

Upcoming Events

<https://www.narcog.org/news-meetings-events/meetings-events>

Priceville Career Fair

DATE: April 10

LOCATION: Priceville, AL

SMP Fraud Seminar

DATE: April 25

LOCATION: Cullman, AL

Annual Luau

DATE: May 15

LOCATION: Decatur, AL

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ADSS Public Hearing Recap



The Alabama Department of Senior Services partnered with NARCOG to hold a Public Hearing at the Cullman Senior Center on March 20. The Public Hearing was regarding preparing and planning the 2025-2028 State Plan on Aging. This plan, which acts as a blueprint for advocacy efforts and services, is crucial in meeting the needs of senior adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. The audience's input at the hearing was not just valuable, but essential in ensuring that these needs are met effectively. Nick Nyberg, the ADSS Programs

and Division Chief, spearheaded the meeting, attentively receiving participants' comments and concerns. Topics spanned from nutrition and transportation to accessing services and caregiver support. With approximately 100 attendees, the event was rich in diverse perspectives and innovative ideas.

If you meet the criteria of the State Plan on Aging, ADSS is encouraging interested parties to complete a short anonymous Needs Assessment at <https://forms.office.com/g/vPNNgQHaGr>. The deadline to submit the

Needs Assessment is April 12, 2024.



Needs Assessment Link

Hartselle Holds 2nd Open House Meeting



The City of Hartselle and NARCOG held a Community Open House Meeting on Tuesday, March 19th, at the Sparkman Civic Center to unveil the Preliminary Draft of the Hartselle Comprehensive Plan Update. Residents of Hartselle and NARCOG planning staff attended the meeting.

NARCOG Director of Planning Joey Hester comments, "We are

at the stage in the planning process where we are fine-tuning the Vision Statement, Goals and Objectives, and Future Land Use Concepts. The next step is working with the City as the Final Plan makes its way through the adoption process."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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March Anniversaries

Lesley Mason
Case Manager
1 year of service

Jennifer Jones
Case Manager II
1 year of service

Teresa Daniel
Aging Admin Assistant
2 years of service

Atul Patel
Transit Driver
2 years of service

Falguni Patel
Director of Transportation
4 years of service

Daffney Harris
SCSEP Coordinator
10 years of service

Something BIG Is Coming...

SNEAK PEAK: We can't wait to tell you about a new partnership to benefit aging and disabled individuals in our Region. These tools will perform good WORX!



USDA Rural Business Grant Submission

In the digital age, where connectivity is a necessity, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) shines as a crucial pillar of support for communities striving to bridge the digital

divide. As part of its unwavering commitment to fostering rural development and innovation, the RBDG offers grants aimed at establishing E-Centers, pivotal hubs where technology meets community empowerment.

The E-Center is seeking \$94,000.00 in USDA Rural Business Grant funds for business opportunity services and committing \$9,460.00 of in-kind funds totaling \$104,060.00 if the application is approved.

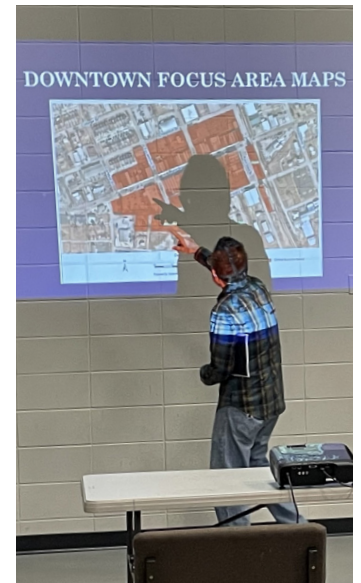
Among the hopeful recipients eagerly anticipating the outcome of their application is NARCOG, a steadfast advocate for progress in the E-Center for Moulton and Courtland, Alabama.

FROM PAGE 1: Hartsville's 2nd Open House



The purpose of the informal meeting was to report back to the community on "where we've been, where we are, and where we are going" in the planning process. NARCOG unveiled a Draft Vision Statement, Goals and Objectives, Future Transportation Plan, and

Future Land Use Plan for the public to review and provide additional input. The next step is preparing a formal Draft Plan based on the additional input from the residents, steering committee, and city officials.



