



IPDC

Serving Region C for 49 years

Region C Pipeline

*Working regionally to provide services to our
member governments and constituents*

CLEVELAND

MCDOWELL

POLK

RUTHERFORD

111 West Court Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28139 828-287-2281

MAY 2015

www.regionc.org

*“Helping
member
localities reach
their potential.”*

Scott can be
reached
at

sdadson@regionc.org

rg

828-351-2365

or

843-476-1588

*The mission of the
Region C Workforce
Development Board
(WDB) is to help
employers meet their
workforce needs, help
individuals build*

Executive Director’s Report

Scott Dadson

Welcome to what I hope is a Monthly Newsletter for our membership here at Region C Isothermal Planning and Development Commission (IPDC). We are in Budget Season and our Budget Committee will be meeting one more time in May prior to our June Meeting to finalize some issues. It is our objective to continue to find ways to control costs and ensure revenue stability. This effort is inter-related and connected to our services to our members. One is subject to the other.

I am in my third month as your new director and am enjoying getting to know each of you. If I have not been to your jurisdiction, please do not hesitate to let me know. It is my objective to have visited all of our member governments over the first four months in office.

Workforce Development

The Region C Workforce Development Board has remained very busy over the past few months as it continues to provide support and participate in Workforce related efforts throughout Cleveland, Polk, McDowell and Rutherford Counties. As the current Administrator for the Workforce Investment Act, we are continuing to work diligently as we prepare to transition our services to newly enacted Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was authorized in 1998. Over the past 11 years the public workforce system has long awaited reauthorization that would address the evolving workforce and economic needs as well as the limitations in WIA with respect to training, funding, and service delivery design. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) replaces WIA and will be in effect for the next five years (2015-



careers, strengthen the local economy, and meet the challenges of global competition.

Workforce Development
can be reached at
828-287-0262.
www.regioncwdb.com

AAA Vision Statement

Creation of a regional long-term care system that offers services across the spectrum of care, from independent living to skilled nursing, providing easy and central access for all older adults.

2020).

This change also means that the Region C Workforce Development Board will be very active in updating consortium agreements and working with partners to update Local Area and Regional plans to insure that we can continue to provide high quality services to both our business and jobseeker customers.

The Region C Workforce Development Board continues to engage in business collaboration and partnerships throughout the entire IPDC service area. Initiatives such as the McDowell Manufacturing Pipeline, the Rutherford County “Work, Grow, Thrive” existing industry initiative, and the Cleveland County inspired “Makin’ It Work” Engineering Fair are great examples of how the Region C WDB can work with other stakeholders to have a significant impact on assisting our business customers and jobseeker customers in developing the right training options, gaining necessary skills, and in building a solid labor force from which businesses can benefit. New initiatives such as the Hospitality/Tourism Fair on March 24th, 2015, provided a wonderful opportunity for 300+ students from Rutherford and Polk County Schools to explore possible career options related a new and growing sector or our region. The upcoming Cleveland County Job Fair (scheduled for May, 14th, 2015), has over 32 local businesses committed to attend and provide job opportunities for area jobseekers.



Area Agency on Aging

As the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year draws to a close, we are in the process of reviewing provider spending utilizations. The majority of the Region C Home and Community Care Block Grant service providers are right on target for 100% utilization. Any service or service provider that appears to be facing significant under-utilization issues at this point has been contacted and revisions were suggested by our staff. Our goal is that all service dollars will be spent by June 30 and close attention is paid to each service from this point forward to ensure that outcome.

Currently, the Home and Community Care Block Grant allocation for 2015-2016 remains flat, as does all other service and planning & administration funding. The Area Agency currently has 4 full time staff persons, one half-time staff person, one .20 staff person and a Title V - Older Worker participant. With funding levels remaining level, all staff and services will remain intact. There is a potential for an increase in State service dollars due to the State budget surplus. Advocacy efforts are currently under way to shine the light on an ever increasing aging population in North Carolina and on the continually growing waiting lists for services for older adults. The final decision regarding the surplus will be down the road. The House Budget does include restoring some Aging dollars. The Senate will review this and present their budget within the next couple of weeks. However, the Aging Network will continue to monitor communications at the State level and keep our fingers crossed to be a recipient of at least a portion of that surplus.

Laura Lynch, AAA
Director can be reached
at llynch@regionc.org

or
828-351-2336

*Housing Choice
Voucher Program
Mission:*

*To promote adequate
and affordable housing,
economic opportunity
and a suitable living
environment free from
discrimination.*

The HCV Program
offices can be reached
at:

Cleveland County
704-487-0476

Rutherford County

The Region C Area Agency on Aging continues to expand our Evidence Based capacity. We are currently offering the Chronic Disease & Self-Management Program (CDSMP) classes as well as the Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP) classes throughout the region. We are also in the process of becoming trained for the Chronic Pain Self-Management Program (CPSMP) and hope to partner with Carolinas Medical Hospital System in delivering this class in the future, possibly as an income generating service for the department. We are also assessing the need to offer Powerful Tools for Caregivers. We provided this training many years ago in the region and have had some renewed interest in this recently.

