**MINUTES**

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARDROOM

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

### Members Present:

### Barbara Jardno, Beth Grant, Charles Pinson, Edna Pitts-Reid, Glenda Manigault, J. T. Boseman, Joe Dill, Steve Luck, Britt Gillespie, Dorothy Manning

### Members Absentee:

### Bob Briggs, Jane Hall, Judy Caywood, Mae Frances Sarratt, Pat Grate

### Guests Present:

Jake Beaty, Lillian Brock Flemming, Helen Cummingham

### Staff Present:

Tim Womack, Shelly Mitchell, Missy Craven, Terry Mendola, Ben Whitaker, Kimberly Mack, Dorinne Dubois, Christiana Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 10:31am by Mr. Dill and an invocation was offered by Mr. Boseman. Prior minutes from April 26, 2023 were approved by Mr. Pinson and a second was offered by Ms. Manigault. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Britt Gillespie is a Board Member for the Cog and a new member of RAAC representing Pickens County.

### Homemaker Services / Personal Care Program Update:Terry Mendola, presented:

### We have been able to add 5 clients from the wait list in each county to begin services. Beginning July, 1 the unit rate will increase from $23 an hour to $25 an hour. We will look to add new providers at the beginning of the new fiscal year. When a client receives personal care, they also receive light housekeeping to ensure the bathroom and living areas are clean along with clean linens. Currently, we have 166 clients and the numbers are increasing for the need for personal care. There are about 400 clients currently on the wait list.

### Information and Referral Program Update:Kimberly Mack, presented:

### We are taking assessments for homemaker services, personal care, and lawn care placing those clients on a wait list. We are continuing to provide A/C units to those that have expressed the need. So far we have provided 18 A/C units.

### Ombudsman Program Update:Ben Whitaker, presented:

### This month is World Elder Abuse Awareness month. We educate and train the staff to recognize signs of abuse. We also educate the residents of their rights and encourage them to report any issues of neglect. The main complaints in the nursing homes for the last quarter included issues in care, environment, and choice (having the right to choose). This was mirrored in assisted living facilities with environment being the top reported complaint.

### If a staff person exploits or abuses a resident and gets fired, they can move to another facility for employment; SC doesn’t have a registry to record the non-criminal event. We need to bring this to the legislation so we can have a registry to prevent ongoing abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Silver Hair Legislation will be able to bring this up for resolution.

### Family Caregiver Program Update:Missy Craven, presented:

### We launched a new caregiver support group which will offer monthly “fun” meetings to connect, engage, and promote self-care. The kick off meeting included 12 people in attendance who learned to make floral arrangements. Hospice provided lunch and goodie bags, along with giving a presentation. These meetings will continue the second Saturday of each month.

### We currently have four family caregiver advocated, including Dorinne who focuses on outreaches and education. We have purchased a program called The Dementia Experience that will help other understand the challenges with dementia. We are exploring the possibility of a volunteer piece in the future.

### Finance Update:Shelly Mitchell, presented:

State funding will be allocated in July. Historically, the state has allowed AAAs to carry forward unspent state dollars as well as issuing additional funding through the funding formula. This year, the state is pulling back all unspent state funding and allocating it as a whole with consideration to those AAAs that have the capability to spend additional funds. The goal is to spend through the available funds in a timely manner so the State Office can request additional funding. We will also have our BINGO funds allocated in July.

### General Update:Tim Womack, presented:

The Central Midlands AAA currently doesn’t have a AAA director or executive director. Out of the 10 AAAs, only 4 are strong with spending their allocated funding. We are fortunate in the upstate that we have providers that have the capacity to be able to serve the community.

Tim attended the Policy Briefing in Washington. He was able to meet with many staff members of elected officials to address some of the concerns and needs within the aging network. He hopes to be able to attend this briefing annually.

During COVID, there was a hold on conferences and training opportunities. Now that the opportunities have opened up once again, we are sending a majority of our staff to attend conferences that are pertinent to their positions.

The State Office has been involved in an Oversight Committee Hearing. All cabinet agencies have to participate in these hearing every seven years. One of the findings was a lack of communication between the state, AAAs, and providers. In a response, the State held an Aging Summit and invited all the AAAs and the provider network. Since attending, there have been surveys to measure effectiveness that will be taken into consideration for future Summits.

Every year, all the program managers in the CoG meet with the CoG Executive Committee from the Board. The mission of Aging is to keep seniors at home and active in our communities. We had the opportunity to tell the committee about the services we offer and the impact these services have on the community.

The 2020 census reflected a growth in our area. The state funding formula has been recalculated due to the census results that allowed us about $300,000 in additional funding. This will only cover the unit increases that will occur for FY24 due to inflation. We need to continue to advocate for additional funding. All of our programs have wait lists and those lists continue to grow.

Our Area Plan has been approved. It is on our website.

We need to change the funding policy to include a financially benefit to revitalize centers to attract new seniors. The need to fight social isolation is just as important as a meal, but we are only able to pay for a senior’s meal.

The monitorings are complete for all departments. The only report we have received has been finance and there were no findings.

We are not providing vouchers. DSS is the only agency that can make the process better, and until changes are made we will not participate. Senior Action, Sr. Centers of Cherokee, Pickens Meals on Wheels, and Spartanburg Parks and Rec is participating in handing out the vouchers.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:05pm.

*Next Meeting is August 23, 2023*