

Regional Aging Advisory Committee
Senior Tar Heel Legislature
Minutes
January 5, 2015

Carteret

John Thompson (STHL-D/RAAC)
Vacant (RAAC)
Victor Heinrich (STHL-A)
Louise Yurko (RAAC)

Craven

Lavick Williams (RAAC/STHL-D)
Norman Smith (RAAC)-Absent
Vacant (RAAC)
Vacant (STHL-A)

Duplin

Vacant (RAAC)
Vacant (STHL-A)
Darrell Grubbs (RAAC)
Geraldine Bryant (RAAC) Absent

Greene

David Jones (STHL-D/RAAC)
VACANT (STHL-A)
Faye Taylor (RAAC) Excused
Jean Garner (RAAC) Excused

Highlighted Present

Jones

Matthew Brinkley (RAAC) Absent
Della Ancrum (STHL-D/RAAC)
Gladys Burton (STHL-A/RAAC) Absent

Lenoir

Walter LaRoque IV (RAAC)
Elaine Patterson (RAAC)
Audrey Tyson (STHL-D/RAAC) -Excused
Gene Rybolt (STHL-A) Absent

Onslow

Steve DeLaVega (RAAC)
Marge Zima (STHL-D/RAAC)
Joyce DuPavevich (STHL-A/RAAC) Absent

Pamlico

Joan Gracie (STHL-D/RAAC)
James Mason (RAAC) - Absent
Angelo Midgette (RAAC)
Vacant (STHL-A)

Wayne

Yvonne McLamb (RAAC)
Peggy Seegars (STHL-D)
Hermanita Harris (RAAC)
Helena Bell (RAAC)
Martha Bryan (STHL-A)

Service Providers

AAA Staff Present

Tonya Cedars
David Rosado
January Brown
Jillian Hardin
Nan Holton

Call to Order

Louise Yurko called the RAAC meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Once a quorum was established, Ms. Yurko moved forward with the approval of the Minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Yurko invited a motion to accept the minutes from the July 7, 2014 RAAC/STHL meeting. Walter LaRoque made the motion to approve the minutes and Yvonne McLamb seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Ms. Yurko invited a motion to accept the minutes from the October 6, 2014 RAAC/STHL meeting. Hermanita Harris made the motion to approve the minutes and Steve DeLa Vega seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

At this time, everyone introduced themselves.

Appointment of Senior Tar Heel Delegates and Alternates

Tonya Cedars noted that it is time to appoint/reappoint our STHL Delegates and Alternates and that RAAC has the authority to accept and approve these. This is done in the odd years only. She highlighted that Carteret County's Delegate is John Thompson, and that Victor Heinrich has been nominated to be their Alternate; in Craven County, Lavick Williams is the Delegate and the Alternate is vacant; in Duplin County, both positions are vacant; in Greene County David Jones will continue as the Delegate and the Alternate is vacant; Jones County stays the same with Della Ancrum and Gladys Burton; Lenoir County stays the same with Audrey Tyson and Gene Rybolt; Onslow County stays the same with Marge Zima and Joyce DuPalevich; in Pamlico County Joan Gracie is now the Delegate and the Alternate is vacant; and Wayne County remains the same with Peggy Seegars and Martha Bryan.

Louise Yurko inquired if there were other nominations or questions? Given that there were none, she sought a motion to accept the STHL roster as presented by Tonya. Walter LaRoque made the motion to accept these STHL Delegates and Alternates and Angelo Midgette seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

As a side note, Tonya Cedars informed the group that Peggy Seegars is one of the few original Delegates that have served since the inception of STHL in 1992.

Director's Report

Tonya Cedars reported that the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program is official now and reminded them that the ECC AAA is only 1 of 2 pilots for this program statewide. She stated that Jillian Hardin and January Brown are tasked as the coordinators and that this was different funding and going to be different work than typical. They are contracted to secure at least 10 transitions during this test period and according to Jillian they exceed that in requests at this time.

Tonya informed the group of a funding cut. She explained that the emergency fund for food and shelter at the County level falls under Homeland Security and because Homeland Security was not funded, the food and shelter emergency fund was cut also.

Tonya introduced ECC's new Finance Director, Jenny Miller and reported that she had previously worked for Lenoir County DSS and was therefore familiar with many aging funds.

At this time, a full roster of the RAAC/STHL members was passed around and each member was asked to review their information and provided corrections/updates as needed.

Tonya closed by saying that in the General Assembly there is a shortfall of general revenue which may require them to make some decisions, so encouraged everyone to keep their ears open.

Staff Reports

David Rosado, Deputy Director provided everyone with 2 handouts that reported on the expenditures of the county nutrition programs. He noted that if the dollar amounts were in red, that program had money still available. If the dollar amounts were in blue, it indicated that program had overspent for that particular time period.

He reported that he has been monitoring the various nutrition programs and that all is going well. He said he enjoyed this aspect of his job as it gave him the opportunity to meet face to face with the clients and those receiving home delivered meals to do the assessments.

He indicated that many more volunteers are needed in every county in order to continue to be able to offer hot, fresh meals. Without the volunteers, these programs will have to start using frozen meals and that this in turn could affect those receiving the meals ability to prepare them for themselves. He encouraged them all to take this information back to their county and seek ways to secure volunteers for the nutrition programs.

Martha Bryan gave kudos to Wayne County and it's volunteers. She stated that they have over 1500 volunteers and are able to deliver over 400 meals a day.

