

Land of Sky Regional Council
May 25, 2022
Regular Meeting



When joining the virtual meeting, Delegates are requested to mute themselves and to un-mute for discussion or moving on orders of business.

Delegates are requested to state their names when moving on orders of business. Thank you!

AGENDA

I. Call to Order (12:30pm)

II. Invocation

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Roll Call

V. Consent Agenda

- A. Modification/Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of the Previous Minutes (April 2022)

VI. Comments by the Chair and Delegates Roundtable

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Presentations/Recognition

- A. Dr. Rebecca Tippett, Director, Carolina Demography at the Carolina Population Center at UNC Chapel Hill
- B. Trailblazer Award
- C. Heather Burkhardt, Executive Director, NC Coalition on Aging
- D. Jennifer Teague, Program Manager, Aging and Adult Services, Buncombe County Health and Human Services, Buncombe County Active Aging Center

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

- A. Land of Sky Regional Council Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Presentation

XI. Executive Director's Report

XII. Important Dates

Next regularly scheduled board meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 22 at 12:30 pm either in-person at the Transylvania County Administration Building, Brevard, NC or Remote via Zoom. The public hearing on the FY22-23 budget will take place at this meeting.

XIII. Adjournment



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** Consent Agenda
- Item Number:** V. Consent Agenda:
A. Modification/Approval of the Board's Agenda for May 25, 2022
B. Approval of Minutes from the April 27, 2022, Regular Meeting
- Responsible Party:** Zia Rifkin, Administrative Services
- Attachment(s):** Minutes from the April 2022 Regular Meeting
- Background:** Item B. April 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes Recap:
Quorum was present to conduct business at the April 2022 meeting and the minutes provide a recap of the Delegates' updates from around the region. Presentations were provided by Dan Gerlach with an ARPA update, Brandon Nudd, CEO of Advent Health Hendersonville, and Kendra Straub, Management and Program Analyst, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- Staff Recommendation:** Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda
- Suggested Motion(s):** Move to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

**Land of Sky Regional Council
Board of Delegates
Regular Meeting**

April 27, 2022

Minutes

- I. Call to Order – Chair Volk called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30pm.
- II. Invocation – Mayor Harris gave the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Volk led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Roll Call – Nathan Ramsey called the roll. The following members were present: Terri Wells, Tim Love, Matt Wechtel, Jonathan Kanipe, Larry Harris, Maureen Copelof, Barbara Jeter, Preston Blakely, Barbara Volk, Deb Bridges, Nathan Bennett, Forrest Gilliam, Jeff Young, Daniel Cobb, Jane Alexander, Sheri Powers, John Mitchell, George Morosani, Brittany Brady, and Bob Tomasulo

Guests Present – Brandon Nudd, Dan Gerlach, Dr. Arthur Salido, Angela Reece, and Kendra Straub

A quorum was present to conduct business.

- V. Consent Agenda – The consent agenda, consisting of the Board's modified April agenda and the minutes of the March 23, 2022, meeting was presented for approval.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda as modified to make the ARPA Update the first presentation. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

- VI. Chair's Comments and Delegates Roundtable

Chair Volk requested that Delegates share updates and news of interest in their jurisdictions.

Delegates Roundtable

Commissioner Terri Wells – Shared that Buncombe County is in the middle of budget season and in the process of reviewing ARPA proposals.

Larry Harris – Shared that it is budget season in the Town of Black Mountain.

Mayor Maureen Copelof – Shared that the City of Brevard is working on its budget and is proposing a 7% budget increase for staff and is also adding new staff. Celebrating Arbor Day tomorrow with school children to plant trees. The City is hosting a community workshop tomorrow facilitated by Dan Burden giving information on how to navigate roundabouts with two training sessions available. Interviews are ongoing for a new City manager

Council Member Barbara Jeter – Shared that the Village of Flat Rock is having its Arbor Day celebration on Saturday and will be planting chestnut trees. David Dethero noted that the Ice Cream Social is coming up on June 4.

Mayor Preston Blakely – Shared that the Town of Fletcher has a couple of good things going on. Developers submitted a plan for Phase I development and conditional zoning was approved for Cane Creek Apartments. Other developments are in progress. It's budget season, too. May 4 is the budget workshop.

Mayor Barbara Volk – Shared that the City of Hendersonville has a busy month in May. Budget workshop is this Friday and Arbor Day is being celebrated. Lots of events and the Farmers Market, Bears. and Rhythm & Brews events can all be found on the City's website (<https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/events>). The City is holding its Birthday Party in front of the Historic Courthouse. Memorial Day weekend has events, too.

Deb Bridges – Shared that the Town of Laurel Park is in the budgetary process and included in that is an extensive stormwater and roads initiative. Also, tentatively scheduled is an event for May 20 at Town Hall called Swap Socials with a purpose that includes shred services, medication collection, opportunity to meet

the new Town Manager and a meet the Chiefs (Police and Fire) and to talk with individuals. Folks can sign up for a home safety inspection and get a free fire detector. There will also be an initiative regarding the Fire Wise program. Friends of Laurel Park will be available to share about events over the summer and UNC/Pardee staff will be doing health checks for folks. This is scheduled to happen from 9 to 12 on May 20. Manager Daniel Cobb – Shared that the Town of Mills River is working on its budget and riverbank restoration has been completed. Town Clerk, Susan Powell will be recognized with an award during National Municipal Clerks Week. Susan Powell was nominated for this award by her peers from across the State. Shoutout to LOSRC for assistance with ARPA paperwork and policy development.

Henderson County At-Large Delegate John Mitchell – Shared that Henderson County is involved in broadband investment using ARPA funds and State funding. Finishing up the new high school and the development at BRCC that includes the largest economic development of industrial space in the County. Going through a deliberate process about substance abuse with the County's task force, supported with the Opioid Settlement Funds. Determining what's going to be done with the jail and courthouse. Also embarking on the budgetary process.

Henderson County Economic Development Rep Brittany Brady – Shared that there is a lot of economic development going on across the region. (not audible over Zoom).

Aging Representative Bob Tomasulo – Comments not audible over Zoom.

Hendersonville Police Chief Blair Myhand welcomed the Regional Council to the new facility. Six months in the new building and it's the first purpose-built police station in the City's history. He noted that today's meeting is being held in the station's Training Room, which is also available for the community to use.

VII. Public Comment -

Chair Volk called for public comments. Drew Christy commented on local workforce board realignment, which is one of the governor's goals.

