**MINUTES**

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARDROOM

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

### Members Present:

### Barbara Jardno, Beth Grant, Britt Gillespie, Charles Pinson, Dorothy Manning, Edna Pitts-Reid, Joe Dill, Mae Frances Sarratt, Pat Grate, Steve Luck

### Members Absentee:

### Bob Briggs, Glenda Manigault, J.T. Boseman, Jane Hall, Judy Caywood

### Guests Present:

Pamela Fortin, Jennifer Robbins, Katie Sides, Robin Reed, Jake Beatty, Joel Dill, Lisa Patton

### Staff Present:

Tim Womack, Shelly Mitchell, Dani Vankirk, Shonda Whitaker, Amanda Plumley, Terry Mendola, Amanda Mlinar, Pam Eaker

The meeting was called to order at 10:33am by Mr. Dill and an invocation was offered by Mr. Pinson. Prior minutes from June 21, 2023, were approved by Mr. Pinson and a second was not asked. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Recognition of Guests: Tim Womack, Aging Services Director, recognized and welcomed:

There were no new attendees at this meeting.

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

### The program received national recognition from USAging for the Cup of Tea program. This is the program that Dorinne manages. The final numbers from FY23 were shared:

* Allocated over $750,000 and spent $690,000
* Served 574 caregivers with actual services
* Came into contact with over 1,500 caregivers
* Provided over 100 educations
* Served over 40 families in the Seniors Raising Children Program

November is National Caregiver month. We have partnered with Bon Secours to provide an event on November 3rd from 9:30 – 2:00. We have great speakers lined up, will provide lunch, and provide the caregiver bags.

### Ombudsman Program Update:Amanda Plumley, presented:

### Amanda serves as the Volunteer Coordinator. We have trained 8 new volunteers bringing the total number of volunteers to 33. Statewide, there is a total of 55 volunteers. We need support in Oconee, Anderson, and Pickens County. Over the timeframe of June and July, the Ombudsman Program:

* 47 cases opened
* 46 cases closed
* 221 friendly visits
* 7 community education events
* 10 in-service training sessions
* 1 resident training

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

If someone would like to volunteer, please contact the main office to speak with Amanda Plumley. We also have brochures that explain the Volunteer Ombudsman Program. Amanda is available to speak to any group that would like to be more involved within their community. Facilities have learned that we are a partner for the resident and facility, so we haven’t been met with resistance as may have happened in the past.

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

### As of July 1, 2023, the unit rate for home care and personal care increased to $25 due to the Medicaid rate increasing from $18 to $25. This helps us to be competitive with Medicaid. As of the end of July, we have served 170 clients, 63 of those were for person care. Clients receiving home care receive 3 hours every other week while personal care clients receive 2 hours of service every week. We will be pulling 50 clients off the waiting list to begin services. We currently have 8 providers that we contract with for services, but we are looking to add additional providers.

Our service providers are companies that have been licensed through DHEC. We will bring in the service providers (agencies) that are interested in contracting with the home care program to elaborate on the program and answer any questions they may have. Currently, there are 302 clients on the waiting list. We service 5 out of the 6 counties in our region, Oconee is serviced by Senior Solutions.

When anyone speaks to a client, we also look to see if the client could qualify for Community Long-term Care rather than being added to our wait list. Now that we can provide assessments for this service, our wait list will increase. Federal funding will be allocated in January, so we expect to pull more clients off the wait list at that time.

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

### For FY23, we completed 3,454 assessments, including in home services and congregate dining. We currently have 3 assessors. With the new funding we have been able to remove people from the waiting list for most services. We will be moving into a new state database system that will be utilized for the assessments after October 1, 2023.

### Nutrition Update:Dani Vankirk, presented:

We have opened another Senior Center in Anderson County; Honea Path will also open in September. This will make a total of 4 centers in Anderson. Spartanburg will open CC Woodson next month making 9 senior centers. Next year, Pickens will open a center in Easley. We have to make sure we don’t have a wait list and we have the funding available before we can open new senior centers.

### Senior Health Insurance Program:Shonda Whitaker, presented:

We are not restricted by age when helping clients that contact our office. We offer unbiased advice and information for those that contact our office regarding Medicare, Medicaid, and offer application assistance for subsidy programs. We help with fraudulent activity with clients that have been targeted and can report that to the proper agency.

We are available to speak to any group concerning Medicaid and attend various outreach events and opportunities.

### Finance Update:Shelly Mitchell, presented:

The State funding included a “claw back” from the Area Agencies on Aging that were not spending. The money was allocated using the current federal funding formula with consideration to spending abilities. This provided us with an additional $1.2 million in funding and the ability to eliminate or impact the wait list for services. We will monitor spend rates to ensure we are spending at an appropriate rate.

The new database will have the first launch date of October 1. The initial phase will include the AIM replacement piece, a document storage module, and the module that will house the assessment piece.

Federal allocations will be dispersed in January and there isn’t an indication that there will be a reduction in our allocation.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00pm.

*Next Meeting is October 25, 2023*