January Brown, Family Caregiver Specialist for the AAA, reported that emergency meals were provided through the Family Care Giver (FCG) program to all of the providers in each of the nine counties; and that this funding was separate from HCCBG. She reported that there would be a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren event held in Craven County in April. For the next few months she would be monitoring, so will be out in the counties with the providers..

Jillian Hardin, Planner/Aging Specialist, reported that Living Healthy and Living Healthy with Diabetes seminars were being planned for March. A program called Matter of Balance was slated to take place in Carteret County and would be offered 2 times a week for 4 weeks. She informed them that in the past year there had been over 60 referrals for services and in regards to the transitions program, most inquiries have been from Wayne, Duplin, and Carteret counties. She said she had MFP meetings starting this week.

Tonya mentioned that Renee Kea and Angelia Pridgen were both at hearings or preparing for discharge hearings and that transfer discharges take up a lot of their time. She indicated that letters are sent to all residents getting discharged and the ombudsman information is at the bottom of each letter, but it is up to the resident or family member to contact the ombudsman for help.

Della Ancrum inquired about where to find transition forms? Jillian stated that referrals are provided from the state and that she will provide Ms. Ancrum with the phone number.

County Comments

- John Thompson of Carteret County reported that in 2014 the management team of the Carteret County Dept. of Aging Services formed the nonprofit Friends of Aging and despite significant losses to HCCBG, that have been able to serve a considerably larger number of seniors because of this partnership and its fundraising efforts. Specifically he reported that there were 1050 more home delivered meals, 1200 more congregate lunches and that CCATS had increased riders by 14% and this now is available to the public. In addition, he stated that the Center's membership had increased by 4.2%.

- Darrell Grubbs of Duplin County reported that the Seniors went on an overnight trip to the Outer Banks in mid-October and they participated in the Goldsboro Alzheimer walk in late October. SHIPP enrollment was a bustling time.. On November 18th as part of the National Caregiver Month campaign, they hosted the first minister caregiver event Then on December 3, over 260 Seniors enjoyed their Christmas party. They participated in 2 separate food distributions with Kenansville.
- Della Ancrum of Jones County reported that they have added a few more Seniors in the past months and that their annual holiday party was greatly enjoyed.
- Walter LaRoque of Lenoir County indicated they had a grand reopening of their facility and hosted a candidate's forum in conjunction with this.
- Marge Zima of Onslow County reported that most of their sites had Christmas parties. There is a Niagara Falls trip slated for the end of May. AARP will be offering tax assistance from February 2 through April 1st. She also proudly reported that their annual Festival of Trees event made over \$50,000 this year and that money goes towards their plans to build a Hospice.
- Angelo Midgette of Pamlico County reported that the Pamlico Senior Center hosted an open house on December 5th. On December 12th, an elementary class came to the Center and shared food, gifts, crafts and fun with the seniors. Then on December 13th at the Smith Foundation banquet, Pamlico Senior Services received a Community Service Award and \$250.00. They participated in the "Be a Santa for a Senior" program and over 90 gift bags were delivered.

January Brown indicated that over 600 were served in the 9 counties as a result of the "Be a Santa for a Senior" program.

- Hermanita Harris of Wayne County updated everyone on their staffing, which has been fluctuating with the loss of several key people. She indicated that the the new Gateway Director has changed from a per mile rate to a per ride rate and that this is a much better rate. She indicated that the new leadership has vastly improved customer service. During the SHIIP enrollment she documented that 278 contacts were counselled; 156 were enrolled, 9 new Low Income Subsidy Applications were submitted and through the 224 volunteer hours logged, \$113,000 was saved by the county. She mentioned that the new Assistant County Manager, Tommy Burns, will now be supervising WCSOA. She highlighted the many classes that are offered and indicated that there were over 80 volunteers that make all of it happen.

Yvonne McLamb added that they had 3-4 new well trained SHIIP volunteers and that they were excellent and everything went remarkably well.

Travel Reimbursements:

Please take note that the mileage reimbursement for 2015 has increased to 57.6 cents. Please add odometer readings and signature to reimbursement forms before turning in.

2015 Calendar

Louise Yurko provided the 2015 Calendar dates:

April 6, 2015
 July 13, 2015
 October 5, 2015

After some discussion, a motion was made by Yvonne McLamb to change the April 6th meeting to April 13th; Della Ancrum seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Final comments were made by Marge Zima about the March 16-17 meeting in Raleigh. She handed out a FACT SHEET that she asked everyone to distribute in their community as these are the topics that they are going to be advocating. She highlighted the different topics, making special emphasis on telling their Representatives not to touch Medicaid.

Adjourn

Louise Yurko indicated since there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next RAAC/STHL Meeting Monday April 13, 2015 at 10:00am

2nd Floor Conference Room
233 Middle Street, Suite 300
New Bern, NC 28563
Phone: 252.638.3185
Fax: 252.638.3187
www.eccog.org

Tonya Cedars	Ext. 3009	Human Services Director	tcedars@eccog.org
David Rosado	Ext. 3012	Human Services Deputy Director	drosado@eccog.org
Jillian Hardin	Ext. 3015	Human Services Planner	jhardin@eccog.org
Angelia Pridgen	Ext. 3007	Lead Regional Ombudsman	apridgen@eccog.org
Renee Kea	Ext. 3010	Regional Ombudsman	rkea@eccog.org
January Brown	Ext. 3011	Human Services Planner	jbrown@eccog.org

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Holton, Administrative Assistant