VIII. Presentations/Recognition –

A. ARPA Update -

Dan Gerlach, Principal for Dan Gerlach, LLC shared an ARPA update with the Board. He noted that in his role with DHT, he will be reporting on the efforts to leverage monies coming into the region to help the Trust deploy its funding throughout the region. In Raleigh and beyond, through the Department of Information Technology, grants are available to support broadband development. He noted the ARPA reporting deadline coming up on April 30. More broadband already appropriated by the General Assembly (GA) and more help through the first round of Department of Commerce's community revitalization grants for communities that need the most help. Water and sewer funding is also available through DEQ. Also, funding is available for distressed and at-risk communities. Future rounds of funding may address needs in communities that are not those who are most in need. DOR plans to re-open the Business Recovery Grant Program to assist businesses in recouping losses suffered during the pandemic. These funds are available to sectors not eligible to apply for first round monies. Monies available for infrastructure, downtown revitalization, and more. He shared that additional funding for local communities may be available in the upcoming budget that the GA plans to propose. The benefit of State money is that it may be less restrictive than ARPA and other federal funding. Finally, stormwater program that the GA authorized through DEQ, is a new program for them, which will soon be up and running.

B. Advent Health Hendersonville – Brandon Nudd, CEO for Advent Health Hendersonville shared information with the Board including that Advent Health has been part of the community for over 20 years. He noted that the Hendersonville facility specifically has a long history of a 100-plus years. The organization is headquartered in Florida and includes over 80 thousand team members, servicing over six million patients annually across facilities and programs. Overall, the brand is promoted as one to help people feel whole. Mission vision and values are aligned with the brand's goals of wholeness and service standards include love, safety, ownership and making it easy. Advent Health Hendersonville promotes the highest quality of service to patients and has a five-star rating with CMS. It's also recognized with the Emerald Award by the Leapfrog Group. Advent Health includes Primary Care and Specialty Services. There are locations in

Buncombe County, Henderson County and a Western Carolina Surgery Center offering advanced practice initiatives. Services for the aging population are available in Laurel Park. Advent Health is a not-for-profit organization that promotes innovation and technology. There are no shareholders, and the community is where investments are made. Innovation and technology advancements include the DaVinci Robotic Surgery. Investments are made in enhancing behavioral health facilities and an ongoing expansion of the ER to modernize and enlarge, addressing growing needs in the communities served. Being a not-for-profit allows the organization to give back to the community through many initiatives and totaling over \$37 million over the past year. The organization has been community partners. Wemovemountainsnc.com is a website devoted to the significant needs of Buncombe County for additional services and as competition to HCA/Mission. Specifically, a 67-bed hospital is the goal for Buncombe County and includes Labor and Delivery, Surgery Services, and ER, Imaging, and Lab Services. There are many people asking for competition and change in the healthcare environment.

Discussion occurred regarding the proposed facility in Buncombe County including finding the necessary labor force. Brandon Nudd noted the importance of partnering with educational institutions to provide tuition-free education and focusing on career pathways for healthcare professionals.

C. Great Smoky Mountains National Park – Kendra Straub, Management and Program Analyst with the Great Smoky Mountain National Park shared information with the Board regarding the proposed Smokies parking fee and fee changes. She noted that there has been a lot of press recently about the proposed fee program and parking fee increases. Visitation has been growing very rapidly over the past ten years (57%) and last year was a recording breaking year with over 14 million visits. She noted that even as visitation has increased, funding has not increased. Funding has been steady over the past decade, but inflation has really eroded the base budget, which means staff and services have been cut. Revenues for the park includes the appropriation from Congress, concessions, donations and fees. Philanthropic partners are very important but provide a small amount of the funding necessary for adequate operations. Only about \$2 per visitor is available to support all the needs the Park has. Historically, fee revenues have been low, and the Park does not plan to institute an entrance fee. she noted that the Park wants to use its existing fee authority under the federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act for the proposed fee program changes for 2023 that includes an increase in front-country fees (campgrounds, picnic pavilions, historic cabins, etc.); an increase in backcountry fees through advanced online sales and in-person sales and third-party vendors. The scope of the parking tag program would apply to any designated parking spot across the Park. Kendra Straub noted that five million vehicle entries were made in 2021 that equates to about 3 million vehicles that would be required to have a parking tag (daily, weeklong, or annual). This could provide a sustainable revenue source to be used for better serving visitors to the park including increased ranger presence and increased emergency response capacity. Additionally, improvements to the visitor experience could include other ways to better serve visitors and habitat restoration. Currently the public comment period on the proposal is open until May 11 and she encouraged everyone to visit the Park's website for more information on how to comment. Specifics of the plan may be available in October and implementation (if approved) would begin in March 2023.

Discussion occurred regarding the need for broadband and other digital services in the Park and it was noted that the Park does not have the connectivity at this time to institute digital services. It was also noted that there is a lot of discussion happening across federal agencies and local communities to assist visitors to better access amenities and attractions in those local communities. Infrastructure components and messaging components would be part of bettering the Smokies Experience including better management of the visitors' experience, which is what the revenues from the parking tags could be used for. Discussion occurred if additional lodging would be a revenue generator and Kendra noted that there are currently no plans to increase lodging within the Park boundaries. Concession availability is based on need.

IX. Executive Director's Report –

Delegates and guests were encouraged to reach out to Nathan Ramsey with any questions or comments regarding the report, which is available in the agenda packet.

X. Important Dates

A. The next Board meeting is May 25, 2022, hosted by the Town of Weaverville.

XI. Adjournment – Chair Volk adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.

Respectfully submitted by Zia Rifkin



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

Subject: Trailblazer Award

Item Number: VIII. B. Special Presentation

Responsible Party: LeeAnne Tucker, Area Agency on Aging Director

Attachment(s): None.

Background: The Trailblazer Award is given annually to a professional in our region who is a pioneer and innovator in the field of aging and adult services. The 2022 recipient of the Trailblazer Award is Deb Haight.

Deb is the Director of Older Adult Services and Thrift Stores for WNCSource in Transylvania County. She has a Bachelor of Applied Science Degree from UNC-Charlotte and is a registered nurse.

Deb began her career with WNCSource in 1999 as a site manager for Silvermont Congregate Nutrition. Through the years she has held many positions within the agency before returning to her “roots” in aging services in 2017. She states, “We concentrate on connecting older adults and their families with services in Transylvania County.” These services include congregate meal programs at Quebec and Silvermont, home delivered meals, shelf-stable meal boxes, and liquid nutrition. Box fans and garden vouchers are also provided based on availability and funding.

On June 1, 2021, Deb started the Serve Our Seniors (SOS) program which was made possible through a grant from the WNC Bridge Foundation. SOS offers Transylvania seniors a safe and welcoming place to socialize and take part in a variety of activities meant to support healthy aging. SOS activities include exercise classes, cards/board games, crafts, and presentations from community professionals.