In house, the Family Caregiver Program, the Ombudsman Program, all Planning & Administration and the Title V Program spending and service delivery projections are 100% on target as well.



Housing Choice Voucher Program

The Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV), formerly known as Section 8, is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and provides assistance with rent and utilities for qualifying families. The program contracts with private landlords to provide safe, decent and sanitary housing for program participants. The number of families assisted in our four-county region during CYE 2014 totaled 16,716 resulting in \$6,194,768 expended for assistance with rent and utilities.

The HCV Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program is a HUD initiative and is intended to encourage and assist participants in becoming economic independent and self-sufficient. The term of the program is five years and as the family's income increases, the family's share of rent increases. Per a formula mandated by HUD, a portion of the increase in the family's rent is credited to the family in a separate FSS Escrow account. We continue to assist families in their efforts in achieving the goals necessary to improve their quality of life, become self-sufficient and/or transition from rental assistance into the HCV Homeownership Program. The HCV Homeownership Program allows qualifying families, in the HCV Program, to use their voucher towards assistance with a home mortgage. The FSS program had one family to successfully complete the program in 2014 and was awarded with the highest amount paid thus far, \$14,589.54. The HCV Homeownership Program continued to assist four (4) families with their mortgages in 2014.

HUD-VASH is a partnership between HUD and the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) to support homeless veterans in finding and maintaining permanent housing. Eligible veterans are referred to our agency by the Veterans Administration (VA); VA also provides the required case management for these veterans. The initial award to our agency under the HUD-VASH initiative was ten (10) vouchers and was received in April 2012. An additional five (5) vouchers

828-351-2327

McDowell County
828-652-8098

were awarded in May 2015.

SEMAP (Section Eight Management Assessment Program) enables HUD to manage the HCV Program by identifying the agency's capabilities and deficiencies related to the administration of the program. The final SEMAP score is determined by HUD's evaluation of performance in fourteen categories (the maximum achievable score for a PHA is 100). Isothermal Planning & Development Commission received a final SEMAP score of 100 for fiscal year ending 6/30/14 and continues to be recognized as a "high performer."



Isothermal Rural Planning Organization



Currently, IRPO staff is contributing to the 5-year Community Transportation Service Plans of both Rutherford County Transit and Polk County Transportation Authority. Each plan is on-target to be completed by early summer and will provide a wealth of information and guidance for the next 5 years for both of those transit systems. Isothermal RPO would also like to say **congratulations** to Kerry Giles, the Rutherford County Transportation Services Director, on receiving the 2015 Harvard Ash Center Bright Idea in Government award. It recognizes her work in developing a grocery shuttle service to the Storehouse Pantry in 2013.

In other transportation-related news, the Strategic Transportation Investment process will start again in late summer of 2015 with Isothermal RPO soliciting new highway, bicycle/pedestrian and public transit projects to be rated through SPOT 4.0 and potentially included in 2017-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). A formal call for those projects will be made in June or July through email, this newsletter and the website.

Also, Governor McCrory has proposed a transportation bond, which is part of House Bill 940. Of particular interest to the Isothermal region, the bond, if approved by the Legislature and then, the voters, would fund all of the remaining sections of the Shelby By-pass. Also included in this bond are two sections of the US-221 widening in McDowell County. These two sections run from NC-226 south of Marion to I-40 and then continuing to Goose Creek Road (R-0204 D/E).

Isothermal RPO is also involved with the Rutherford County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Currently, we are doing a survey to collect input about the transportation system. You can take the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RutherfordCTP> or pick up a paper copy at IPDC's office, the Rutherford County Annex or the County library.



