

Regional Aging Advisory Committee
Senior Tar Heel Legislature
Minutes
April 13, 2015

Carteret

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

Craven

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

Duplin

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

Greene

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

Highlighted Present

Jones

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

Lenoir

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

Onslow

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

Pamlico

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

Wayne

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

Guests

Janet Grainge, Carteret County
Andi Reese, LCCOA
Rosalind Pugh, Project Care
Cynthia Maready, OCSS
Shelly Ashley, OCSS
Mary Kurek, CCAS

AAA Staff Present

Tonya Cedars
David Rosado
Jillian Hardin
Angelia Pridgen
Nan Holton

Call to Order

Louise Yurko called the RAAC meeting to order and welcomed everyone. A quorum was established and Mrs. Yurko welcomed everyone. Each person introduced themselves and identified their county/position.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Yurko invited a motion to accept the minutes from the January 5, 2015 RAAC/STHL meeting. Walter LaRoque made the motion to approve the minutes and Yvonne McLamb seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Director's Report

Tonya Cedars, Human Services Director, related that there was very little news on the State budget, as things were very quiet in Raleigh. She indicated she had sent out an article regarding NC policy update on the HCBG, which if the State needed to find money, it is a pot that they could go too. In regards to that, she stated that currently that doesn't appear to be an issue, but certainly something to keep attentive too.

On the federal level, the Older American's Act is out of the Senate HELP Committee, but not on the Senate floor yet. She indicated they are trying to find someone within the House to sponsor it and keep it moving forward.

Tonya informed the group that Mary Bethel, Associate State Director for Advocacy AARP-North Carolina, is retiring today and she provided a brief history of all the ways that she has been instrumental and in the forefront in aiding older adults.

Victor Heinrich inquired as to when they should be educating our Legislators regarding budget needs? Tonya replied immediately as their target date for a completed budget is June 30th. She reported that the Governor's budget is already out (with no effect on the HCBG), but last year the General Assembly did not even use his as a template.

Staff Reports

David Rosado, Deputy Director, provided everyone with a handout that reported on the expenditures of the county nutrition programs. He indicated that as of February, they should be at 66% spent, but that some of the nutrition and in-home programs are slightly behind in reimbursements because they are sub-contracted out and it can take longer to process.

He reported that he has completed the monitoring and he would gladly to speak to anyone at the end of the meeting if they wanted to know more about those findings.

Jillian Hardin, Planner/Aging Specialist, gave January Brown's update on the respite vouchers in Duplin, Jones, and Wayne counties, as well as highlighted the recent Grandparents Raising Grandkids Café ; information about virtual dementia tours and how services for all 9 counties are being expanded. As part of January's report, there was a III D handout which provided a snapshot of the counties and how spending is around 67% right now.

Jillian then proceeded to her report on Money Follows the Person (MFP) and stated that it is very fluid and a learning process. She indicated that there are 15 cases in the works, with their first transition about to happen in Wayne County. She stated there had been three withdrawals because of the Medicaid deductible. Applications are still being submitted and come through the Local Contact Agency (LCA).

Jillian reported that she and David Rosado had completed the Living Healthy and Living Healthy with Diabetes leader training, and they had 18 participants. They also facilitated a training for Public Health in Dare County. In May, through Stanford University, they will be leading a Master Trainer Chronic Disease class.

Angelia Pridgen, Lead Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman, reported that two facilities had closed so far this year. In January, 2015, Pinewood Harbor in Onslow County closed due to endangerment related to bedbugs and the lack of a fire safety system. There were only 14 residents left when this occurred, and they each had to be moved and placed in other facilities. There were ongoing issues regarding getting their possessions back, which were complicated due to the bed bug infestation.

Then in March, 2015, the Courtyards Memory Unit in Craven County was closed due to medication issues, the lack of supervision of the residents, and the poor sanitation throughout the facility. This was particularly a difficult event because of the short notice and the sensitivity of relocating 23 residents with dementia. She stated that it has been a shocking and tough process for the families, but that AAA was continuing to provide them with support. There was an inquiry as to whether there were plans for that unit to reopen to which Angelia reported that the rest of the facility had recently been cited as having bed bugs, and while she is sure that their goal is to reopen, there are a lot of issues to rectify and training of employees needed before it can happen.