Deb is currently serving her second term on the Transylvania County Council on Aging Board, appointed by the Transylvania County Commissioners.

Deb's leadership extends beyond Transylvania County:

- She was the Far West Chairperson for the NC Community Action Association.
- She was a Results Oriented Management and Accountability certified trainer.
- In 2008, she served as the Blue Ridge Community Health Services Vice Chair
- She is a nationally Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) and Mentor. CCAP is a national credentialing program for community action managers and leaders who work helping low-income people achieve economic stability.

Staff Recommendation: None.

Suggested Motion(s): n/a



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** NC Coalition on Aging
- Item Number:** VIII. C. Special Presentation
- Responsible Party:** LeeAnne Tucker, Area Agency on Aging Director
- Attachment(s):** None.
- Background:** The mission of the NC Coalition on Aging is to improve the quality of life for older adults through collective advocacy, education, and public policy work. The Coalition is a dynamic group of organizations and individuals that work collaboratively to give voice to issues that affect older North Carolinians. The Coalition engages in a variety of activities and efforts that focus on issues of common interest across our membership. Each year after dialogue among its members, the Coalition develops legislative priorities.
- Heather Burkhardt, Executive Director, will give an update on the recent activities of the coalition.
- Staff Recommendation:** None.
- Suggested Motion(s):** n/a



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

Subject: Buncombe County Active Aging Center

Item Number: VIII. D. Special Presentation

Responsible Party: LeeAnne Tucker, Area Agency on Aging Director

Attachment(s): None.

Background: The Buncombe County Active Aging Center (AAC) project is an initiative that will help address the needs of our region’s older adult population. The mission of the AAC is to serve all individuals who seek to “age in place” and we plan to do this by providing vital services and resources for older adults and their families in one convenient and attractive location.

While there are a variety of resources and service providers for this age group, these providers are in varied locations and accessing these services can be difficult and confusing for many needing assistance. By bringing these resources and services together in one location, it would provide a streamline approach for adults to access the services they need. The AAC would provide intergenerational opportunities and would include a childcare center, adult day care center, nutrition services, fitness space, social engagement opportunities and more.

Jennifer Teague, Program Manager, Aging and Adult Services, Buncombe County Health and Human Services, and Lead Representative Active Aging Center Steering Committee will give an update on the AAC.

Staff None.

Recommendation:

Suggested Motion(s): n/a



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** Land of Sky Regional Council FY22-23 Budget Presentation
- Item Number:** X. New Business
- Responsible Party:** Charlotte Sullivan, Finance Director
- Attachment(s):** Land of Sky Regional Council FY22-23 Proposed Budget
- Background:** LOSRC is required by state law to adopt a balanced budget. The budget will be presented at the May board meeting and there will be a public hearing on the proposed budget at the June board meeting. The Board of Delegates may vote to approve the budget after the public hearing at the June 22 board meeting.
- Staff Recommendation:** N/A.
- Suggested Motion(s):** N/A

339 Newlandsky Way, Suite 100
 Asheville, NC 28806
 Phone: 828.251.8200 | Fax: 828.251.8202
 Email: info@landofsky.org | www.landofsky.org



PROPOSED BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

BE IT ORDAINED by the Land of Sky Regional Council (LOSRC):

SECTION I. The following amounts are appropriated in the General Fund for the operations of LOSRC and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023.

<u>General Fund:</u>	
Area Agency on Aging	\$ 7,905,488
Workforce Development	2,591,980
Economic & Community Development	6,551,445
General Operations	<u>182,038</u>
 Total Appropriations	 \$ 17,230,951

SECTION II. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023.

Federal	\$ 10,938,678
State	2,405,398
Local Dues	342,834
Local Government Contracts & Match	1,803,966
Private Grants, Contracts/Sponsors, Other	1,178,307
Fees	215,360
In-Kind	325,226
Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>21,182</u>
 Total Estimated Revenues	 \$ 17,230,951

SECTION III. The Finance Officer is authorized to allocate the amounts of projects, programs, and functions to appropriate objects of expenditures in accordance with the requirements of the contract concerning each project, program, or function. The Finance Officer is authorized to reallocate departmental appropriations among various line-item objects of expenditures and revenues as necessary during the budget year. However, any actual changes to salary or compensation of any employee, for any reason (except for salary adjustments made in this document) shall be approved by the Executive Director and the Executive Committee before such change takes effect.

SECTION IV. The Chairman and/or appropriate officers are authorized to execute all contracts or grants necessary to implement this budget, including federal and state grants, contracts for assistance to local governments and agencies, and subcontracts to local entities necessary to implement Council programs and activities.

SECTION V. Copies of this resolution shall be furnished to the finance/budget officer as directions in performing her official duties.

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



Fiscal Year → **FY23**
Amendment → **Start**

Amendment Date → **5/25/22**

Revenue and Expenditures

Program Area	Proposed Budget as of Current Amendment -- 'Start'	Increase or (Decrease) between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current Amendment Proposed Budget and FY Begin
AAA - Area Agency on Aging	\$7,905,488	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
ECD - Economic and Community Development	\$6,551,445	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
MAWD - Workforce Development	\$2,591,980	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
MNG - General Operations	\$182,038	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Land of Sky Regional Council	\$17,230,951	\$0	0.0%	0.0%

Revenue by Source

Funding Source	Proposed Budget as of Current Amendment -- 'Start'	Increase or (Decrease) between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current Amendment Proposed Budget and FY Begin
Federal	\$10,938,678	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
State	\$2,405,398	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Local	\$1,803,966	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Dues	\$342,834	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Private	\$1,046,469	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Other	\$131,838	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
In-Kind	\$325,226	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Fees	\$215,360	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$21,182	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Land of Sky Regional Council	\$17,230,951	\$0	0.0%	0.0%

**Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures**



FY23 Fiscal Year

FY23 Budget
at Start;
Total for AAA

AAA Area Agency on Aging

\$7,905,488

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY23 Budget at Start
AAA	502	MFP- Transition Coordination Services	\$50,000	\$50,000
AAA	507	Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers (MIPPA)	\$31,305	\$31,305
AAA	510	Aging Planning & Administration	\$273,739	\$273,739
AAA	511	Aging Planning & Administration State	\$48,262	\$48,262
AAA	513	Health Promotion	\$43,959	\$43,959
AAA	520	Home & Community Care Block Grant (P/T)	\$3,293,888	\$3,293,888
AAA	521	Senior Center General Purpose Funding	\$66,529	\$66,529
AAA	522	Project Fan/Heat Relief	\$5,429	\$5,429
AAA	530	Family Caregiver Support	\$311,045	\$311,045
AAA	531	Family Caregiver Event	\$200	\$200
AAA	533	Project Care (Contributions)	\$7,363	\$7,363
AAA	534	Project Care (Administration)	\$125,360	\$125,360
AAA	541	Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Pilot	\$34,017	\$34,017

**Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures**



FY23 Fiscal Year

FY23 Budget
at Start;
Total for AAA

AAA Area Agency on Aging

\$7,905,488

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY23 Budget at Start
AAA	550	Ombudsman	\$363,897	\$363,897
AAA	551	Elder Abuse Prevention	\$7,273	\$7,273
AAA	586	Foster Grandparent Program	\$438,483	\$438,483
AAA	595	Senior Companion Program	\$441,932	\$441,932
AAA	51A	ARPA Planning & Administration	\$266,076	\$266,076
AAA	52A	ARPA Home & Community Block Grant	\$1,499,818	\$1,499,818
AAA	52V	Vaccine Outreach	\$50,000	\$50,000
AAA	53A	ARPA Family Caregiver Program	\$272,833	\$272,833
AAA	54A	ARPA Health Promotion	\$84,119	\$84,119
AAA	55A	ARPA Ombudsman	\$16,167	\$16,167
AAA	56i	MFP Community Inclusion Program	\$113,110	\$113,110
AAA	59A	SCP- PHF/Bridge Rural & Urban	\$60,684	\$60,684

**Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures**



FY23 Fiscal Year

FY23 Budget
at Start;
Total for ECD

ECD Economic and Community Development

\$6,551,445

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY23 Budget at Start
ECD	346	WRP - NCDEQ-State Energy Program	\$50,000	\$50,000
ECD	350	WRP - NCDEQ - Solid Waste Management	\$45,000	\$45,000
ECD	357	WRP-ECU Energy Assessments	\$5,000	\$5,000
ECD	380	NCDEQ-PS-10/1/22-9/30/23	\$23,000	\$23,000
ECD	382	WRP -USDA REAP REDA, 4-1-2022	\$73,500	\$73,500
ECD	419	DIT MOA ARC Power	\$50,000	\$50,000
ECD	420	Bunc Co Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation (NEMT)	\$999,408	\$999,408
ECD	428	DHT-WNC Broadband Mapping	\$60,000	\$60,000
ECD	431	EDA Planning Grant - 1/1/21 - 12/31/23	\$113,298	\$113,298
ECD	449	Mars Hill Water/Sewer T/A	\$29,000	\$29,000
ECD	458	Madison Co. Housing Coalition	\$12,000	\$12,000
ECD	463	Stormwater Services	\$12,000	\$12,000
ECD	464	WNC 205j Stormwater Partnership	\$30,000	\$30,000

**Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures**



FY23 Fiscal Year

FY23 Budget
at Start;
Total for ECD

ECD Economic and Community Development

\$6,551,445

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY23 Budget at Start
ECD	465	Black Mountain Technical Assistance - GIS/GPS	\$5,000	\$5,000
ECD	467	319 Black Mtn	\$124,695	\$124,695
ECD	468	ARC Arts/ DHT	\$80,000	\$80,000
ECD	471	Town of Fletcher - GIS	\$4,000	\$4,000
ECD	497	Montreat Planning & Zoning	\$58,658	\$58,658
ECD	666	Black Mtn EDA Water & Sewer	\$11,069	\$11,069
ECD	695	DHT-IEI Digital Inclusion Project	\$175,000	\$175,000
ECD	800	Clean Air Campaign	\$14,000	\$14,000
ECD	812	CMAC	\$50,000	\$50,000
ECD	827	DOE-NETL Clean Cities 4/1/21	\$157,500	\$157,500
ECD	830	Mobile Education Center	\$15,000	\$15,000
ECD	900	Rural Planning Organization (RPO)	\$132,969	\$132,969
ECD	930	Bunc Co Mountain Mobility Administration	\$297,246	\$297,246

**Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures**



FY23 Fiscal Year

FY23 Budget
at Start;
Total for ECD

ECD Economic and Community Development

\$6,551,445

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY23 Budget at Start
ECD	933	Bunc Co Transportation RIDE	\$175,000	\$175,000
ECD	938	Bunc Co Mountain Mobility Administration - RIDE	\$20,187	\$20,187
ECD	952	French Broad Metro. Planing Org. -- Special Studies	\$570,006	\$570,006
ECD	953	French Broad Metro. Planing Org. -- Special Studies	\$612,500	\$612,500
ECD	954	Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Coord	\$106,266	\$106,266
ECD	41A	Regional Resiliency Analysis-DHT	\$20,000	\$20,000
ECD	41C	DHT COG Capacity Building	\$307,998	\$307,998
ECD	41D	Buncombe Co. Covid 19 Connecting Communities	\$50,000	\$50,000
ECD	41E	NCARCOG T/A	\$593,750	\$593,750
ECD	41F	ARC Housing Assets	\$190,000	\$190,000
ECD	41G	NCARCOG Disaster & Recovery	\$356,250	\$356,250
ECD	41U	UNC - Building Capacity For Home & Community	\$149,122	\$149,122
ECD	46A	ARP- Black Mtn.	\$40,000	\$40,000

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



FY23 Fiscal Year

FY23 Budget
at Start;
Total for ECD

ECD Economic and Community Development

\$6,551,445

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY23 Budget at Start
ECD	47A	ARC-TA Comm Dev. 10/1/21-9/30/22	\$6,875	\$6,875
ECD	47B	ARC T/A Com Dev. Ends 9/30/23	\$20,625	\$20,625
ECD	49A	ARC-LDD end 12/31/22	\$55,174	\$55,174
ECD	49B	ARC LDD ends 12/31/23	\$110,349	\$110,349
ECD	4A2	Mars Hill (ARP)	\$15,000	\$15,000
ECD	70A	Healthy Opportunities - Operations	\$525,000	\$525,000

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



FY23 Fiscal Year

FY23 Budget
 at Start;
 Total for MAWD

MAWD Workforce Development

\$2,591,980

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY23 Budget at Start
MAWD	210	Administration	\$190,000	\$190,000
MAWD	211	Special Activities	\$3,979	\$3,979
MAWD	212	Education & Workforce Collaboration -Belk Foundation	\$105,000	\$105,000
MAWD	220	WIOA - Adult	\$530,000	\$530,000
MAWD	230	WIOA - Dislocated Worker	\$375,000	\$375,000
MAWD	240	Youth - Out of School	\$350,000	\$350,000
MAWD	241	Youth - In School	\$110,262	\$110,262
MAWD	242	FLG LineMountain Area -AB Tech	\$10,000	\$10,000
MAWD	243	FLG Finish Line- Blue Ridge CC	\$20,000	\$20,000
MAWD	276	NDWG	\$70,000	\$70,000
MAWD	278	NDWG Temp Emphy	\$52,739	\$52,739
MAWD	620	Inspire- ARC/DHT/MAHEC	\$385,000	\$385,000
MAWD	62E	ARC Power WNC Early Childhood Educator Workforce	\$390,000	\$390,000

**Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures**



FY23 Fiscal Year

FY23 Budget
at Start;
Total for MNG

MNG General Operations

\$182,038

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY23 Budget at Start
MNG	403	Leicester Crossing Facility - Debt Service	\$131,838	\$131,838
MNG	410	Local	\$50,200	\$50,200



Member Government Assessments -- FY 22/23

Member Government	FY 22/23				FY 21/22		
	Total Dues	Regular Assessment		RPO Match	Total Dues	Regular Assessment	RPO Match
		Amount	Percent				
Buncombe County	\$122,804	\$118,482	60.7%	\$4,322	\$122,804	\$118,482	\$4,322
Henderson County	\$34,487	\$34,487	17.7%		\$37,177	\$37,177	
Flat Rock	\$1,558	\$1,558	0.8%		\$1,558	\$1,558	
Fletcher	\$3,595	\$3,595	1.8%		\$3,595	\$3,595	
Hendersonville	\$6,572	\$6,572	3.4%		\$6,572	\$6,572	
Laurel Park	\$1,091	\$1,091	0.6%		\$1,091	\$1,091	
Mills River	\$2,690	\$2,690	1.4%		\$0	\$0	
Madison County	\$15,114	\$10,137	5.2%	\$4,977	\$15,114	\$10,137	\$4,977
Transylvania County	\$26,690	\$12,502	6.4%	\$14,188	\$26,690	\$12,502	\$14,188
Brevard	\$3,806	\$3,806	2.0%		\$3,806	\$3,806	
Rosman	\$245	\$245	0.1%		\$245	\$245	
Haywood County	\$3,107		0.0%	\$3,107	\$3,107	\$0	\$3,107
Totals	\$221,759	\$195,165	100.0%	\$26,594	\$221,759	\$195,165	\$26,594

Projected Use of Member Government Assessments			
Grant #	Program	Dues	Purpose
410	Local Funding	\$8,521	Participation in Regular Activities not supported by grants
		\$6,000	Membership Dues
	Other Sources	\$6,500	Council Meetings & Other LOSRC sponsored events
		\$0	Annual Dinner & Annual Report
		\$8,000	Holiday Bonuses
Other Sources	\$0	Travel & Training	
		\$0	
		\$29,021	
49A/49B	ARC-LDD	\$121,384	
431	EDA Planning Grant	\$25,000	
510	Aging - Plan & Admin	\$19,760	
	Regular Assessment	\$195,165	
900	Rural Planning Org.	\$26,594	Match for DOT funding, allocation per capita
	Total	\$221,759	



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** Executive Director's Report
- Item Number:** XII. Executive Director's Report
- Responsible Party:** Nathan Ramsey, Executive Director
- Attachment(s):** Executive Director's Report for May 25, 2022
- Background:** The Executive Director's Report provides updates and relevant information regarding projects and initiatives for LOSRC Departments/Agencies.
- Staff Recommendation:** N/A.
- Suggested Motion(s):** N/A

1. Finance

- MIP (finance software) training was completed.
- We will add a finance software module for payroll and other accounting functions.
- FY 22/23 budget will be presented to the Executive Committee and Board of Delegates at the May 25 board meeting. The public hearing on the budget has been noticed for the June board meeting.
- We will be proposing a 7% COLA for the FY22-23 budget. The Council's indirect rate will decline for the upcoming program year, health insurance and retirement rates will increase for FY22-23.
- We are working with Dr. Jim on budget spreadsheets for the upcoming fiscal year.

2. Economic & Community Development & Transportation Planning

a) Grants & Reporting.

- Congratulations to all our NEU's and Direct Recipients! All the ARPA reports in our region were successfully submitted by April 30. Staff are working with several jurisdictions to support ARPA projects and administration. Please connect with Erica if you would like to learn more: erica@landofsky.org ARPA information can be found here: <https://www.nc.gov/agencies/pandemic-recovery-office/american-rescue-plan-act-information-and-resources>
- Congratulations to Rosman and Mars Hill for their acceptance into the Rural Transformation Fund Grant – Community Capacity Building Program.
- LOSRC was awarded grants from Dogwood Health Trust and the Appalachian Regional Commission to create a WNC Housing Asset Inventory for the western 18 counties.
- LOSRC was awarded a grant from Cares at the UNC-CH School of Social Work in partnership with North Carolina Money Follows the Person (MFP), for the initiative titled *Building Capacity for Home and Community Based Services through Collective Impact*. The project is called *Remain at Home - Accessibility Assessment Program*, in partnership with the Institute for Preventative Care and Advocacy, Mountain Area Health Education Center, RL Mace Universal Design Institute.
- 2nd Round of DEQ grants for water/sewer infrastructure will be due in September. Please let us know if you have any projects you'd like to discuss. <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-need-funding>
- DEQ has a round of ARPA stormwater funding due in September. Please connect with us if you'd like to discuss project ideas.

b) Planning Services.

- Staff have been working with Sister Councils of Government on ARPA, Resilience and Multi-regional projects. Partnerships include sharing ARP policies, ordinances, and guidance; grant development; developing scopes of work and project delivery for ARPA State funds; budgeting and project development for housing, transportation and broadband tech assistance.
- We have begun the roundtable discussions with Bridgeway Capital for our regional Creative Manufacturing plan. First sessions included meetings with over 20 creative manufacturing businesses in WNC and regional roundtable sessions in three communities. WNC Arts and Riverbird Consulting have created creative economic impact sheets for each of the communities.
- The WNC Innovation Park was selected as a Duke Sanford School of Public Policy's Spring Consulting Project. The staff and students presented their final project report last week and the

final paper will be forthcoming. There will be several recommendations we can discuss to work toward a stronger high-tech workforce. Staff continues to seek funding for a feasibility study/strategy to develop the WNC Innovation Park with the coalition of 5 COGS, Dogwood Health Trust, WCU, Montreat College, Community College System, and many other partners. Applications have been submitted to several entities including ARC and Dogwood Health Trust.