Community Service Planning Council

The Community Service Planning Council (CSPC) was created to encourage local agencies and groups to share needs, resources, and activities to assist in providing information and referrals. It also promotes a better understanding of services and programs offered by member agencies.

CSPC serves as a valuable resource for non-profit organizations, government entities, medical facilities, and churches. NARCOG convenes CSPC meetings bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday, with the exception of November due to Thanksgiving, from 9AM to 10 AM. The upcoming meeting is

scheduled for Thursday, May 23.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to reach out to Kylie Bolyard at kbolyard@narcog.org to be included in the mailing list. Information about upcoming meetings can also be found on our website under the Meetings and Events tab.

Long-Term Care Resources

The NARCOG Regional Ombudsman, Melanie Wilson, protects residents' rights and ensures they receive fair treatment and quality care. Wilson comments, "Being an ombudsman is a rewarding experience. Advocating for residents and families is my passion! Spreading awareness about elder abuse in the community has been essential to my job."

The Ombudsman Program Services include:

- Investigate and resolve complaints
- Visit each facility to evaluate

conditions

- Ensure residents are receiving the legal, financial, social, rehabilitative, and other services to which they are entitled
- Act as a mediator between residents, family members, and facility staff
- Provide information to the public
- Educate residents, families, and facility staff about residents' rights
- Assist with the establishment of resident and family councils
- Represent residents' interests

before state and federal government by working to change laws, regulations, and policies that affect those who live in long-term care facilities.

Wilson can be reached at mwilson@narcog.org or 256-355-4515, ext. 255.



Calendar Sneak Peaks



NARCOG is bustling with activity this spring, offering a diverse array of events spanning health, career, and celebration.

- On April 19, NARCOG will be part of the Parents and Children Together (PACT) Hand-In-Hand Job Fair at Fort Decatur Recreation Center from 11 AM to 2 PM. This event, open to the public, will feature numerous organizations.
- Mark your calendars for April 25, as NARCOG's SMP Coordinator, Julie Campbell, hosts a Fraud Seminar at the Cullman Senior Center from 11 AM to 1 PM. Learn about emerging scam tactics, safeguarding yourself, and what steps to take if you fall victim. RSVP is essential for lunch, so contact Julie Campbell at 256-355-4515, ext. 245.
- April 26 brings the Community Action Partnership of North Alabama (CAPNA)'s third Annual

Wellness Fair at the Decatur Senior Center from 9 AM to 12 PM. This event is open to the public and targets the uninsured, underserved, and elderly. Several organizations will be in attendance, including the Alabama A&M Mobile Nutrition Lab, Alabama DHR, United Community, and many more. Participants are welcome to receive an excellent lunch for eight dollars provided by the Decatur Senior Center.

- Finally, on May 15, don't miss NARCOG's Annual Older Americans Month Luau at Ingalls Harbor Pavilion from 9:30 AM to 12 PM. Join us in celebrating the 60 and older adults of Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan County with shaved ice, a live DJ, free lunch, games, prizes, and more!

For a comprehensive list of events, visit our website's Meetings and Events tab.



Fraud Seminar Sign Up Link

Planning Department Events and Deadlines

April 2, 2024

North Alabama Trails and Recreation (NATR) Webinar: Creating a Local Vision for Outdoor Recreation

April 9, 2024 & April 18, 2024

Sweet Trails Alabama Virtual Regional Trail Meeting

April 13, 2024 - April 16, 2024

American Planning Association (APA) National Planning Conference

April 29, 2024

Singing River Trail Launch Tank

May 7, 2024

North Alabama Trails and Recreation (NATR) Mini Conference: Foundations for Funding

June 17, 2024

Federal Highway Administration's Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Application Deadline

July 21, 2024 - July 24, 2024

Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA) Summer Conference

October 16, 2024 - October 18, 2024

Annual Alabama/Mississippi Joint Chapter American Planning Association Fall Conference

New Hires



Davitta Phillips
Medicaid Waiver Division Manager