

**Advisory Committee on Aging  
Wednesday, September 28, 2022  
1:00pm – 2:13pm  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Co-Chair, Dr. Ramona Jackson Jones	Co-Chair, Dr. Lois Ricci	
Robert Alexander	Julie Arnold	Tammy Brewer
Darlene Kimes	Bob Reeves	Mildred Schmelz
Wayne Stokes		

**Virtual Attendees:**

Lin-Liang Chao	Aysha Treadwell Cooper	Greg Elder
Brandi Hackett	Rosa Marroquin	Marylou Mandell

- I. Welcome Ramona Jackson-Jones, Co-Chair, & Lois Ricci, Co-Chair
  - Co-Chair, Ramona Jackson Jones, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- II. Public Comment Period Ramona Jackson-Jones, Co-chair
  - No registered public comment was recorded.
- III. Committee Roll Call - Sue Burgess
  - Roll Call of Board Members was taken.
- IV. Managers Update - Sue Burgess
  - The new manager for the Strategic Planning and Quality Section, Sharise Thurman Byrd, MS, was introduced to the committee. She replaces Mary Blumberg, who retired.
  - Review of the American Rescue Plan Grants (ARPA) to the Provider Network and the services they will provide. Aging & Independence Services (A&IS) received \$12.8M in ARPA funding in FY 23. An overview of the providers and associated services are indicated below:



## ARPA Grants for ARC

Provider	Service(s)
Atlanta Legal Aid, Society, Inc.	Elderly Legal Assistance Program (ELAP)
Cherokee County Board of Commissioners	Assistive Technology, Homemaker, Transportation
Clayton County Board of Commissioners	Congregate Meals, Material Aid, Transportation
Cobb County Board of Commissioners	Assistive Technology, Case Management, Home Delivered Meals, Transportation
Center for Pan Asian Community Services	Caregiver Services, Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals, Transportation
Center for the Visually Impaired	Home Management
DeKalb County Board of Commissioners	Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals, Transportation
Douglas County BOC – Connect Douglas	Transportation
Douglas County Board of Commissioners	Assistive Technology, Congregate Meals (pilot), Home Delivered Meals, Homemaker, Kinship
Fayette Senior Services, Inc.	Case Management, Transportation
Fulton County Board of Commissioners	Home Delivered Meals, Transportation
Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners	Assistive Technology, Case Management, Congregate Meals, Homemaker, Transportation
Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage & Disabilities, Inc.	Material Aid
Jewish Family & Career Services, Inc.	Caregiver Services (Respite)
Rockdale County Board of Commissioners	Assistive Technology, Kinship, Material Aid, Transportation

- Additional ARPA funded services include:

- Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) – provides information and assistance for accessing long-term services and supports in the community.
- CARES Flex (Consumer Direction) – allows clients to hire their own employees to provide in-home supports (personal care, homemaker, respite, adult day programs, home modifications, and transportation).
- One2One Telephone Reassurance – is a free phone-based outreach program that seeks to decrease social isolation and loneliness by providing ongoing companionship and support.
- Behavioral Health Coaching – serves as a resource for residents and staff of low-income housing and is aimed at decreasing the fragmentation of services for older adults.
- Evidence-Based Wellness Education - program activities include promoting wellness, nutrition, and physical activity, disease prevention and risk management, and healthy lifestyle and safety in a group setting.
- Federal Transit Authority 5310 Grant
  - \$1.5M received for 2 years for transportation services.
  - Current Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is currently posted with a due date of October 14, 2022.

## V. Action Items

Review Minutes from July 27, 2022 - Lois Ricci, Co-Chair

- It was determined that there were not enough advisory committee members present at the time of Roll Call to form a quorum. Kim Yawn recommended minute meetings from the July 27, 2022, meeting be postponed until the December 7, 2022, meeting for approve.

## VI. Presentations

A. Dialogue on Caregiving Challenges with Family Members - Charlotte McKinney/McKinnon and Rita Young of Persons with Intellectual and Development Disabilities

- Lois Ricci, Co-Chair, provided introductions for the presenters, Charlotte and Rita. Both presenters are mothers of children with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD).

- Peter and Paul met in pre-school in DeKalb County, and they were pioneers for numerous services for educating kids with disabilities as they are both in their 50's.
- IDD adults can maintain jobs and be contributing members of society by paying taxes and paying into social security.
- Socialization, fellowship, and integration into society is integral to assimilation into societal norms.
- Barriers/Challenges affecting parents, caregivers, and adults with disabilities include:
  - Aging parents need assistance in caring for their adult children as they are simultaneously aging. For example, two of Charlotte's children have had two knee replacements (Peter) and one hip replacement (Ann). Who is going to assist them rehabilitate?
  - Securing qualified and financially compensated caregivers is difficult. McDonald's is currently hiring associates at \$15 an hour and the Medicaid compensated caregivers make \$10 - \$13 an hour.
  - The length of time people are/can be on the list to receive services can be unfathomable.
  - The process to receive (Medicaid) services is complex with an inordinate amount of paperwork.
  - What happens when I am gone? Who is going to take care of my kids and these processes? What home and community-based options for a personal care home will be available versus an institutionalized setting once I expire?
  - Statistics shared during the presentation from the Family Caregiver Alliance from 2018 state:
    - Approximately 65 million people in the United States serve as caregivers to older family members with a disability.
    - Approximately 180,000 older adults with I/DDs of which an estimated 6% will be affected by dementia.
- Current Opinions in Psychiatry (2010) indicate parents of children with I/DD are more often to encounter severe, chronic stressors, particularly those involving child behavior problems and extreme



caregiving need. Self-care is an important component of emotional health maintenance.