- We have completed the three Business and Practitioner meetings for a Regional Economic Collaboration and Analysis led by the Region's Chambers of Commerce and business sector. Ernst and Young was selected as the Consultant for this effort and is being funded by the EDA and Dogwood Health Trust.
- Staff and partners have completed the analysis and final products with Outdoor/Recreation Sector manufacturers to determine opportunities in supply chains, workforce and economic diversity in cooperation with High Country Council, Southwestern Commission and Riverbird Research. The project will be discussed at Policy on Tap, hosted by the Asheville Buncombe Chamber of Commerce on May 19 at New Belgium Brewery. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/291e98f0291643c49a6462395ec3e6e5>
- Staff continues working with several local governments and partners on applications for economic development, community development, transportation, and infrastructure implementation with BRIC/FEMA, EDA, and foundations. These projects will support transportation connections, resilience, job growth, industry expansion, and place-based development.
- The NCGS 160D requires all Comprehensive Plans be updated to meet the new guidelines by July 1, 2022. (i.e. Municipalities and Counties must have a "reasonably-maintained" [updated within last 5-10 years] Comprehensive Plan in effect in order to legally continue having local zoning/development regulations. At minimum, a reasonably updated Land Use Plan must be in place by July 1, 2022 as a rational nexus to zoning/development regulations. (see Town of Canton's phased-approach, Phase 1: Land Use Plan by July 1, 2022; Phase 2: Other Comprehensive Plan elements to be included after July 1, 2022)
Please contact erica@landofsky.org if you have questions or would like assistance updating your plans.
- Staff is working with the EPA's Office of Research & Development to explore future growth scenarios for the region through 2045 based on land use, transportation, population and employment using UrbanSim. Contact Mary for more information: mary@landofsky.org
- LOS has been awarded a 205j grant to support continued development of the WNC Stormwater Program. LOSRC has launched the Regional Stormwater Services Program to support small MS4s and interested communities with stormwater management and MS4 stormwater compliance. LOSRC is hosting rain barrel workshops in several communities and developing regional educational campaigns related to stormwater management. Contact Mary for more information: mary@landofsky.org.
- LOS partnered with NC DIT and the Division of Rural Health to distribute hotspots with 12 months service, for telehealth programs in WNC. To date 130 hotspots have been distributed to programs in three counties.
- LOS is partnering with the Institute of Emerging Issues and Dogwood Health Trust to assist develop and implement Digital Inclusion Plans in WNC.
- Clean Cities Program is assisting local governments prepare for VW Settlement projects. During the first round of settlement funding released in 2020, the Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition helped the region bring in more than \$4.1 million in grant funding to support purchases of new clean vehicles and EV infrastructure. Please contact Sara Nichols with questions on how to apply for more than \$68 million in state funding available for clean fleets: sara@landofsky.org
- Staff are working with several communities for planning and zoning assistance including Hot Springs, Mars Hill, Montreat, Woodfin, Flat Rock, Maggie Valley, and Andrews. We are

partnering with Region A staff to assist with communities in their region, and recently signed a contract with the Town of Clyde.

- We continue to partner with the Chambers of Commerce, Small Business Support Agencies, nonprofits, and economic developers to assist small businesses through COVID-19 impacts.
- Staff continues to serve as a Steering Committee member for the statewide RISE project for NC Department of Public Safety, NC Office of Recovery and Resilience.
- The TDM Coordinator is working with Workforce, Inspire, and employers to develop a vanpool for under-resourced individuals to access job sites.
- LOSRC's Waste Reduction Partners program is providing free water-use management assessments for large customers of the City of Asheville's Water Resources Department. These on-site assessments help identify utility costs savings for the City.
- LOS received CMAQ funding to continue support of air quality outreach initiatives in WNC.
- Clean Vehicles has been participating in outreach events across the region including City of Asheville Parks and Recreation Truck City, Evergreen Charter School Better World Day, Careers on Wheels, Cherokee Electric Bus Ribbon Cutting.
- Cherokee Clean Vehicles participated in the first electric school bus in North Carolina ribbon cutting, including a visit from Governor Cooper and Administrator Reagan.
- Staff hosted the annual broadband leadership summit with national level speakers and nearly 200 registrants on April 20, 2022.

c) Transportation Services

- MPO & RPO staff continue to work with local partners and NCDOT on project design and development.
- Staff is assisting in TAB, STIP and CTP development and Board meetings.
- RPO staff serving as NCARPO Association President, the NCARPO is the statewide organization representing Rural Transportation Planning Organizations in NC.
- RPO staff is also serving on the new NCDOT EV/Clean Energy Committee.
- RPO, MPO and ECD staff are assisting several communities write grants for transportation projects, including RAISE, FLAP, and the IJJA Discretionary Funds.
- MPO and RPO staff are serving on the state's Prioritization Workgroup with other representatives from MPOs, RPOs, and NCDOT.
- The MPO is providing funding to several special studies in the region getting ready to being in FY 2023: Fonta Flora Trail Feasibility Study, Reed Creek Greenway Extension Feasibility Study (City of Asheville), Patton Avenue Corridor Study, and the Buncombe County Multimodal Master Plan.
- The MPO is managing the Haywood County Greenway Master Plan with public meetings planned for June 6th-June 8th
- The MPO has completed corridor studies on Hendersonville Road and Tunnel Road, in cooperation with the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, and NCDOT. The Studies can be found here: <http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/local-plans/>
- The MPO is providing funding for on-going studies at the City of Asheville, including the Close the GAP Plan, the purchase of bicycle and pedestrian counters, and the Biltmore/McDowell study.
- MPO staff is serving on a Locally Administered Projects Program committee with NCDOT to provide policy recommendations to achieve better success rates and more on-time delivery of LAPP projects.
- MPO staff attended the NC Association of MPOs Conference in Wilmington April 20th-April 22nd and gave three presentations on studies completed throughout the region
- The MPO is considering providing an additional \$23 million in funding for projects across the region, including:
 - Ecusta Trail (US 64 to the Transylvania County Line)
 - Woodfin Greenways

- Swannanoa Greenway
- Riceville Road Sidewalks
- Texas Road Pedestrian Bridge

3. Aging

Events

Join aging providers and professionals from across the region as we come together to network, reconnect, and celebrate new beginnings. This will be a drop-in event with no program, agenda, or speakers. Bring business cards and program brochures to share at our resource table. Lunch provided and catered by Red Radish.

Wednesday, June 1, from 11:00am - 3:00pm

Boone Building at the [WNC Agriculture Center](#)

[RSVP HERE](#) no later than Friday, May 27

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- The Area Agency on Aging received from the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) a second draft of the ARPA Administrative Letter. Staff awaits release of the final Administrative Letter from DAAS before distribution of funds to regional providers.

COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach

- Successful partnership with Kepro Community Health Workers and Samaritan's Feet for the May 6th event. Distributed over 100 shoes to seniors and had 150 members of the community join us for a health fair.
- Continued work to get ads out into the community about vaccinations. Current ads running are in Henderson County with a newspaper and radio station.
- Staff is participating in Older Americans Month activities and events. Working with Buncombe County Council on Aging to present at each of the senior meal sites as well as other table events.
- Staff is working with partners to get out "swag bags" to older adults in the community.
- Staff is working on getting covid testing kits to community organizations that work with older adults.
- Continued monitoring of COVID within our area.
- Staff is working with Disability Partners of Asheville to plan a June vaccine clinic with Buncombe County Health Department.

Family Caregiver Support Program

- Staff is working with area providers to reach out to Kinship Caregivers (Grandparents Raising Grandchildren) to assist them with funds for summer camps and other needs.
- Staff attended *Swing into Spring* outreach event in Hendersonville.
- Staff participated in the Children and Families Resource Center's quarterly meeting that discussed mental health issues children are experiencing.
- Staff hosted the first in-person Family Caregiver Advisory Committee Meeting since COVID started.

Foster Grandparent Program

- Two volunteer stations welcomed back the Foster Grandparent Program in the past month: the YWCA Early Learning Center, one of our largest volunteer stations, and Johnston Elementary.
- The program has approximately one third of volunteers, 23 volunteers out of 65, serving special needs and at-risk children in the region.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

- Staff welcomes the return of fully in-person evidence-based programming. The first offering is Tai Chi being provided at the Senior Opportunity Center in Asheville. Additionally, Walk with Ease is currently available to older adults in the four-county region.
- Staff continues to facilitate training opportunities for evidence-based health programs including recertifications for former participants in A Matter of Balance and Living Healthy programs.
- Staff has been working with the Spanish-speaking community to try to bring evidence-based health programs to a diverse audience and marginalized communities.
- Staff hosted Rainbow Inspirations in partnership with AARP and Blue Ridge Pride Generations Plus.
- Staff kicked off Older Americans Month in partnership with Buncombe County Council on Aging to have Council on Aging takeover at a different dining site in Buncombe County each week of May.
- Staff is working with WNC Falls Prevention and MAHEC to bring a September Falls Prevention conference to the region on September 9, 2022.
- Staff is completing Senior Center reimbursements for FY22.
- Staff and Asheville Terrace Community Health Workers are hosting an Older Americans Month Celebration at Asheville Terrace Apartments on Wednesday, May 25.
- Staff and Asheville Terrace Community Health Workers continue to partner with MANNA and OLLI volunteers to bring nutrition to residents. In April, 107 bags of groceries were distributed to residents, and 307 “Neighbor Knock” visits were conducted.

Home and Community Care Block Grant: May 2022 Report of Services Provided

- Adult Day Care/Health Days = 3,317
- Meals – delivered/congregate = 160,855
- In-home Aide hours = 9,785
- Legal Services hours = 1,437
- Transportation trips = 40,096
- Home Improvement Projects = 41

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Community Inclusion:

- Staff serves 37 Counties including 172 Skilled Nursing Facilities.
- Staff participated in the Burke County Assistive Technologies Resource Fair in Morganton.
- Staff promoted MFP at Aging Projects *Swing into Spring* Senior Resource Fair hosted in Henderson County.
- Staff assisted in the Samaritan’s Feet Resource fair in Madison County.
- Staff hosted Professional Social Workers and Marketers in Long-term Care Group for first in-person meeting promoting Land of Sky Aging services as well as Money Follows the Person.
- Staff completed the Money Follows the Person Transitions Institute Week 1.
- Staff provided 42 In-person visits to Skilled Nursing facilities providing information and training on MFP to Social Workers and care plan team members.
- Provided support to social workers needing assistance with MFP Questions and navigating application process for new applicants.
- Staff scheduled Trainings for Long Term Medicaid Social Workers in Mecklenburg, Burke, and Anson Counties.
- Scheduled to present at the Buncombe Aging Services Alliance Meeting in July.

Money Follows the Person Transition Coordinator

- Western counties served: Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania, Polk, Madison, McDowell, Rutherford, Mitchell, Madison. The current caseload for the Western Region is 12 clients. The Western Region will have to transition home during the month of May.
- Central counties served: Forsyth, Davidson, Surry, Davie, Stokes, Yadkin. The current caseload for the Central Region is 10 clients.

Ombudsman Program

- Staff scheduled a Community Advisory Committee Appreciation Day gathering in June. This event will allow the Ombudsmen to personally thank each volunteer for their dedication and service to the long-term care residents in our region.
- Staff provided “What is an Ombudsman?” presentation to Holistic Aging Advocates.
- Staff will work with LOSRC admin staff to create and print a new and updated Long Term Care Handbook.

Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty)

- 99.9% of the State respite funds (approximately \$47,000) have been utilized by 56 caregivers in the Western Project C.A.R.E. region (15 counties).
- As mentioned in last month’s report, Project C.A.R.E. received federal funding this fiscal year to supplement State funds. Initially the amount of federal funds allocated to the Western Project C.A.R.E. Office was \$11,000. This increased to \$20,000 and more may be on the way. 75% of the \$20,000 has been allocated to 20 caregivers and the balance will be allocated soon. Funds will need to be spent by August 15.
- The Project C.A.R.E. Family Consultant is making home visits again.
- Of special note: four of the caregivers receiving assistance through Project C.A.R.E. are young caregivers who are caring for parents. They range in age from 26 to 32 years old. Project C.A.R.E. serves dementia caregivers of all ages. The oldest one currently being served is 89 years old.

The Senior Companion Program

- Staff is working diligently in organizing recruitment opportunities for new volunteers in June and July targeting Madison and Transylvania County. The program had a recent decrease in volunteers of late. Many are not able to go back to work due to their health and continued hesitation due to the pandemic. Volunteers began to serve in October with 60 volunteers. Presently, 54 volunteers are active with two recent applications.
- The Veteran’s Administration has opened for volunteers and several volunteers are now back serving there. Three volunteers are also doing telephone support for clients in a more formal way. The Senior Companion Program is ever evolving in the wake of the pandemic.
- Our AmeriCorps-Seniors grant application was submitted for 2023. American Rescue Plan Act funds will continue to support our part time Support Specialist and recruit more volunteers.
- Staff seeks local grants to support the transportation program with our clients. Many clients are elderly and frail, and unable to use public transportation or afford private transportation. Volunteers provide transportation to/from medical appointments, needed errands, and groceries. Volunteers receive mileage reimbursement for their travel.
- Staff will partner with AARP to provide a safe driving course or volunteers in May and June. This program provides support to the cost of our insurance and possibly the insurance costs of our volunteers with their own insurance companies.

Federal funder, AmeriCorps Seniors, announced that on July 1, 2022, the stipend amount will increase to \$3.15 per hour.

