

### Minutes

Monday, July 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.

#### **RAAC Members in Attendance:**

Clint Lewis (Carteret County)  
Connie Brinson (Duplin County)  
Woody Brinson (Duplin County)  
Elliot Ashburn (Greene County)  
Elaine Patterson (Lenoir County)  
Walter LaRoque, Chairman (Lenoir County)  
Matthew Brinkley (Jones County)  
Martha Bryan (Wayne County)

#### **RAAC Members in Attendance by Zoom:**

Victor Heinrich (Carteret County)  
Darrell Grubbs (Duplin County)  
Donna Grubbs (Duplin County)  
Faye Taylor (Greene County)  
Ann Holton (Pamlico County)  
Jimmie Ford (Wayne County)

#### **ECCAAA Staff in Attendance:**

January Brown, Deputy Aging Director  
Kim Baker, Lead Aging Programs Consultant  
Angelia Pridgen, Lead Regional Ombudsman

1. **Call to Order and Welcome**– *Walter LaRoque, Chairman*  
Chairman LaRoque called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was met.
2. **Adopt Agenda** - *Walter LaRoque, Chairman*. The agenda was adopted as written.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – *Walter LaRoque, Chairman*. A motion was made by Ann Holton and a second by . The motion to approve the April 10, 2023, minutes was accepted.
4. **AAA Updates** – *January Brown, AAA Deputy Aging Director*
  - a. **Monitoring**- RAAC members received documentation in the agenda packet that documented regional providers who had received FY 2022-2023 monitoring visits. Deputy Aging Director January Brown reviewed documentation with RAAC members. She said that the monitoring session went well this year and there were only a couple of minor findings that were addressed as technical assistance with providers. Deputy Aging Director January Brown spoke about FY 2023-2024 monitoring. She said that monitoring can begin in September and the AAA will be completing their

monitoring schedule in the next couple of months for those providers that will be monitored. The AAA will be monitoring providers for HCCBG, FCSP, III-D, and ARPA contracted services.

- b. Senior Center Directors Meeting- Deputy Aging Director January Brown spoke to RAAC members about ECCAAA hosting a Senior Center Directors meeting on June 27, 2023, at Wayne County Services on Aging. Providers received Meeting Owl systems to aid them with their virtual programming, engaged in the Obie for Senior interactive system, and directors discussed multiple topics.
- c. Budget/Funding Updates FY 22/23. Members received information in the RAAC agenda packets about provider program expenditures as of May 31, 2023, and ECCAAA budgets. Deputy Aging Director January Brown spoke with RAAC members on the current fiscal year budgets and spending by county. ECCAAA also supplied a regional spreadsheet for the number of clients served through May 31, 2023. ECCAAA will provide a regional data handout at the October 2023 meeting that will provide members with clients served from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. State reports are not available currently due to year-end close-out procedures.

### 5. Staff Reports – ECC AAA Staff

- a. Family Caregiver- Deputy Aging Director January Brown discussed with RAAC members that AAA staff assembled technology kits that were distributed in May to all senior centers in the region. She reviewed items that were in the technology kit and how providers can use them. She discussed that ECCAAA has bought reminiscing books, caregiver workbooks, and Dementia Activity books that will be distributed to senior centers within the next month. ECCAAA has bought backpacks with name tags that will be distributed to caregiver support facilitators across the region. Backpacks will be given to caregivers who care for individuals who are incontinent. The backpacks can be used by caregivers in public to store incontinence supplies in a dignified manner. The support group facilitators will identify the clients that will receive the backpacks.
- b. HCCBG- none at present time.
- c. IIID- none at present time.
- d. Ombudsman – Lead Regional Ombudsman, Angelia Pridgen supplied information on Elder Abuse activity bags that the Ombudsmen are assembling for clients in long-term care facilities. The Ombudsmen have ordered items including coloring books, word search books, color pencils, highlighters, and snacks that will be assembled in the bags. The bags will be distributed throughout the region over the next month to long-term care facilities to handout to residents.

Lead Regional Ombudsman, Angelia Pridgen discussed ECCAAA involvement in county events during May for Older Americans Month and Elder Abuse Awareness. Elder Abuse Awareness month is celebrated from Mother's Day to Father's Day and National Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15<sup>th</sup>. In previous years there were events held throughout June and on June 15<sup>th</sup> for National Elder Abuse Awareness. In FY 2022-2023 providers

combined their Older Americans Month and Elder Abuse Awareness events into one.