- Adult services available for I/DD include waivers, employment, SSI/SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare, and healthcare.
- The Big Picture 6-week virtual series includes the following topics: personal profile, legal planning, financial planning, healthcare, selecting caregivers and caregiving agencies, self-care, and putting the pieces together to help set families up for success.
- There is a tremendous need for residential options, connections, and community engagement for adults with disabilities.
  - Adults with disabilities often find themselves isolated after they leave school.
  - Community resources are needed.
- ARC hosted a webinar with Peter and Paul's Place, Inc. and the two major themes were long term care needs and housing. ARC Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) staff member, Alyssa Perkins, provided real-time, available resources during the session.
- Resources and contact us at:
  - Real Talk with Rita - YouTube
  - Facebook Group: Real Talk with Rita – Parents, Providers, DD Professionals,
  - Virtual Series – The Big Picture: A Design for Life – 6 Part Series
  - Group Accountability Sessions, One to One Consulting
- Questions and Answers (Q&A)
  - Mildred Schmelz – What safety net recommendations do you have?
    - Get connected with other families and resources. Access to services, such as the Medicaid waiver, was not originally set-up to receive private pay/cost-sharing funds.
  - Wayne Stokes – Have you found other states more progressive than Georgia?
    - Generally, states in the NE and West have more resources and more money allocated.

- Darlene Kimes – How receptive are legislators to the work you are doing?
  - A study committee is currently being conducted by the Senate regarding waiting lists and other recommendations. Follow-up statement by Darlene Kimes and Bob Reeves – you can have a representative present during committee meetings to make sure your public comments are recorded.
- Bob Reeves – Do you have relationships with Senators and Congressmen (at the federal level)?
  - One of our biggest concerns is that funds do not travel from state to state for services, if someone moves interstate.
- Tammy Brewer – Shared a heartfelt comment regarding her 58-year-old brother who was diagnosed as being “mentally retarded” and will assist in taking care of her brother when the primary caregiver can no longer assume that responsibility. An additional question was asked regarding available services in Cherokee County for a personal care home versus a group home for another client that she is consulting with. Sue Burgess indicated she will assist Tammy in finding resources.
- Peter and Paul’s Place, Inc. – <https://peterandpaulsplace.org>
  - [charlotteandlois@peterandpaulsplace.org](mailto:charlotteandlois@peterandpaulsplace.org)
  - Rita Young – [Rita@ritayoungassociates.com](mailto:Rita@ritayoungassociates.com) 770-688-5487

B. Provider Presentation – Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage and Disability Project GRANDD (Grandparents Raising and Nurturing Dependents with Disabilities) - Rainie Jueschke

- Project GRANDD provides programs that reduce the impact of social and economic disadvantage on the health, growth, and development of children.
- Assist parents, grandparents, and caregivers to understand the needs of their children and help them to assure optimal health, development, and education.
- Project GRANDD serves the entire metro area.
- In-person group services in Fulton & DeKalb counties only.



- Additional support for kinship services is desperately needed.
- Gwinnett County has the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest population of kinship families (5,539 seniors are raising 6,897 children). There are no in-county services for kinship caregivers.
- Food insecurity is the #1 kinship family need.
- (Feeding America 2019 study found the presence of children in the home of a senior is an indicator of food insecurity).
- Affordable housing is the #2 need – caregivers' quality for senior housing but are disqualified by having children.
- Project GRANDD started with a ½ staff person and a \$30k budget. They now have 6 staff persons and a \$500k budget.
- Project GRANDD is the ISDD Generations United's 2021 Brookdale Foundation Grandfamilies Leadership Awardee. The award is given for outstanding contributions to the field of grandparents and other relatives raising children from Generations United.
- The organizational model is evidenced-based with a certification in grandfamilies.
- Kinship families are typically formed out of trauma or mental illness.
- Kinship lacks support for funding and services.
- At one point, Project GRANDD received Material Assistance for 23 beds; however, no funds were received to obtain bedding.
- Monies should be available for Family Fun Days such as the Zoo, Aquarium, Chuckie Cheese, Transportation Stipends, etc.
- Rainie indicated she is a product of the foster care system. She was the first person in her group home to graduate high school and college. She believed there were no limits to what she desired to do and become. Most of her peers had children at an early age and were below grade level with reading.
- ARC funds case management which provides services for supportive housing, food, kinship care funds, etc.
- There are 13 families in the Fulton/DeKalb area on the waiting list and 44 families in Gwinnett with minimal advertising /branding of our organization. Project GRANDD is at capacity.
- Questions and Answers
  - Wayne Stokes – Do you work with the Department of Family & Children's Services (DFCS) Kinship Navigator Program?



- Caregivers and Grandparents are often denied services and funds that they should qualify. Many of the grandkids have an Individualized Education Program (IEPs) and 504 plans.
- Bob Reeves – What happens to kids when the caregiver dies?
  - Typically, another family member will take them, but we tend to lose touch with them at that time.
  - [https://www.isdd-home.org/about\\_us](https://www.isdd-home.org/about_us)

## VII. Announcements Sue Burgess

- A. Upcoming ACA Committee Meeting – December 7, 2022
- B. Co-AGE meeting – October 27, 2022, in Atlanta, at 10am
- C. VAC-5 Outreach announced
- D. Staff Changes
  - a. Sue Burgess, former Assistant Director of A&IS, is commencing retirement and will work two days a week and finish up projects. She is anticipating retirement in early 2023.
  - b. Connie White assumed the position of Assistant Director of A&IS as of September 26, 2022. Connie was previously the HCBS Provider Network Unit Manager within A&IS.

## VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:13pm by Chairman Jones, Co-Chair.