4. Administration

- Nathan is scheduled to make a presentation to Buncombe County Board of Commissioners on July 5 with an update about LOSRC.
- We have experienced a substantial increase in COVID-19 cases among our staff in the past few weeks.
- We are in the final phase of planning Rebounding Stronger Summit on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 in partnership with Southwestern Commission and Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The summit will take place at the Cherokee Convention Center in Cherokee, NC.
- Current phase of office renovations are complete. The purpose of the renovations are to align our office space to support the Healthy Opportunities project. It has taken time for Buncombe County to secure the construction supplies and contractors for this project. The renovation is being funded by a \$400,000 grant from Dogwood Health Trust. The March Board of Delegates and Executive Committee meetings will be virtual since we anticipate the first few days of the construction process to be very loud from demolition activities.
- We are working with EQV Strategic to secure \$2 million in funding for the Asheville Regional Airport to support construction of a space for US Customs and Border Patrol. This space will allow the airport to become a Port of Entry when the application is approved by the US FTZ Board.
- Nathan and Danna attended the Southeast Regional Directors Institute in Annapolis, Maryland.
- Dogwood Health Trust has indicated they may not be able to fund Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) activities as this effort will benefit private businesses. None of the funding from DHT would go to private firms. The funding will help pay for expenses related to establishing the FTZ in WNC. We are in an ongoing conversation with them regarding this matter.
- FTZ Port of Greer has indicated they can serve part of our region and we are grateful for their support. Currently working to submit the FTZ application to the US FTZ Board.
- Nathan and Erica met with High Country Council of Governments, Mitchell County and Yancey County on possible partnerships with LOSRC.
- Nathan and Danna attended the Southeast Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) Annual Professional Development Conference in Annapolis, MD.
- Nathan, Danna and Charlotte attended the WNC Local Government Managers Budget Roundtable.
- Nathan attended the NC Employment & Training Association (NCETA) Conference in Wilmington.
- Hosted monthly LOSRC DEI and staff meetings.
- Philip Cooper, INspire project manager has been named Practitioner in Residence by the Institute of Emerging Issues at NC State University. Philip will continue to lead the INspire project for LOSRC.
- Nathan participated in the Land of Sky Education & Workforce Collaborative P-20 Council meeting on June 16.
- NC Association of Regional Councils of Governments Legislative Day is scheduled for June 8 in Raleigh.

5. Workforce

- Region's unemployment rate of 2.9% for March 2022, metro is the #2 lowest unemployment rate in NC. The April data will be released on June 1.
- We are working to increase the responses to the WNC Talent Survey covering 10-counties in Western North Carolina. The survey will be open until the end of May. The goal was 750 responses, so far we have received 600+ responses.
- Mountain Area Local Area Plan PY22-23 update has been released for public comment.

- The board released a Request for Proposals for WIOA Services and a Letter of Intent for Career Center One-Stop Operator. Proposals are being reviewed and recommendations will be presented to the board at the May meeting.
- Budget will be presented to the board at the June meeting.
- ApprenticeshipNC made a presentation at the NC Employment & Training Association (NCETA) conference in Wilmington on how MAWDB is working to expand work-based learning and registered apprenticeships in the region.
- NCWorks Commission approved a framework for workforce board consolidation. The framework encourages consolidation but does not indicate how many workforce boards NC should have. A link to the memorandum is following: [NC Commerce: NCWorks Commission Draft Memorandum on Workforce Development Board System Alignment Study](#)
- Transylvania County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution opposing Workforce Board consolidation and expressing their support for the current alignment of a four-county workforce region.
- We received preliminary notice that our workforce funding for PY22-23 will be just over \$2 million. That is higher than we anticipated and we are working on several strategies to increase capacity.
- Board staff are focused on meeting the 20% work experience mandate for our NCWorks NextGen Youth programs. Although we were very close the board failed to meet the 20% mandate last year.
- We are planning a job fair on Wednesday, June 29 at the WNC Agricultural Center in Fletcher.
- We are applied for the EDA Good Jobs Challenge in partnership with Dogwood Health Trust, AB Tech and Blue Ridge Community College. The focus will be on the advanced manufacturing and healthcare sectors, the request is for \$10 million.
- We are exploring the opportunity to apply for the ARC WORC grant in partnership with the INspire team.
- The board is supporting incumbent worker training (Business Accelerator Grants) with 12 (twelve) local employers.
- We are working with NC Department of Commerce to support incumbent worker training for multiple economic development projects in the region as part of the NC Job Ready grant.

6. Mountain Mobility

- Mountain Mobility saw modest growth in trip volume in April for our demand response service, completing more than 8,600 trips during the month. Our Enka-Candler Trailblazer had another strong month with close to 1,200 passenger trips during the Monday-Friday service. The service is still battling a shortage of vehicle operators, but Buncombe County has authorized higher wages for the Operations Contractor. We hope this move results in more interest in the community for employment.
- Because the federal mask mandate for public transit expired on April 18th, Mountain Mobility has proceeded with a “mask optional” policy for both vehicle operators and passengers.
- The system saw increased ridership during the month of March. Overall, Mountain Mobility provided 500 more trips than the month of February, with significantly higher numbers in our Enka-Candler Trailblazer service. Additionally, we provided three hundred more trips to medical appointments and grocery/shopping destinations for our senior population – an indication that the community has a more positive view of mass transit.

7. NEMT

- Our contract amount with Buncombe County Government will be unchanged for FY22-23. We appreciate the support from Buncombe County Government with this contract.

- We are submitting monthly reports to Buncombe County on the number of clients and caseload. It appears we did not lose as many Medicaid clients during the transition to managed care.
- Total trips scheduled and total trips taken have increased compared to one year ago but the total active cases have declined.

8. Healthy Opportunities (HOP) Program

- The Healthy Opportunities Pilot kicked off May 1, and we have had 5 referrals to date. We are still working to build the transportation network throughout the 18-county region and have had high interest among most of the community transit systems. Our goal is to have 80% of the region covered by transportation options by July 1.
- Land of Sky Regional Council is spearheading the transportation domain of the Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP) Program as part of Medicaid transformation in North Carolina.
- Thanks to a grant from Dogwood Health Trust, LOSRC will soon open a new call center that will house both our Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation department and the HOP transportation specialists. Under this program, LOSRC will assist with transportation in the 18 western-most counties in the state, building a network of both private and public transportation providers in each county. The transportation domain will begin services May 1st.
- As part of this process, we have hired Dalton Buckner as our Transportation Finance Specialist. Dalton is responsible for contracting with the transit providers in the LOSRC network and processing payments. We're excited about the launch of the HOP and to have Dalton on board for this program.