Events included:

- Carteret- Carteret Senior Expo at the Leon Mann Jr. Enrichment Center in May.
- Craven – Craven County Senior Center held an Older Americans Act event.
- Duplin – Duplin Services on Aging held their annual Elder Abuse and Older Americans Act event at the Duplin Commons on May 3, 2023.
- Greene- Greene County Senior Center held an Older Americans event and Elder Abuse Awareness Walk on May 18, 2023.
- Jones- Jones County Senior Center and DSS held a Health Fair on May 25, 2023.
- Lenoir- Lenoir County Council on Aging and Lenoir Department of Social Services provided an Older Americans event and Elder Abuse Awareness Walk on May 10, 2023. The event was held at the Kinston Community Center.
- Onslow- Onslow Senior Center held a health fair and Elder Abuse Awareness event on June 10, 2023.
- Wayne- Wayne County Services on Aging held an Elder Abuse Awareness Symposium on June 20, 2023. Participants received presentations from ECCAAA, Wayne County Department of Social Services, Legal Aide, and law enforcement.

Lead Regional Ombudsman, Angelia supplied information about Lauren Latshaw. Lauren Latshaw completed and received her Ombudsman certification. Lauren was an administrator in a facility with Affinity Group prior to coming to ECCAAA. The regional breakdown of Ombudsmen representation is:

- Carteret- Angelia will have all long-term care facilities.
- Craven- Angelia will have all adult care homes and Lauren will have skilled nursing facilities.
- Duplin – Angelia will have all the long-term care facilities.
- Greene- Angelia will have one assisted facility (which is closed at this time), and Lauren will have the remaining long-term care facilities.
- Jones- Lauren will have all long-term care facilities.
- Lenoir- Lauren will have all long-term care facilities.
- Onslow- Angelia will have all long-term care facilities.
- Pamlico- Angelia will have all adult care homes and Lauren will have skilled nursing facilities.
- Wayne- Angelia will have two facilities (Eagles Point and Somerset) and Lauren will have the remaining facilities.

Clint Lewis asked Angelia Pridgen how staffing is in adult care homes now that we have come out of COVID? Lead Regional Ombudsman Angelia Pridgen said that they are still seeing issues with staffing. The Ombudsmen see that staffing is getting better but there is still an issue with individuals wanting to work, especially in long-term care. She said

facilities have lifted the mask mandate and stopped visitation restriction in long-term care facilities.

**5. STHL Alternate appointment RAAC approval of Arthur Robinson, Greene County -  
Walter LaRoque, Chairman**

Mr. Walter LaRoque requested a motion to approve Mr. Arthur Robinson's application for STHL alternative for Greene County. Martha Bryan motioned for approval and seconded by Elliot Ashburn. The vote was unanimous to approve by all voting members present and on zoom.

**6. County Comments – RAAC Members**

- a. Carteret – Mr. Victor Heinrich emailed Carteret Senior Center May newsletter to all members. Mr. Victor Heinrich spoke about the Life Expo in May that was held at the Carteret Senior Center. He said that Funeral home agencies, facilities, healthcare agencies, and AARP were vendors at the event. There is a medically fragile registration form in Carteret County that people can fill out. If there is a disaster the county will contact them. MR. Victor Heinrich encouraged people to get it out to all the towns. Mr. Victor Heinrich congratulated Mr. Arthur Robinson on his STHL position.
- b. Craven – not in attendance.
- c. Duplin – Mr. Darrell Grubbs spoke about Duplin Counties volunteer event that recognized 131 volunteers, older adult participation in the Neuse River Senior Games, and Duplin Services on Aging hosted a reception for the 2023 Governors Volunteer recipients. Connie Brinson was one of the recipients of the award this year. The County Commissioners did announce that they have approved funding for the new veteran's services office and senior center.
- d. Greene – Mr. Elliott Ashburn spoke on the Older Americans Month celebration and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration that were held at the Senior Center. Both events were well received, and they had good participation. There will be 18 Greene County residents who will be taking part in the Senior Games state finals and there will be volunteers to help during the event.
- e. Jones– Mr. Matthew Brinkley spoke about three congregate sites. The attendance at each site continues to increase. They are looking at opening a congregate meal site in Maysville in the future. Their Aging Planning Board meets monthly and hopefully there will be more information in the future about the added site.
- f. Lenoir– Mr. Walter LaRoque spoke about the Lenoir Counties May 10<sup>th</sup> Older Americans Month and Elder Abuse Awareness event. Mr. Walter LaRoque spoke on the Lenoir County Age Friendly initiative with AARP. There are various agencies represented throughout the county that are working together on a five-year plan. They met on June 22, 2023. Elaine Patterson handed out the senior center newsletter to members to review.
- g. Onslow– not in attendance.

