

ARC Advisory Committee on Aging
December 1, 2021, Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS

Romona Jackson-Jones
Julie Arnold
Tammy Brewer
Liane Levetan
Richard Sylvia Jr.

Lois Ricci
Karen Ashley
Lin Choa
Rosa Marroquin
Herman Weil

Rob Alexander
Deane Bonner
Brandi Hackett
Mildred Schmelz

STAFF

Becky Kurtz
Katie Perumbeti

John Hammond
Kristie Sharp

Mary Blumberg
Kim Yawn

Becky Kurtz – Managers Update

See slides for detailed information:

- Shared summary of FY21 Annual Report (available online) looking back over past year
- Federal funding updates
- Legislative updates

Kristi Sharp – Presentation on Business Acumen

See slides for the detailed information. Ended by quoting the previous ACL Administrator – “Do you want to be a Netflix or a Blockbuster?” ARC is hoping to be a Netflix by adapting and being very flexible.

Questions and answers:

Brandi Hackett Q: is there any focus on people that are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid?

Kristie’s answer: some suggestions were made to us, and we’ve had some plans come to us and start those discussions already. But the dual eligible population is definitely one group on our radar, although we’re not narrowing it down to any one market yet.

Co-chairman Jones question: Six Sigma Lean – is that an approach we’re taking? How are we measuring our outcomes?

Kristie’s Answer: We haven’t gotten to that point yet. In some instances, it may be specific to the partner we’re working with and what they want to measure. There will probably be some similar measurements among partners. We’ve identified it’s a need and haven’t gotten any further on that yet.

Rosa Marroquin question: Are there plans to expand outside 10 county area? Also, what plans are there to address language barriers?

Kristie’s answer: our region is the 10 counties. If it’s outside that, we’d talk to that other AAA to see if they’re interested, and if not, how we could work collaboratively to serve that area.

Regarding language, the plan would be to work kind of like we do with the ADRC using the language line. Or if demand is high enough, think about how do we add staff or partner with an organization with the capacity to work with us?

Approval of Minutes – Co-chair Ricci

Several additional members joined us since earlier in the meeting to a total of 13 for a quorum.

Minutes were presented from the September 22, 2021, for approval. Tammy Brewer made a motion to approve. Rosa Marroquin seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Darryl Blackwell – DeKalb County Presentation

Started with video feature Office of Aging with DeKalb County Human Services

Shared an overview slide of their services

Questions and answers:

Co-chair Ricci had three questions about transportation: regarding transportation program, is it available to all DeKalb County citizens regardless of income?

Darryl A: yes, that's our human services voucher

Q: How does iCare play into the DeKalb County transportation system?

A: it's a quasi parallel but they do partner with iCare on some instances. But the bulk of service is provided with their other provider, OWL.

Q: mentioned Alzheimer's and dementia. Are other disabilities included?

A: yes, all disabilities outlined in American with Disabilities Act. He was just pointing out that they are seeing a rise in dementia and need to be thinking about that too.

Liane Levetan question/comment: she continues to be very proud of DeKalb County and the work that continues and the recognition of the partnership of DC and ARC. She was unable to see the presentation ARC made at the last DeKalb County Commission meeting, but hopes they understand how the program has grown over the past few years. She thinks a lot of the citizens are unaware of what the partnership has created, and she's wondering if there's some way can get out a brochure or something that would go out to seniors and at least be a "book of brag" so to speak. Is there some way we could get a sponsor that would be willing to do this and point out some of the good programs in this 10-county (now 11 county) region?

CO-chair Ricci's answer: thinks it's an idea that could be considered. She passes it over to Becky and her team to consider.

Co-chair Ricci question: is there any discussion about improving/adding to the senior centers in the north part of DeKalb County?

Darryl: there is a center in Chamblee built in 2016; state of the art building, beautiful facility.

Unfortunately, with the pandemic there has been a hiatus. But as soon as they're able to safely reopen, hopefully in the near future, hoping they can reopen with world class programming and technical assistance.

Co-chair Ricci clarified the question: is there any discussion about opening anything in Tucker part of county?

Darryl answer: in Stone Mountain corridor, district 4 and 7 in next year or 2 – senior/community center. Will have an Olympic size pool and have a big community focus and be innovative. And a congregate meal site. Also, a replacement center in Stonecrest hopefully to open in 2022.

Deane Bonner question for Ms. Jones: she lives in Cobb County and is unaware- is there such a program like DeKalb in her county?

Becky answered: yes, there are similar services (not all the same) in Cobb. And what we're doing is asking each of our partners to come and present to the ACA, so will be asking Cobb to do a similar presentation soon. In the meantime, she'd be happy to connect her to the Cobb staff.

Brandi Hackett question/comment: she's a social worker serving less common dementias (specifically Lewy Body). She wanted to emphasize the need for increased education around dementias other than Alzheimer's. Two in particular - Lewy Body Dementia and Frontotemporal dementias. Both can have very complex presentations that can put a lot of their staff and people at a lot of risk for misunderstandings.

Darryl's response: yes, thank you. Will look out and reach out to you as we expand the program.

Co-chair Ricci comment: add to the list vascular dementia. Seeing a huge increase in undiagnosed vascular dementias.

Darryl clarified that iCare is one of their grantees.

Announcements

Next meeting is January 26, 2022.

Becky reiterated that need a quorum in person in order to vote if the meeting is in person.

Next voting item will be to approve the Area Plan on Aging, which is required by federal law.

We will be taking safety precautions regarding COVID and will be in touch if anything changes.

Please join the public hearing if you are able to at 2:30.

Happy holidays!