

KERR –TAR REGIONAL AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 10, 2017
Kerr Tar COG Office
Henderson, NC
Minutes

Attendance

Franklin County

Rachelle Deats – *present*
Patsy Douglass – *absent*
Donnell Adams – *present*
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Person County

Angela Jones – *present*
Jackie Watson- *present*
Rosalie Gates – *excused*
Robert Allen – *present*
Leavia Reed – *absent*
Vacant

Warren County

Charles Jefferson – *present*
Ernest Fleming – *absent*
Virginia Broach – *present*
Robin Williams – *present*
Elsie Kearney- *absent*
Julius Mann III- *excused*

Granville County

Laura Keith – *absent*
Sarah Mayfield – *absent*
Toni Ann Wheeler – *absent*
Ethel Anderson- *absent*
Sue Bryant – *present*
Melissa Starr – *present*
Annette Parham Myers- *present*

Vance County

Sandra Tubbs – *present*
Leslie Baskerville – *absent*
William Brodie – *excused*
Tammy Branch – *absent*
Jane McClanahan – *absent*
Vacant

Service Providers

Mattie Woodard
Christy Southall
Kathy May
Vicky Stokes
Maynell Harper

AAA Staff

Melissa Catlett
Kim Hawkins
Jillian Hardin
Suja Jacob

Introduction

Robert Allen (Person County) called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. The first order of business is to approve the minutes from the February 9th meeting. Mr. Allen proposed the motion to approve the minutes and Melissa Star (Granville County) seconded the motion. Mr. Allen then introduced Swarna Reddy of the Division of Aging who was in attendance to give a presentation of the demographics of Aging in North Carolina and Region K.

Presentation

Swarna Reddy, Demographer/Planner for the Division of Aging and Adult Services presented on, "Aging in North Carolina". Swarna was a stay at home mom till the tragedy of her husband's passing away changed her life course. She went back to grad school and joined the Division of Aging and Adult Services about nine years ago. She has always been good with numbers and had plenty of eye opening statistics on the aging population in North Carolina. Nationally, North Carolina ranks ninth in total population, ninth in population age 60 and over and 10th in population age 85 and over. Of the populations 65 and over, age group 75-84 will grow most rapidly from 2015-2035. Beyond 2030, the growth will shift to ages 85 and over as the baby boomers move into this age group. In 2019, there will be more people over 60 than seventeen and under. In Region K, Franklin and Granville counties will have the largest growth in ages 60 and over. The average poverty rate of 24% in Region K for ages 65 and over is above the state average of 10%. In addition, the rates of people 65 and over living with one or more disabilities is higher than the state average. These are some of the challenges of rural America in addition to lack of access to health care, transportation and nutritious foods. Many of the population in Region K sixty five and over live alone. The consequences of aging without community are isolation and loneliness which leads to poor health. Please see handouts for additional information.

Vote on Amended By Laws

One of the proposed amendments to the RAAC bylaws is to provide travel reimbursement, one person per county per meeting on a rotating basis. Hopefully, this will encourage people to carpool and encourage more people to attend meetings. Mr. Allen entertained a motion to pass this bylaw amendment and Charles Jefferson seconded the motion to adopt. When asked if there was any discussion needed, Ms. Sue Bryant (Person County) asked if Ms. Jillian Hardin did the research about the funding. Ms. Hardin responded that she went to the COG and the COG would only have funds to cover one travel reimbursement per county per meeting. Ms. Bryant then brought up the meeting notice was the first time direction was given that RAAC members should present the county report. She continued that if the county representatives are to give a report at the RAAC meetings, it should be added under the bylaws. Ms. Bryant proposed making an amendment to the bylaws that giving a report at the RAAC meetings should be added under "Meetings" or "Responsibilities". Mr. Charles Jefferson (Warren County) interjected that senior center directors should give the report but RAAC members could add to it or give it if the senior center director was not present. Ms. Sandra Tubbs (Vance County) responded that she didn't think we needed to change the bylaws, but the RAAC member giving the report is a good direction to move towards. Mr. Allen stated that RAAC members giving county reports should be under the "Meeting" section of the bylaws. Ms. Bryant then clarified that she wanted to know the responsibilities of the RAAC member not necessarily make an amendment to the bylaws. At this time, Ms. Annette Myers (STHL Granville County) had a question. She is a Senior Tar Heel Delegate nominee and also at RAAC meeting and wanted to know her role is and whether she had a vote. Mr. Allen responded that she is there as an observer.

Mr. Jefferson asked if mileage had been taken off the table because it still needed to be discussed. He feels the allotment for one person per county is not fair because in Warren County

some of the members can live up to 25 miles apart. Mr. Jefferson would like more members to be compensated for mileage. Ms. Tubbs then said she has been coming to RAAC meetings for some time now and did not know that compensation was available and what is being offered is more than what we had before and she was alright with that. Ms. Kathy May (Granville County) questioned how much mileage reimbursement could be for all members and Jillian responded that she did the math with the COG and it is much more than what is in the budget. Ms. Angela Jones (Person County) stated she would not need mileage reimbursement as she works for the county. Mr. Allen at that time decided that a vote should be taken on the amendments to the bylaws but it was determined that there was not a quorum of 51%. As a result a vote could not be taken. Ms. Hardin suggested sending the amendments out to all the members via email and collecting the votes that way. Mr. Allen said he would look into the bylaws to make sure that is allowable.