- h. Pamlico– Ms. Ann Holton congratulated Duplin County on their new Senior Center. Ms. Ann Holton said that she was pleased to know that the commissioners approved their funding for the new senior center.
- i. Wayne– Ms. Martha Bryan spoke about computer classes that had been completed at WSOA, Senior Fund Day at the Park, fun dances, and free cardiac screenings. Ms. Martha Bryan congratulated STHL members on a wonderful anniversary event that occurred in June. She said the event was well attended and there was a large representation from our region.

## **7. Additional Comments/Concerns**

- a. Mr. Woody Brinson asked how many counties are back to delivering hot meals and not frozen meals?

Deputy Aging Director January Brown explained that there are a couple of providers in the region that continue to supply frozen meal routes. Not all providers in the region have the capability to deliver hot meals to clients daily. There are providers in the region that supply hot and frozen meal routes. She explained that there are few county providers that do not have delivery drives to deliver hot meals daily.

Ms. Martha Bryan said that Wayne County is supplying hot meals to a majority of their county but there are a couple of frozen meal routes because of the decrease in their volunteers.

- b. Mr. Matthew Brinkley asked about being reimbursed for the out-of-town STLH meetings. Mr. Walter LaRoque explained the Friend of STHL availability of reimbursement. Mr. Woody Brinson asked to table the discussion until the STHL meeting.
- c. Mr. Woody Brinson asked what program or documentation requires the RAAC board? He asked if the document says the purpose of the RAAC. Deputy Aging Director January Brown explained that DAAS has guidelines that require the AAAs to have a RAAC under document section 308. RAAC members discussed in prior years the RAAC board approved AAA budgets and plans. The members said that they had a more active role in the AAA and members feel that the meetings are just for reporting purposes.

Deputy Aging Director January Brown spoke on the purpose of the RAAC and explained that the RAAC is an advisory committee to the AAA. She explained that the RAAC does not vote on AAA plans or budgets. The four-year plan is a document that is required by DAAS and approved by DAAS. The AAA supplies a copy to RAAC members to review and to supply input annually. Deputy Aging Director January Brown spoke about the AAA four-year plan update and explained FY 2023-2024 plan



updates are not due to DAAS until the fall. She explained that she will talk with AAA Director Heath O'Connor about their discussion and the AAA will provide the RAAC members with DAAS RAAC requirement documentation.

- d. Mr. Walter LaRoque discussed that at the last RAAC meeting members decided not to have Zoom capability for RAAC meetings. Mr. Walter LaRoque stated that we need to have the RAAC meetings in person.
- e. Matthew Brinkley asked if we had any information on Jones County RAAC member Ms. Oliver. Deputy Aging Director January Brown said that we have received her application and Heather O'Connor will be contacting Ms. Oliver.
- f. Victor Heinrich asked for education on Community Actions, how they interact with AAAs, and where their funding comes from. Deputy Aging Director January Brown explained that Community Actions receive funding from multiple resources for their programs. Coastal Community Action and WAGES receive HCCBG funding from ECCAAA. She supplied information about services at the three Community Action agencies that are in the region.
  - WAGES provides nutrition and focuses on children.
  - Green Lamp focuses on children and families.
  - CCA provides services to older adults and children.
- g. Mr. Woody Brinson inquired about the Housing Home Improvement programs through ARPA funding that the AAA was going to provide as a direct service.

Deputy Aging Director January Brown explained that the AAA will not be doing direct service for the region for Housing Home Improvement. Regional providers will be providing Housing Home Improvement services if they choose to use their funding for these services. RAAC members discussed what projects are covered under the Housing Home Improvement program.

### **8. Meeting Calendar Dates:**

- a. October 9, 2023
- b. January 8, 2024
- c. April 8, 2024
- d. July 8, 2024

- 9. Adjourn** – Mr. Elliott Ashburn motioned to adjourn, motion approved, Mr. Walter LaRoque adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.