

## Seniors Issues Group Meeting Notes April 21, 2015

- **Did you know aging seniors (60 and above) make up over 25% of the Upstate's population?** In many cases seniors need assistance and can't get it because they have to fit a certain criteria to get assistance. Organizations are also restricted in who they can assist by those same criteria.
- **Communities Take Senior Care Into Their Own Hands:** Communities like Mount Pleasant, SC are working to make their communities "senior friendly". Mount Pleasant boasts a senior center featuring a gym, computer classes, and more. Police officers check in on vulnerable seniors, firefighters stop by to change smoke detector batteries and do the vile of life, and sanitation workers retrieve and return garbage bins that the elderly aren't able to move to and from the street for collection.
- **Creation of a Centralized Volunteer Application:** The idea of a central, uniform application was discussed during the meeting. A volunteer could fill out a single application which would go into a centralized database which could be accessed by multiple nonprofit organizations looking for volunteers.
- **Increase Effectiveness of Senior Issues Group:** During the meeting many initiatives were discussed, but involvement from more organization representatives is needed to be as effective and efficient as possible. The group would like to identify organizations that should participate in the next meeting. There should be two to three organizations for each of the following areas: food, transportation, and home services for seniors. If you have ideas for which organizations should be included in the next meeting, please send that information to me via email ([ttate@tenatthetop.org](mailto:ttate@tenatthetop.org)) by Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Proposed Participants:** Senior Action, OLLI @ Furman University, Senior Solutions, Meals on Wheels (Catriona Carlisle already involved), United Way (Dayle Stewart, Anderson UW already involved), YMCAs, local COGs (Karen Carter with ACOG has been involved)

### Next Steps:

- Please email me suggestions for strategic group participants by **Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**. When proposing participants consider Upstate organizations that are doing work well and have systems in place and organizations that could use help.
- Plan to attend an upcoming forum!
  - Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 3PM – 5PM (reception to follow): "The Dollars & Sense of Development Patterns" featuring keynote speaker Joe Minicozzi, Principal at Urban 3, LLC. The cost to attend is \$10 and pre-registration is required. Get more details and register by [clicking here](#).
  - Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 3PM – 5PM (reception to follow): "Innovation and the Changing Landscape of Healthcare" featuring keynote speaker Thornton Kirby, President & CEO of the South Carolina Hospital Association. The cost to attend is \$10 and pre-registration is required. Get more details and register by [clicking here](#).