AAA Staff Reports

Director's Report – Jillian Hardin

We are paying attention to our funding and programs. The House has passed its version of the new Healthcare law. As of yet, we have not heard of any cuts in funding for Older Americans Act programs. We will keep everyone updated as more information is released. In the HCCBG budget allocation \$969,549 in nonrecurring funds and \$400,000 in federal funds were omitted and a base budget was sent to the AAAs. Those monies will be put back in so she will hold off sending out the allocations till that is resolved. House Bill 248, which started as a resolution that came from STHL, has moved to the Senate. We are working on MIPPA and LCA contracts. We have a new friend, the Alliance of Disability Advocates. The agency serves Franklin County and looking to work with people in our region and it will hopefully result in some grants. They have contact with a federal prison which we can partner with and maybe offer Healthy Living workshops. Colleen Puceta is being trained as a Master Trainer for the Chronic Disease Self Management program. We are wrapping up Senior Games in the end of May if the weather cooperates. Kim is working on the Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention Walk in June. We have Operation Fan Relief money. The Lowes in Henderson is willing to partner with us and we're planning a community event to provide heat relief for home delivered meal recipients. May is Older Americans Month, June is Elder Abuse Awareness, and we have been getting out the word with press releases. Monitoring is wrapped up except for one county. The AAA was monitored for Nutrition and LCA and no compliance issues were found. Providers should be on the look out for an email regarding consumer contributions. In the course of being monitored it was discovered that some counties get much more consumer contribution than others. We are planning a service provider meeting focusing on best practices, nutrition and consumer contributions in June or July.

Family Caregiver Support Report – Melissa Catlett

See Attachment

Ombudsman Report – Kim Hawkins

See Attachment

Aging Projects Coordinator Report- Colleen Puceta

See Attachment

County Aging Program Reports

Warren County Senior Center – Vicky Stokes and Charles Jefferson

Membership rates are flat however; transportation services and home delivered meals have gone up. The senior care project has been a huge success. Instead of a Christmas gift exchange, donations are taken each month to purchase items for themed care kits. Volunteers deliver the kits to home delivery meal recipients and the volunteers continue keep in touch with the clients. Donations have exceeded need so they have reached out to clients on the waiting list. Charles Jefferson conducted an advocacy 101 event. An ad was put in the paper to get the word out. Charles talked about STHL responsibilities, senior needs and how to advocate for them. One of the issues that were brought up was not having transportation to practice for various events of the Senior Games. The group created a petition, collected over three hundred signatures and submitted it to the city manager. Shortly afterwards, Charles received word the interim city manager that he put two shuffleboard courts and two bocce courts in the budget. The HCBG Committee and the Senior Citizens Advisory Council have been combined to form the Warren County Aging Advisory Council where Charles Jefferson is the Chair.

Franklin County Department of Aging –

Rachele Deats read the highlights from the Franklin County Senior Center Director Report. See Attachment

Granville County Senior Center at Oxford– Sue Bryant

The senior center at Oxford has many programs going on including dementia awareness workshops, hosting sanctioned bridge games, expanding pickle ball to the Granville Athletic Center (GAP), creative life long learning and continuing to help seniors keep their pets at home. Ms. Kathy May (Senior Center Director) is restructuring in home services. She has hired a part time registered nurse who will be going on home visits. Ms. May brought up the directive from the Division on Aging and Adult Service that an R.N. is required to sign off on in home service plans. A letter drafted by Ms. May and Mr. Allen was sent to the division but no response has been received. Ms. Hardin mentioned that there is a new person in that position at Division and we would need to give her some time to get settled and then we can follow up. Ms. Tubbs said she brought up this issue at STHL and it seems that this issue is happening across the state. Mr. Jefferson mentioned this directive at his executive board meeting and asked Mary to have someone come to the STHL meeting in June to talk on the topic.

Vance County Center – Sandra Tubbs

Sandra attended the Martin Luther King program and she thought it was excellent with very good speakers and a men's chorus. Several speakers have been coming to the center to talk about fire safety and conduct smoke detector training. It is encouraging to see more activities geared towards men. More than ninety seniors participated in the Valentine's Day dance; they enjoyed getting dressed up and having a special event to attend. The Senior Bowling League is very active, SHIIP presentations are ongoing and living with diabetes training is very helpful. A volunteer Luncheon was held in April. They are looking to find another facility for the senior center as parking is an issue and the seniors are getting parking tickets.

Person County Center – Maynell Harper

Maynell Harper (Person County Senior Center Director) is proud to announce that the new building for the Person County Senior Center is open and they have about 150 people coming to the new facility with about 90 members using the athletic facilities. A new volunteer coordinator has been hired and they are starting another family caregiver support program which actually has a gentleman attendee. The Open House for the new Senior Center is on May 23rd at 4pm and all are invited and encouraged to attend.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature Report (STHL) – Charles Jefferson

Each session of the STHL has speakers and it has been requested that one speaker address the topic of the Division of Aging and Adult Services requirement to have an R.N. sign off on In Home Aide Level II assessment/reassessment and care plans. This year, elections of the STHL Speaker, Speaker Protem, Secretary and Deputy Secretary will be held in October. Ms. Jillian

Hardin submitted a resolution requesting a Study Commission for the Aging which resulted in House Bill 248 that has moved on to the Senate.

Adjournment

Robert Allen, Chair encouraged RAAC members to be an active voice and not to leave it all to the senior center directors. Members can report on issues in their counties and talk to commissioners about what is going on from a RAAC perspective. The vote for the STHL nominees could not take place due to the lack of quorum. Robert Allen, Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday August 9, 2017

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Kerr Tar Regional COG

*Respectfully Submitted by: Suja Jacob
Area Agency on Aging*