a resource, among many others, that is utilized when our funding is limited.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:44am.

Next Meeting is February 18, 2026