COG BOARD ORIENTATION

Sarah Thompson
Southwestern Commission Executive Director

Our Mission

To improve the quality of life in our seven-county service area by assisting local governments in reaching their goals.

Our Foundation & History

- What's a "COG"?
- Formed in 1965
- 1960's and 70's- the rationale
- Across the US, different names
- Statutory authority
- Owned by local governments

Federal/State Program Designations = COG's Departments

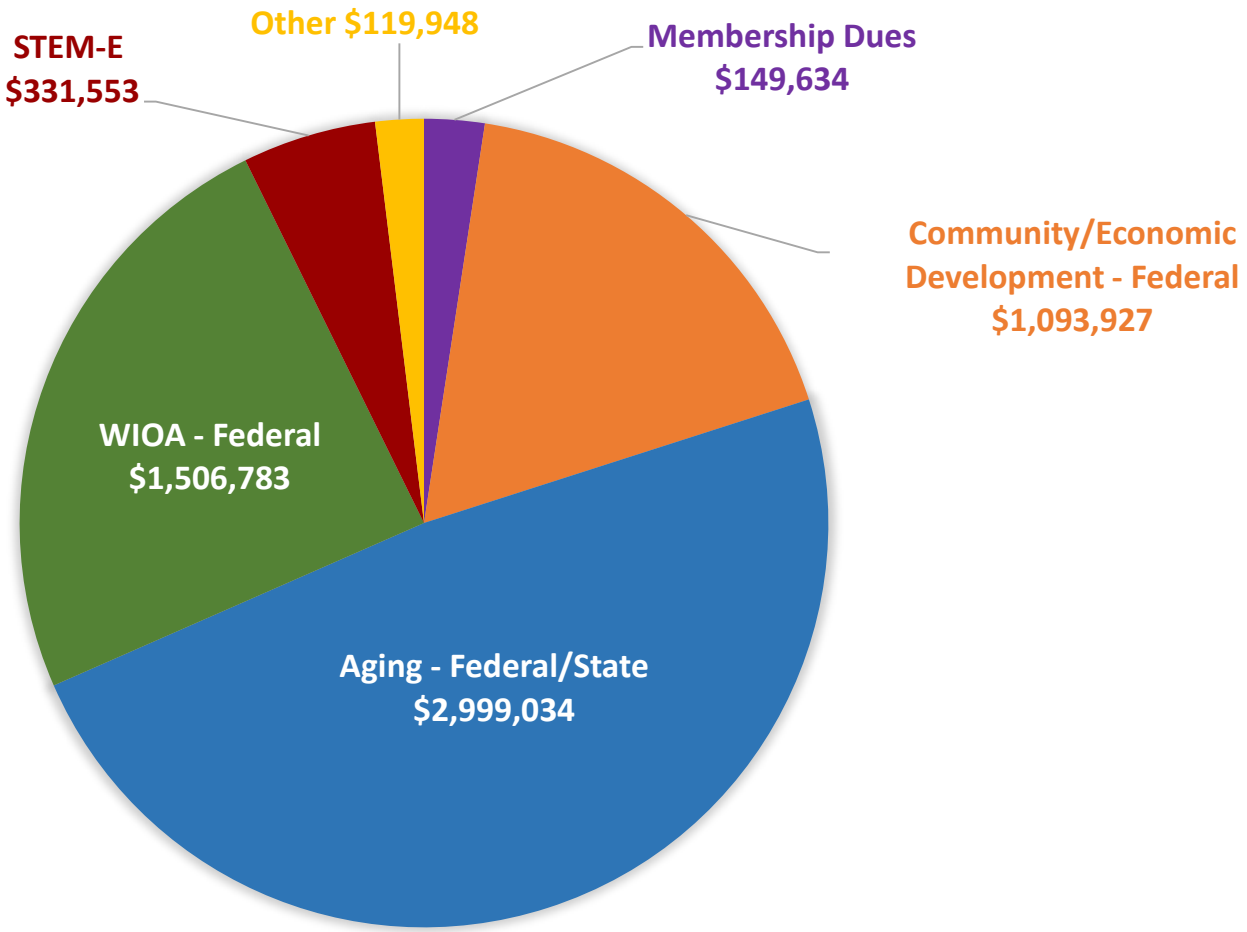
- Economic Development District for US Economic Development Administration – EDD
- Local Development District for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) – LDD
- Lead Regional Organization for Older Americans Act – LRO
- Rural Transportation Planning Organization for NCDOT – RPO
- Local Area for Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act

Administrative

Roger Wiggins
Finance Officer

Debra Ivey
Office Manager and Clerk to the Board

Revenue Streams – FY 2017-2018



Cherokee Preservation Foundation Grant for STEM-E

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Entrepreneurship

The Commission has obtained over $172,000 for our role as fiscal agent for STEM-E since 2006

- STEM-E in Region A:
  - Began in 2006-2007
  - Broadband into every school
  - Continuing Education for teachers and students
  - Received over 3.5 million dollars since 2006

Why Regionalism?

