

ARC Advisory Committee on Aging
January 26, 2022, Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS

Lois Ricci
Julie Arnold
Tammy Brewer
Richard Sylvia Jr.
Bob Reeves
Kerry Armstrong, ARC Board Chair

Rob Alexander
Karen Ashley
Lin Choa
Rosa Marroquin
Cynthia Tucker

Govind Hariharan
Brandi Hackett
Darlene Kimes
Mildred Schmelz
Herman Weil

STAFF

Becky Kurtz
Jim Skinner
Elizabeth Sanford

John Hammond
Aisa Pascual

Mary Blumberg
Kim Yawn

Co- Chair Lois Ricci called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. The committee continues to meet virtually until ARC reopens its office. Virtual public meetings are currently allowed through the Georgia Emergency Declaration for open meetings.

There was no public comment.

Manager's update – New member Govind Hariharan was introduced. His work is focused on health, wealth and technology in relation to older adults and he is a Professor at Kennesaw State University. Anna Roach has been named the new Executive Director of ARC and will begin mid- February. The ARC Board passed a resolution on Jan 12th supporting the AIS Group's continuing to explore ARC's aging/social services intersection with healthcare. This will require ARC to examine some of its current business practices.

Federal Legislative Activity

The House's "Build Back Better" Reconciliation package is still awaiting Senate passage. This would eliminate the state and local match for ARPA. FY 2022 budget appropriations has not been passed. We are still operating under a continuing resolution which will expire on February 18th.

Patti Szarowicz, ARC ADRC Counselor, testified before the US Senate Special Committee on Aging on how the ADRC helps individuals in areas that affect older persons finances. There is a Financial Literacy in Retirement Guide now available from the Committee.

State Legislative Issues

February 17th will be the Senior Day at the Capital Virtual event. Persons can join by Facebook Live. Issues for this year are funding for in-home care; funding for Long-term Care Ombudsman awareness; allow Medicaid funding for Assisted Living; The Georgia Caregivers Act; and expand nursing home options. All ACA members are member of COAGE so should be getting e-mail updates and newsletters. More information can be found at GCOA.org

ARC Office Reintegration

Office remains primarily virtual until further notice. ACA will be kept informed on any developments.

Metro Atlanta Speaks Survey

Jim Skinner presented on the Metro Atlanta Speaks Survey. The slide show presentation is attached with details from the survey.

December 1, 2021 Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the last meeting minutes was made by Bob Reeves and Brandi Hackett seconded. The motion passed.

Area Plan of Aging FY 2023 Update Action Item

This is ARC's formal request to DAS for grant funding. The State sets goals and ARC reports on strategies to meet goals. The attached slide show provides more details on ARC's services, providers and funding allocation. There is a 5% increase in the allocation as compared to last year due to there being growth in the older adult population in the region. The Plan will be submitted to the State by March 1, 2022.

The Board was asked to give conditional approval for the Plan with these conditions:

- 1) ARC to send out a complete Area Plan document to committee by February 4th*
- 2) Comments from committee due to ARC by February 11th*
- 3) If additional input or comments are desired by the committee the Co-Chairs can call a special meeting to review further.*

Herman Weill offered the motion and Mildred Schmelz seconded to support this proposal to allow ARC staff time to complete the document and the committee adequate time to review with input.

Motion unanimously approved.

Rockdale Senior Services

Susan Morgan, Rockdale Senior Services Director presented information on the county services for older persons. The attached slide presentation provides details. Lois Ricci inquired about the Homeless Village by the VFW in Rockdale County. Susan reported it is an ongoing effort to coordinate support within the county.

Next ACA meeting is March 23, 2022. **Motion to adjourn** at 2:15 pm.