
MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS REGIONAL AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024 – 10:30 A.M. APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARDROOM GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Barbara Jardno, Brett Gillespie, Charles Pinson, Edna Pitts-Reid, Glenda Manigault, J.T. Boseman, Joe Dill, Steve Luck

Members Absentee:

Beth Grant, Bob Briggs, Dorothy Manning, Jane Hall, Judy Caywood, Mae Frances Sarratt, Pat Grate

Guests Present:

Doug Wright, Shawanna Cook, Nick Kulick, Jake Beaty, Christina Gebbia, Jennifer Robbins, Katie Sides, Kam Flynn

Staff Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:31am by Mr. Dill and an invocation was offered by Mr. Boseman. Prior minutes from August 21, 2024, were approved by Mr. Luck and a second by Mr. Pinson. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Recognition of Guests: Tim Womack, recognized and welcomed:

Welcome to Kam Flynn, Oconee County. Possibly joining RAAC to fill the open position in Oconee County.

Aging Program Update: Tim Womack presented:

The last meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Helene and the efforts to continue services to the community. During the month of October, we were granted leniency to complete

assessments over the phone, setting a record for the state in completion numbers. Our office completed over 500 assessments for the month. November 13th, the SCDOA held their Aging Summit in Columbia. Amy Gotwals, Director of Policy with USAging addressed the future of Aging and budgets under the new legislation.

The transition with the new providers is improving and is going well currently.

We need your advocacy to pass the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act before the new legislation takes place. If this isn't reauthorized, we will have to start over under the new legislation. We need additional funding for the programs we offer to our senior community. The recommendation is to write individual calls, emails, or letters from the community. Formal letters have been sent on behalf of our agency.

Database Update: Pam Anderson presented:

The new database system is working well for some of our providers, others still are experiencing issues. We are doing what we can to send referrals so clients can be manually entered and begin services.

Nutrition Update: Dani Vankirk presented:

We received additional funding from the State due to Hurricane Helene to provide meals for the seniors in the community. We are now focusing on sending out emergency meals for the possibility of inclement weather.

Family Caregiver Update: Amanda Mlinar presented:

One of our FCG advocates will be out until January due to having a baby. November was National Caregiver Month; goody bags were created for the caregivers we support. This year we are asking for help to support a new Christmas project to assist with Christmas gifts for the Seniors Raising Children program. 30 applications were sent out and 12 were returned. All the families were adopted by our provider network. The RAAC members graciously offered additional help, which may be needed in the future if the program continues its success.

Mr. Dill provided a resource in Slater which may be beneficial in future years for the Seniors Raising Children Christmas project.

Ombudsman Update: Jessica Winters presented:

The Ombudsman year runs from Oct 1 – Sept 30. During this time, we had 183 cases opened, 187 closed, 1,703 friendly visits, 26 outreach events, 1,341 contacts, 30 facility staff trainings, 29

resident trainings. We received a grant to focus on resident councils in nursing facilities. We are currently in the research stage to gather information and assess interest.

The Winter Wishes Project is underway to adopt a facility in Greenville that houses 40 residents. Residents can be “adopted” to shop for a few special requests by the resident. Monetary donations will also be accepted to provide general toiletries and items that will be purchased in addition to the resident’s wish list.

Finance Update: Shelly Mitchell presented:

We were given an extension for our ARP funds; the new expiration date is September 30, 2025. We have very little ARP service dollars left since the providers have done well with their spending. We have ARP admin available that will be used to fund technology associated with the State database system and computers to conduct virtual assessments for congregate diners.

We received our HCBS (State) funding in July. This funding was short compared to previous years, but we gained an additional 1.5 million after submitting a request to the State Office.

We received \$76,000 of emergency funding from Hurricane Helene. This allows each current client to receive a 5-day pack of emergency, shelf stable meals.

The State office is going to ask for an additional \$19 million. We normally receive \$11 million as a state annually. This will help to offset the Federal budget cuts we are experiencing.

Rebuild Upstate, Award Presentation: Jake Beatty presented:

SCACoG and Tim Womack were presented with a National Award from the National Coalition of Home Repair by nomination from Rebuild Upstate.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:58am.

Next Meeting is February 19, 2025