Community & Economic Development Services

For more information
contact Karyl Fuller at
kfuller@regionc.org or
828-351-2331

**For further information
on Community
Development Services
contact Monica Pace at
mpace@regionc.org or
828-351-2338**

Community & Economic Development Services has been even busier than usual the past quarter working to bring several projects to a close in the anticipation of bidding farewell to our Community Development Director Paula Kempton, who has transitioned to a new position elsewhere in our region. Hard work has paid off, and we have successfully closed six grant-funded projects in the last four months, and are currently managing ten active grants from a variety of funding sources including NC Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development, Golden Leaf Foundation, and North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. We have successfully completed and closed a CDBG scattered site housing grant and CDBG SBEA small business grant for Polk County; a CDBG infrastructure grant for Tryon; a CDBG scattered site housing grant for McDowell County; an NCHFA urgent repair housing grant for McDowell County; and a Rural Economic Development business grant for Cleveland County. With the CDBG housing program shut down at the state level, all CDBG scattered site housing grants are coming to a close in the current calendar year, but we will continue to apply for and manage smaller housing grants through the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency to maintain a level of housing assistance in our region. Rutherford County is the last remaining CDBG scattered site housing grant that is still active in our region, and will be completed and closed before the end of this year. IPDC will be represented at the upcoming Professional Housing Rehabilitation Association of North Carolina/NC Community Development Association conference in late May to get the latest information on available grant funding for our members to meet needs in our communities.



**Questions about ARC
grant programs?**

**Contact
Jessica Trotman at
jtrotman@regionc.org or
828-351-2373**

This is a busy time of year for the Appalachian Resource Commission (ARC). The regular grant funding cycle is in progress. Emerging Opportunities, a new ARC grant program is also wrapping up its pilot cycle. These awards will be made later this year. IPDC is also working through a series of workshops on the local and regional level for the ARC distressed county grant cycle. Rutherford County is an ARC distressed county, and will be submitting grant applications during this process. Distressed county projects are in the same categories as the regular ARC funding cycle, but provides additional, targeted resources to distressed counties in the ARC region.

IPDC recently completed an ARC progress report on this year's work plan, which includes starting a land use plan for the Town of Bostic. The next ARC work plan, which begins in October, is currently being planned. The deliverables associated with this work plan are focused on regionalism and capacity building.

Other planning activities underway are the Forest City Recreation Plan. New funding opportunities on the state and federal level are being explored to benefit the region. We continue to learn about private foundation partnerships and grant opportunities to support planning and programs for our membership.



Administration / Finance / Staff

We hope this issue was informative. Please share with others in your organization.

Thanks to these dedicated employees for their years of service to IPDC and to our Region C member governments:

MILESTONES



Pictured left to right

Lisa Bridges (10 years)
Finance

Laura Lynch (15 years)
Area Agency on Aging

Paula Kempton (15 years)
Community & Economic
Development Services

Sonja Bristol (20 years)
Housing Choice Voucher
Program

FAREWELLS

Newsletter contributions, suggestions and comments are welcomed and encouraged from our readers.

Communications should be directed to newsletter@regionc.org.



In our Finance Department, we celebrate **Linda Hamrick** who has had 24 year of service with IPDC and has now retired from her position as our Accounts Payable Clerk. As much as we will miss her and her infectious personality, we wish her all the best in retirement and in her travels.



In Community Development, we celebrate nearly 16 years of service with **Paula Kempton** who has left to work with the Town of Tryon (a member government of IPDC). Paula “grew up” with IPDC. Her mother Pat retired from here as well after serving many years as the Finance Director. Her son Justin also worked with us in Weatherization. She will be missed.



IPDC Board of Directors

Thank you for your service and support!

IPDC Board meeting schedule:

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

June 9, 2015

Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016

September 8, 2015

November 10, 2015

January 12, 2016

March 8, 2016

June 14, 2016

Executive Committee

Dean Buff, *Chair*

Susan Allen, *Vice Chair*

Kathleen McMillian, *Treas.*

Jack Shytle, *Secretary*

Charles Abernathy

Fred Baisden

Jimmy Clay

VACANT

McDowell County

Cleveland County

Polk County

City of Polkville

McDowell County

City of Saluda

Town of Forest City

(Rutherford)

Full Board

Cindy Adair

Robert Boyette

Steve Garrison

Jimmy Dancy

Larry Dooley

Mike Ellenburg

Rick Garver

Rodger Hall

Tom Hart

Tom Helton

Rick Hensley

Rutherford County

City of Marion

Rutherford County

Town of Rutherfordton

Cleveland County

Town of Ruth

Town of Lawndale

Town of Bostic

Town of Boiling Springs

Town of Ellenboro

Town of Old Fort

Max Hopper	Town of Earl
Clarissa Jennings-Reid	Town of Kingtown
Steve Killian	City of Kings Mountain
Bryan King	Rutherford County
J.D. Ledford	Town of Grover
Tom McKay	Town of Lake Lure
Barbara Meliski	Village of Chimney Rock
Margaret Metcalf	Town of Columbus
Tom Pack	Polk County
D. Marche Pittman	Polk County
Steen Richard	Town of Belwood
Tom Roberson	Town of Spindale
Talmadge C. Strickland	City of Shelby
David Walker	McDowell County
Bobby Watson	Cleveland County
Doris Weaver	Town of Fallston
VACANT	Town of Tryon
VACANT	Town of Waco



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