



ARC Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes – Microsoft Teams
July 28, 2021 | 1:00pm

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS

Rob Alexander*	Lin Chao	Rosa Marroquin*
Julie Arnold	Brandi Hackett	Lois Ricci
Kerry Armstrong	Romona Jackson-Jones	Richard Sylvia Jr.
Tammi Brewer	Darlene Kimes	Cynthia Tucker
Wayne Stokes	Liane Levetan	Herman Weil

STAFF

John Hammond	Megan Malasarte
Becky Kurtz	Kim Yawn

***new members**

GUESTS

Lori Lemanski	Hilary Leland
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CALL TO ORDER by Co-Chair Romona Jackson-Jones at 1:01pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD There is no public commentary at this time.

MANAGER’S UPDATE July 1, 2021 is the beginning of the state FY 2022. Most of the grant funding starts new on this date. In terms of aging services grants that ARC provides to their provider network, this is the second of a two-year grant cycle. Later in the fall, the annual report will be released that will summarize last year’s work and it will be presented in the next coming months.

ARC was awarded the 2021 n4a Innovation Award for the category of Healthy Aging. More specifically, it was for the work done with ARCHI (Atlanta Regional Collaborative on Health Improvement) Diabetes Coaching Service. ARC partners with healthcare providers such as Grady and MercyCare, helping those with diabetes manage it better through a coaching service. There have been great outcomes demonstrated after pilot one of the program. They are currently undergoing pilot two of the program.

This month, ARC received \$1.3M in additional federal COVID funding to meet nutritional community needs. The VAC5 is the funding that CDC has transferred to the Administration for Community Living at the federal level which is coming to state units on Aging and to Area Agencies on Aging regarding access to vaccines. Lastly, The American Rescue Plan is a significant grant of \$13M awarded to ARC but will not be received until the spring pending a state match to be approved by the governor’s office or legislature.

Forsyth County joined Atlanta Regional Commission on July 1, but this county does not apply to the area agency on aging (AAA) planning and service area (PSA). PSA boundaries are designated by the Georgia Division of Aging Services. Forsyth County must make requests to DAS to start process. Aging and Independence Services Group is meeting with Forsyth Senior Services in August to respond to any questions they might have. ARC is neutral on Forsyth County joining ARC AAA.

Currently, ARC is in Phase II of office operations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. A pilot is going on between mid-July to mid-August to test office reopening. At the end of the pilot, there will be an evaluation to determine office reintegration. Phase III will plan to begin in September which will mean staff returns to office, revised telework and remote work policy under development. The ARC Reintegration Plan is available upon request.

If ARC enters Phase III of Reintegration, the next ACA meeting in September (the 22nd) will be in person with a virtual option as well. The Committee is subject to the Georgia Open Meetings Law: in-person needed for quorum and voting. You cannot vote virtually. No food will be served. No guests may attend in person (only virtually). There will be safety precautions including distancing, sanitization, etc. Masks optional for all, required if not vaccinated. Stay tuned for next meeting updates, subject to change.

Herman Weil asks Becky Kurtz how she plans to monitor the upcoming events as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve. She is a part of the discussion, but Doug Hooker, ARC Executive Director, along with the executive team who makes overall decisions about changes to plans and meetings. John Hammond, Senior Director of Center for Community Services, discusses whether the pilot for office reintegration will continue due to the recent Delta variant. Some ARC staff started the pilot but are no longer continuing it as circumstances have changed. Decisions moving forward will be science-based and per CDC's recommendations. Ideas and thoughts are welcome from ACA on the subject matter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion to approve May 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes made by Tammi Brewer. Darlene Kimes seconds the motion. The decision is unanimous.

PUBLIC CO-CHAIR ELECTION Lois Ricci is nominated for public co-chair for a two-year term. There were no additional nominations. Brandi Hackett made a motion for both the closure of the nominations and appointment of Lois Ricci. Wayne Stokes seconds the motion. The motion carries nominating, Lois Ricci, as co-chair.

ATLANTA LEGAL AID PRESENTATION Hilary Leland discusses Georgia Senior Legal Hotline (Atlanta Legal Aid Society) after sharing a client's story. Atlanta Legal Aid serves the five metro-Atlanta counties, but the hotline serves the entire state. There are approximately 120 attorneys, paralegals, and support staff, who provide legal services to low-income clients in many areas of civil law. The Georgia Senior Legal Hotline is a unit of Atlanta Legal Aid.

The Georgia Senior Legal Hotline is geared towards older adults 60+. It provides advice, brief service, and referrals. The hotline is staffed by six attorneys and two administrative members. There is a strong reliance on volunteers, as there are currently volunteer attorneys, administrative volunteers, and law firm support. The Hotline refers different cases to different agencies. The process involves organizing facts, identifying legal issues, screening for benefits to then, provide legal advice, brief service, and making referrals.

For more information on Atlanta Legal Aid Society, visit [here](#).

HOUSEPROUD ATLANTA PRESENTATION Houseproud is a small, local non-profit organization focusing on free home repair for seniors, veterans, and disabled homeowners in Atlanta. Houseproud Atlanta was able to expand because of additional funding from ARC. Lori Lemanski shares one of their success stories with before and after images.

Clients must be 60+ and fall below the median income limit. If a client has an emergency, Houseproud pulls resources to address the issue or place them in contact with a sister agency. The average intake is approximately 150 houses a year.

CO-AGE 2022 ISSUES Becky Kurtz reviews 2022 CO-AGE Issues. As an ACA member, you are a voting participant. Cast your vote by July 31. The way CO-AGE works is there are always budget issues and legislative issues. A vote for Issue A is to raise public awareness of long-term care ombudsman program. Funding would allow a Public Relations firm to create a public awareness campaign for LTCO. CO-AGE always chooses home and community-based services as a budget issue.

There are five legislative issues: Issue B) Allow Medicaid in Assisted Living Communities; Issue C) Assisted Living and Personal Care Home Improvements; Issue D) The CARE Act; Issue E) Eliminate All Georgia State Tax on IRA Retirement Distributions for those 65+; and Issue F) Expand Nursing Home Options. ACA members are to vote for one budget issue and two legislative issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next ACA Committee Meeting – September 22, 2021 (in-person meeting with virtual option).
Cast your vote for CO-AGE 2022 Legislative issues by July 31, 2021.

MEETING ADJOURNED The motion to adjourn was made at 2:12pm.