
MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024 – 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, Joe Dill, Mae Frances Sarratt, Steve Luck

Members Absentee:

Bob Briggs, Britt Gillespie, Glenda Manigault, J.T. Boseman, Jane Hall, Judy Caywood, Pat Grate

Guests Present:

Catriona Carlisle, Bates McKinney, Shawanna Cook, Christina Gebbia, Lillian Brock Flemming, Sharon Riley, Joel Dill

Staff Present:

Tim Womack, Dani Vankirk, Pam Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 10:27am by Mr. Dill and an invocation was offered by Mr. Pinson. Prior minutes from June 19, 2024, were approved by Mr. Pinson and a second by Ms. Jardno. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Recognition of Guests: Tim Womack, recognized and welcomed:

Welcome to Sharon Riley, from Silver Haired Legislator.

Insurance Update: Kim Reyes presented:

Kim Reyes has written an article for the publication, All About Seniors, and will be presenting at the next SE4A conference in Gulf Shores, AL. Ms. Reyes brought to the groups attention that there are many changes to Part D and urged everyone to take another look at their benefits. Caps and deductibles have changed. Another change is the opportunity to make payments through the year for items outside of the deductible. Dual eligible individuals will be able to change plans monthly, however it will be highly restrictive. Call us if you, or anyone you know, needs assistance with open enrollment this year.

Aging Program Update: Tim Womack presented:

We have completed the procurement cycle. We go out for procurement every five years. Bids are submitted for services, a committee is appointed by Mr. Dill to review the bids, and selections are made to award contracts for the providers that can best provide services for our community.

This year we have added some new providers, and as expected we have experienced some issues through this transition. In Spartanburg, we contracted with Senior Solutions to provide meals to the senior centers and provide home delivered meals. Dani is working diligently with Senior Solutions to ensure that reported issues are being addressed and solutions are found to make the meals and the process the best they can be. One major change to note is that the senior centers have moved to individually sealed trayed meals. Spartanburg Parks and Rec spoke positively on the relationship with Senior Solutions and the improvement of the food. Overall, the clients have reported that they are enjoying the quality of the meals.

Cherokee County Meals on Wheels is now the food provider for Senior Centers of Cherokee. The major benefit of this change is that the food is now provided by a local food provider. Prior to this contract, food was being prepared in Newberry and transported to the senior center. Again, the meals have moved from trayed and scooped meals to individually sealed meals. While we are addressing issues and helping work through the bumps in this transition, we are also hearing a lot of positive feedback especially with the home delivered meal program. In both counties, the partnerships within the provider network are positive and everyone is working to provide the clients with the best experience.

Across the board, not just in our region, the trend is moving to individually packaged meals at the senior centers. This ensures the nutritional values are better maintained as well as reduces the amount of food waste.

The choices that were made through the procurement process were the right choices. The committee and our office stand behind the decisions that were made and firmly feel the community and the people we serve will benefit vastly from the changes made moving forward.

Database Update: Pam Anderson presented:

The assessor conducts the assessment and enters the data on site. At the end of the assessment, the assessor will know what services the client is eligible for. Coding is still being performed on the back end for eligibility. While new assessments have been the focus, these approvals have yet to be referred to the providers since the database systems aren't linked. We have been given a time extension with reassessments since the data can't be entered into CaseWorthy due to possible duplicates.

The activities of daily living govern the eligibility of service. We are advocating for flexibility to justify approval when necessary.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:44am.

Next Meeting is December 04, 2024