County Comments

- Janet Grange of Carteret County stated she was proud to be overspent in the Title III D program and that Carteret County has two certified lay leaders in the Evidence Base Health Programs, which are very important to them. She indicated they are in the process of their 5 year recertification which should be complete by June 15th. Regarding the Carteret County budget report, she informed the group they had spent 100% of their transportation funding, but Carteret County was providing support. She also reported that they have started their own non-profit arm which has held several successful fund raisers and received a grant; utilizing this branch they are working hard to avoid budget cuts in Carteret County.
- Darrell Grubbs of Duplin County reported that they had held a Volunteer Banquet and currently have Healthy Eating classes in process. They have 15 registered for their Senior Games. In May, they will be holding a health fair and a fun day.
- Jean Garner of Greene County reported that their Senior Center had been visited in March and received an excellent rating which they celebrated with cake and punch on April 1st. Their Senior Volunteer Banquet will be held on April 15th and then they will host a health and information fair on May 15th.
- Gladys Burton of Jones County reported that their Snap class has started. She also stated they had been to Goldsboro for a Senior Women's Citizen breakfast and that their Senior Center now has new chairs.
- Andi Reese (reporting for Mineko Holloway) of Lenoir County indicated they have re-instated hot meal delivery for a specific route, in lieu of the frozen meals, which enables the participants to have a visit each day. She reported they would be celebrating Older Americans month and Elder Abuse Awareness with a picnic in the Neuse River Park on May 11th and that there would be an organized walk held on June 15th at the Veteran's Park. Lenoir County's Volunteer Appreciation Banquet will be held April 15th. There was an inquiry

regarding the ability to get volunteers for their hot meal delivery. Andi said that Vivian Howard, of The Farmer and the Chef had done a promotional for them and they had eight or nine new volunteers sign on. She indicated it is something they have to continue to work on and relayed that they are only serving six to seven on this route.

- Marge Zima of Onslow County introduced Shelly Ashley, who provided the report. Shelly relayed that Onslow County had two staff going to the Master training and they really had the ball rolling on lay leaders. She reported they had recently held a fundraiser to assist with transportation costs and that there was a fund day in the park a few weeks ago. Their Senior Games start this Sat. April 18th. Marge Zima added that they had been doing taxes in their Senior Center and with the administrators having moved into their new facility, they had so many more rooms for activities now. She informed the group that they have 232 home health & hospice clients. Onslow County's Rotary picnic will be held in May and it is the 31st year of this event.
- Joan Gracie of Pamlico County reported that the Pamlico Senior Center would be hosting the Young at Heart pancake fundraiser on April 25th. She explained that they had established a partnership with Oriental to host a Scam Jam event, which provides information on how to deal with Medicaid, phone, and email scams. This event will take place on May 13th.
- Hermanita Harris of Wayne County reported that in February AAA had done their monitoring and they passed with flying colors! She stated their Senior Center had hosted three programs for Black History Month Celebration, as well as hosted an Open House on March 6th with 36 vendors and over 300 participants. Then on April 8th, she reported that speakers from Wayne Memorial Hospital had provided a presentation on out-patient observation versus in-patient which was well received. Wayne County held their Celebration for Volunteers on April 10th for over 80 volunteers. She reported that their gift shop has given over \$4000 to the Senior Center over the past two years. Hermanita informed the group that her 3 year term was ending and she would be stepping down and indicated it had been a pleasure serving with everyone. Martha Bryan added that the Q & A from the hospital presentation was very enlightening and that she would provide it electronically to Tonya to disperse to everyone else.

Other Business

Final comments were made by Tonya Cedars regarding the LIS MIPPA program and the fact that the commercial was airing again. She encouraged the group to have people apply as this takes care of the premium for Medicare D and the donut hole goes away if they qualify. She also informed the group that the AAA would now be handling the SHIP program in Craven County.

Gene Rybolt provided the group with an update on Audrey Tyson.

Marge Zima passed out the STHL release which provides an overview of what the STHL leadership did in Raleigh. She encouraged everyone to call their Representatives because if they cut Medicaid optional services, there will be no therapy, hospice care, eyeglasses, etc...; the only thing left is acute care. She stated that this is one of the five STHL priorities.

Peggy Seegars shared that she was encouraged by the STHL meeting in Raleigh and gave thanks to Martha Bryan for making it possible for her to stay active. She encouraged the group to work with their Legislators as the elderly are being left out.

Louise Yurko issued an awareness alert by sharing that her social security number had been compromised and the difficulties surrounding this event. She informed them of the FCC procedures to obtain if something like this happens and the importance of putting a lock on your Equifax reports and seeking the program Life Lock as another measure of security. Victor Heinrich highlighted that there

were actually three credit bureaus where you have to freeze your account and referred everyone to Clark Howard, who provides solid information regarding this type of thing.

Adjourn

Louise Yurko obtained a motion to adjourn from Jean Garner and adjourned the meeting.

**Next RAAC/STHL Meeting
Monday July 13th, 2015 at 10:00am**

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Respectfully submitted,
Nan Holton, Administrative Assistant