- Think regionally, act locally
- We supply regional strategy and help with local implementation
- Coordinated effort – we are more alike than different
- Efficient approach
- Conveners – we are in touch with local governments, state and federal agencies, and other partners

What Does "Regionalism" Mean to Us?

A committed effort to improve communities through coordination and collaboration, maximizing efficiency by working together, while preserving the aspirations and goals of each local government.

Roles of the COG Board

- Set policy; develop priorities; ensure operations in accordance with stated purpose
- Hire/oversee Executive Director; set compensation
- Provide general guidance/counsel to Executive Director
- Ensure legal/ethical integrity; maintain accountability
- Protect the organization's assets
- Nurture a vision for the organization

Roles of the COG Board (cont.)

- Participate in the organization's leadership responsibly, ethically, and knowledgeably
- Seek regional solutions when appropriate
- Approve annual budget
- Enhance the organization's public image; promote the organization and its value
- Facilitate County appointments to COG's various advisory councils/committees

Executive Committee

- Meets prior to board meetings; approves agenda and brings recommendations to entire board
  - Chairman – Harry Baughn, Mayor of Hayesville
  - 1st Vice-Chair – Zeb Smathers, Mayor of Canton
  - 2nd Vice-Chair – Ronnie Beale, Macon County Commissioner
  - Treasurer – Connie Orr, Graham County Commissioner

Roles of the Executive Director

- CEO
- Recommends/Implements board and staff policies
- Decision-making accountability for operations
- Organizational relationships
- Oversees staff
- Communicates with COG board
- Reports performance and impact

Out of Bounds for Executive Director & Staff:

Executive Director and staff should not involve themselves in politics.

We are a non-partisan organization.

Our Organization

- Three Departments:
  - Community and Economic Development
  - Workforce Development
  - Area Agency on Aging
- Each have advisory boards
- 18 full-time and 1 part-time staff

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

- Economic Development tool
- Higher-risk loans to businesses in the region
- Favorable terms
- Capitalized by federal government (EDA & ARC)
- RLF Committee- some Commission board members and some outside partners

Community and Economic Development Department

Russ Harris
Director of Community and Economic Development

Rose Bauguess
Senior Planner for the Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

Becca Scott
Senior Project Manager

Community and Economic Development Department

- Technical Assistance
  - Adds capacity to local government efforts (Mapping, Public Input, etc.)
- Facilitation of Strategic Planning Retreats
- Assistance with Grant Applications and Grant Administration
- Convening Around Critical Issues
  - Broadband and Housing

Community and Economic Development Department

ARC – Appalachian Regional Commission

- "Lead Development District"
- Wide variety of programs/projects (*highway, infrastructure, training, education, health care, etc.*)
- Manage ARC programs for Region A

Community and Economic Development Department

EDA – Federal Economic Development Administration

- Develop Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region
- Pursue EDA funding:
  - Construction or renovation of public assets that support economic development
  - Technical assistance for regional issues

Mountain West Partnership

A regional marketing initiative for the seven far western counties in North Carolina, Western Carolina University, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). Guided by local assets and strengths, the partnership's efforts aim to tell the true story of what it's like to do business in the region, and to connect people and businesses with the resources they need to be successful.

Community and Economic Development Department

RPO – Rural Planning Organization

- Liaison between NCDOT and local governments
- Coordinates local prioritization of transportation projects

Workforce Development Department

David Garrett,
Director

Lisa Ledford,
WIOA Program
& Accountability
Manager

Linda Lamp,
Business
Services
Representative

Laura Grindstaff,
WIOA Program
& Accountability
Coordinator

Workforce Development Department

Sharee Thompson, Workforce Development Specialist

Lisa Penland, Workforce Development Specialist

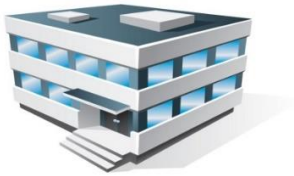
Renee Finsterwalder, Workforce Development Specialist

Brenda Millett, Workforce Development Specialist

Workforce Development Funding

Federal

State



Councils of Government (16)

Local Service Providers

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) provides funding for workforce development programs and services that enrich the suitability of the local workforce through education and training so that it meets the needs of local and regional businesses.

