

ARC Advisory Committee on Aging
March 23, 2022, Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS

Lois Ricci	Rob Alexander	
Julie Arnold	Karen Ashley	Brandi Hackett
Tammy Brewer	Lin Choa	Darlene Kimes
Richard Sylvia Jr.	Rosa Marroquin	Wayne Stokes
Bob Reeves	Cynthia Tucker	Herman Weil
Kerry Armstrong, ARC Board Chair		
Ramona Jackson Jones		

STAFF

Becky Kurtz	John Hammond	Mary Blumberg
Jim Skinner		
Lex Echols	Aixa Pascual	Kim Yawn
Elizabeth Sanford		

Call to order at 1:00 pm. The meeting took place in person at the ARC office with the option to attend virtually in a hybrid model. Due to the fact that virtual meeting members cannot be counted for a quorum, a quorum cannot be held and action items cannot be decided today.

Public Comment Period

Public commenter notes the ways in which the width of sidewalks in Forsyth near Hickory Village shopping center impacts the passage of golf carts, wheelchairs, and pedestrian traffic. The commenter states that golf carts are gathering and blocking ADA parking spots and access aisles. Public commenters request withholding of funds until issues are addressed, to encourage signage excluding golf carts, and to encourage the enforce ADA parking violations.

Committee Reflection

Committee members took turns sharing an adjective to describe what they have learned over the past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manager's Update

Federal & State Legislative Activity

Federal FY22 funding from October 1, 2021 has been paired down to 1 and 2 percent increases rather than the larger increases they had hoped for. FY22 supplemental appropriates include a state match for the American Rescue Plan, meaning there will be an additional \$13 million in APPA grants for the ARC region. The legislature is looking at it's FY23 plan and hopes to include \$4 million for increased home and community-based service funds and 1.5 million for dementia care specialists in each AAA.

ARC Office Reintegration

The office officially re-opened February 28th, and meetings will need to take place as in-person as possible due to the fact that in-person attendance is required for a voting quorum. The only way to attend a voting meeting virtually is with a doctor's note.

Georgia State Plan on Aging FY24

Virtual meetings will occur on May 26th and June 1st, meeting members were encouraged to share this information to increase participation for the meetings.

Live Beyond Expectations Video

The Live Beyond Expectations initiative will be shared with the meeting members so that they can share it with their communities.

Action Items

None, due to lack of quorum.

Presentations

ARC Annual Consumer Satisfaction Surveys

Division of Aging Services requires semi-regular surveys, and ARC took survey results and compared satisfaction levels. Satisfaction levels remain high for Home-Delivered Meals, Transportation, and Case Management. Personal Care has taken a dip and has not yet recovered. Respite Care has decreased. Congregate Meals has increased somewhat but remains at a low at a mid 50's and 60's rating. The presenter concludes that satisfaction surveys are meant as feedback for independent service providers to address and that ARC only needs to step in to address issues if the satisfaction levels change significantly. Serious client complaints do go to ARC to be addressed.

Presentation on Gwinnett Senior Services

Gwinnett Senior Services offers a wide range of services funded through ARC. Gwinnett has added virtual senior center programs in response to the pandemic, in addition to programs offered at the center. They also purchased senior-friendly Samsung tablets to facilitate access to virtual senior center activities. A new program called One Stop 4 Help focuses on providing a single phone number for any type of resources that they may need. The highest needs for the county are home-delivered meals, transportation, and housing.

When asked, the presenter explained that they were able to distribute about 300 tablets and that they made sure clients had access to WiFi or 4G when they were given out. Tablets cost \$650 and it was \$750 for a year subscription for the 4G. Funding was acquired through ARC.

Discussion: Hopes as an ACA Member for this Committee

Members expressed that they wanted:

- To prioritize and ensure that the updates made to the Older Americans Act to help those with Dementia under 65, which were rolled out in 2020, were being communicated to the public and different agencies. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented many people from realizing there is funding and resources available to them.
- More direction on what they should be doing personally as a member of the ACA.
- More advocacy for different populations, including people with dementia, older people without families, etc.
- More handout materials and information.
- To address outdated or substandard housing for older people.
- Extending more outreach to seniors who do not live in high-rises or senior living communities and are more likely to be isolated.

Announcements

Induction of Chairman Jones.

Applications for public members will be posted this spring.

Next ACA meeting is May 25, 2022. **Motion to adjourn** at 2:25 pm.