

# RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### COMMISSION ON AGING AD HOC COMMITTEE

November 25, 2014  
3:30 PM  
Admin Conference Room

*In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, persons requesting notification, and was posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building*

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pearce called the meeting to order at approximately 3:36 PM

#### AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

##### A. SENIOR RESOURCES

Ms. Pam Dukes presented on behalf of Senior Resources

- Have been in existence for 47 years
- Local Council on Aging for Richland County
- Mission is to empower seniors so that they may remain independent and therefore delay or prevent institutionalization
- Serve all areas of Richland County
- 18 Member Board to oversee fiscal oversight, policy direction and strategic planning
- Executive Director oversees the day-to-day operations
- Advantage to being nonprofit is that they can apply for funding the County cannot receive
- Leverage County dollars to bring in more money to serve seniors
- Many of the grants require local match
- \$302,000 County dollars brings in \$1.36 million
- Clients are primarily low income individuals
- 80% of the Meals on Wheels, Group Dining, Transportation and Homecare participants are considered low income
- Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion – 100% are considered low income
- Approximately 1,000 Volunteers for Meals on Wheels
- Meals on Wheels serves 250 days per year
- Partner with faith-based community
- Partner with major corporations who allow their employees to volunteer to serve meals
- Meals meet 1/3 of the daily nutritional requirement



#### Committee Members Present

Greg Pearce  
District Six

Kelvin E. Washington, Sr.  
District Ten

#### Others Present:

Michelle Onley  
Monique McDaniels  
Brandon Madden  
Tony McDonald

# RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

## SOUTH CAROLINA



### Commission on Aging Ad Hoc Committee

November 25, 2014

Page Two

- Home care to retain independent, but is not home healthcare (light housekeeping, meal preparation, medicine reminders, etc.)
- Most of the aides work Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, but can accommodate clients that would prefer night or weekend assistance.
- Each client is routinely seen twice a week for several hours
- Group dining is held at 4 wellness centers (North Columbia, Blythewood, Hopkins, and Eastover)
- Physical Fitness Activities, Health Education and Socialization are also conducted at the wellness centers
- Access to transportation within an 8 mile radius to the wellness centers
- Transportation is generally curb-to-curb
- Social Work staff conducts assessments on clients to ensure services are appropriate and qualify for the services
- Three volunteer programs: Senior Companion Program, Foster Grandparent Program, and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
- 96% of the children paired with a Foster Grandparent show improvement and are promoted to the next grade
- Seniors are the fastest growing population
- Needs far outweigh the available resources
- 250 Seniors are on waiting list
- Cut over \$177,000 from United Way in 2-year period
- For every \$1 reduction in funding = \$5 reduction of services
- Working to diversify funding
- Increasing regulations are a challenge
- Reimbursement rates are lower than actual costs
- Administrative Costs are approximately 13%
- 50-75% of Services are provided to Incorporated Richland County
- \$3,800 CDBG funding from City of Columbia

### B. LOURIE CENTER

Ms. Stephanie Benjamin, Programs and Marketing Coordinator, presented on behalf of the Lourie Center. Mr. John Hutto, Board Chair, Mr. Wally Graves, Board Vice-Chair, Ms. Laura Spells, Treasurer, Ms. Liz Norris, Program Chair, and Senator Joel Lourie were also present

- Founded in 1995 as the Capital Senior Center
- The City of Columbia donated the land for the building and Richland County contributed to the operating funds
- April 2013 renamed the Senator Isadore Lourie Center in honor of the late Senator Lourie
- "Men Do Not Stop Playing Because They Get Old, They Get Old Because They Stop Playing" – the philosophy of the Lourie Center

# RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

## SOUTH CAROLINA



### Commission on Aging Ad Hoc Committee

November 25, 2014

Page Three

- Serve older, active adults (ages 50 and Up)
- 760 Members and actively recruiting and welcoming members
- Fees are as low as possible to make them accessible to everyone
- There are scholarship opportunities
- Wide range of physical fitness activities
- Water aerobics is a collaboration with the City of Columbia
- Collaborate with the University of South Carolina
- Advanced Arthritis Classes
- 98% of members have expressed a greater feeling of wellbeing
- 18,000+ Square Feet
- Social engagement is one of the most valuable component
- Offer classes, workshops and tutoring
- Distribute commodity boxes to Seniors through Harvest Hope
- Polling Center
- Provide complimentary meeting space to Richland County committees
- Transportation Program for medical appointments, personal errands in the downtown (Five Points Wheels) and Northeast (in collaboration with RCSD)
- 31% of funding is provided by Richland County
- Serve Seniors 7 days a week
- Do not receive Federal funding
- Do not provide communal dining
- Establishing an office to provide clinical services and senior outreach programs
- 3 Memberships are available: (1) \$25/yr. for Social Membership; (2) \$25/month – Unlimited Physical Fitness; (3) \$85/yr. Gym Membership/Social Activities
- The only zip code not covered is in Lower Richland

### C. COG AGING SERVICES

- Responsible for planning and administration since 1976
- 10 Regional Area Agencies in SC
- 650 Area Agencies Nationwide
- Federally Funded under 1965 Older American Act
- Serve under the guidance of the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging
- Functions: Advocacy, Community Education, Grants & Contract Management, Coordination & Service Delivery, Planning & Needs, etc.
- Contract with local providers in each County
- Federally mandated to provide the following programs: Family Caregiver Support, I-Care (Medicare), Information/Referral & Assistance, and Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Unmet Needs: Utility Assistance, Water Bill Assistance, Transportation Assistance, Rental Assistance, Food and Safe Discharge Planning

# RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

## SOUTH CAROLINA



Commission on Aging Ad Hoc Committee  
November 25, 2014  
Page Three

### D. ANTIOCH SENIOR CENTER

- \$25,000 – Richland County Funding
- \$18,750 – City of Columbia Funding
- \$150,000 – Governor’s Office Ways & Means Committee
- Services include: exercise classes/equipment, bowling, line dancing, arts & crafts, seminars, nutritional meals (breakfast & lunch), health screening, computer classes, day-to-day life situations information
- Serve Richland County seniors ages 55 and above
- Do not provide transportation
- The center is 4,000 Square Feet and can serve 40 seniors per day

### E. RICHLAND COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

- First Nationally accredited park and recreation agency in the State of South Carolina
- Established in 1960
- Over 40 facilities throughout Richland County
- Provide physical education and recreation for the citizens in unincorporated Richland County
- Midlands Senior Games (Partnership with the City of Columbia)
- \$12.7 Million – Richland County funding
- 95% funding is derived from property taxes
- \$1.5 Million – Funding received from activity and program fees
- \$21,300 allocated for senior programs and activities
- Currently there are 2 Adult Activity Facilities and 7 Community Centers
- 4 Additional Community Centers to be completed by Fall 2015
- Experts in recreational/leisure activities
- Established relationship with Senior Resources

### REVIEW TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR UNINCORPORATED RICHLAND COUNTY

### REVIEW SUMMARY OF SENIOR SERVICES OFFERED BY OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

### NEXT STEPS AND SCHEDULE THE NEXT MEETING

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 PM