Primary Focus

- Individual Services in Job Training
- Business Services

Individual Services

Target Populations:

- Low Income Individuals
- Dislocated Worker (DW)
- Youth (age 16 to 24)
- Veterans

Service Options:

- Short-term Training
- Work Experience for Youth

Business Services

- Labor Market Information
- Specialized Recruitment Assistance
- On-the-Job Training
- Train Up
- Rapid Response
- Employment Services: NCWorks Career Centers

NCWorks Career Centers

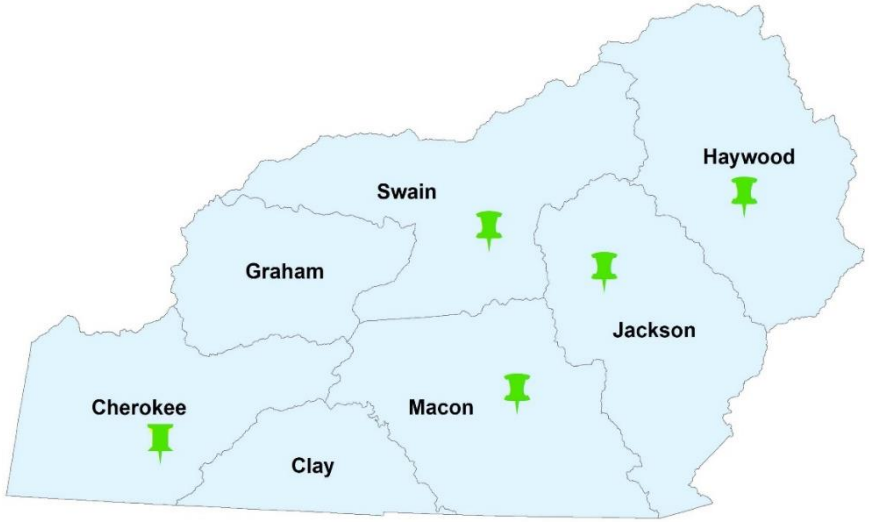
HAYWOOD County
1170 North Main Street
Waynesville, NC 28786

JACKSON County
26 Ridgeway Street
Sylva, NC 28779

MACON County
5 West Main Street
Franklin, NC 28734

SWAIN County
101 Mitchell Street
Bryson City, NC 28713

TRI-County
800 US Highway 64 West
Murphy, NC 28906



Area Agency on Aging

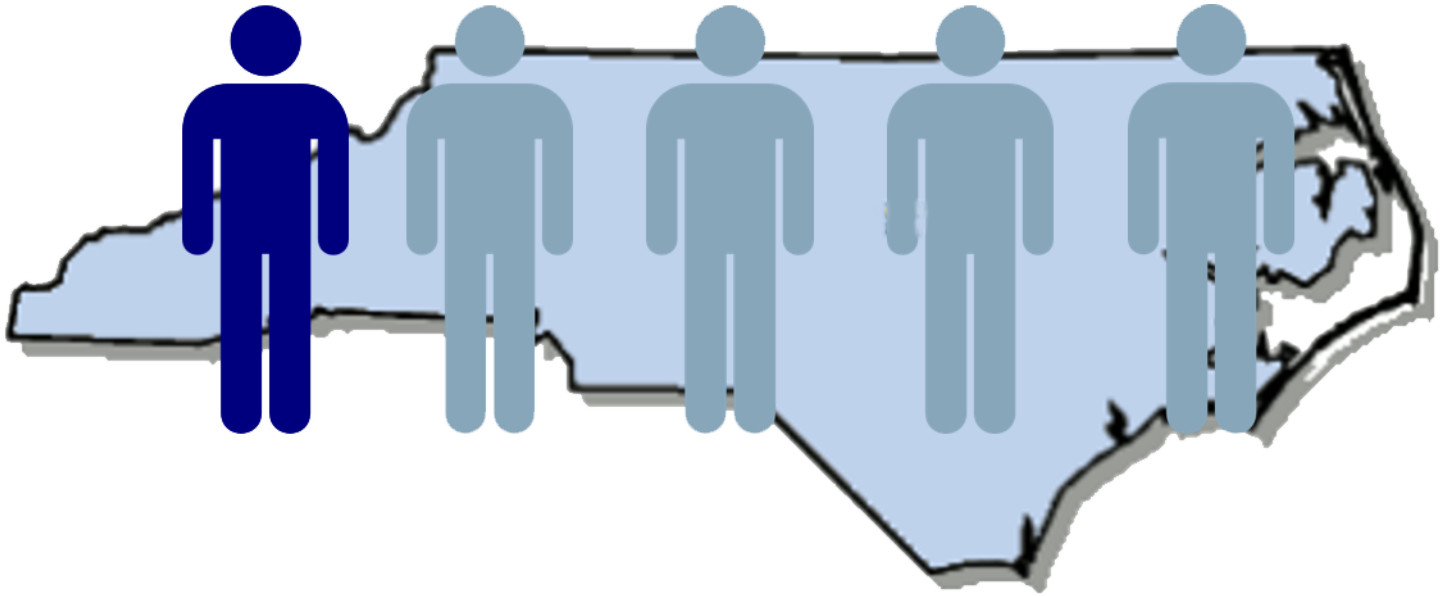
Area Agency on Aging

Sarajane Melton, Director

Providing programs and services to seniors, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities for over 40 years.

Area Agency on Aging

By 2025, **1** in **5** North Carolinians will be 65 or older.



A Snapshot of Region A- TODAY

- **Cherokee** (30%), **Clay** (31%), and **Macon** (30%) are among the top five counties in NC with the highest percentage of adults, age 65+
- The 60+ population **ALREADY OUTNUMBERS** the 0-17 population in Region A
- In the next two decades in NC, our 65 and over population will increase from 1.6 to 2.6 million

AAA Mission

To assure that every older person in Region A has the opportunity to live life to the fullest in the least restrictive setting possible.

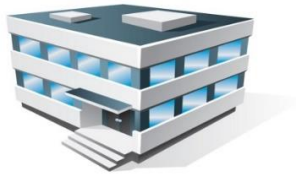
AAA Services

- Community Based Services
  - Transportation
  - Nutrition
  - Senior Centers
  - IN Home Aide
  - Adult Day Programs
- Long Term Care Services
  - Skilled Nursing Facilities
  - Adult Care Homes/Assisted Living Facilities

Funding & Coordination

Federal

State



Area Agencies on Aging (16)

County Local Match

Local Service Providers

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the State of North Carolina provide funding for programming and administration of services. Counties and local agencies provide different amounts of local match based upon the types of programs they offer.

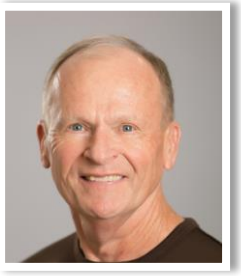
Regional Community Based Services FY 17-18

- Nutrition
  - Home Delivered Meals 95,995 meals
  - Congregate Nutrition 63,011 meals
- Transportation 29,132 trips
- In Home Aide Hours 16,423 hours
- Adult Day Program 5,918 days

Area Agency on Aging

All AAAs offer five core services under the Older Americans Act

Elder Rights



Larry Reeves – Long Term Care Ombudsman/Regional Lead Staff for Elder Abuse Awareness Events

- Information, Assistance, and Referral
- Mediation
- Training
- Friendly Visits
- Planning & Implementation
- SHIIP Trained

Family Caregiver

Kellie Dula – Family Caregiver/Dementia Support Resource Staff

- Information, Assistance, and Referral
- Respite
- Training
- Planning & Implementation
- Senior Tarheel Legislature Liaison
- SHIIP Trained

Health & Wellness Supportive Services

Jeanne Mathews – Aging Program Coordinator

- Information, Assistance, and Referral
- Monitor for Federal/State Funding
- Master Trainer for Evidence Based Health Promotion Programs
- Transition Coordinator
- Planning & Implementation
- SHIIP Trained

Project Care/Legal Services

Pat Baker – Aging Assistant

- Information, Assistance, and Referral
- Planning & Implementation
- Project Care Fiduciary Agent for NC
- Legal Program

Southwestern Commission COG

Thank You!

Questions?