



MINUTES
Spartanburg County
Legislative Delegation
Monday, May 2, 2011
5:30 p.m.

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the Spartanburg County Council Chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building, 366 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC. Representative Mike Forrester presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Glenn Reese – Present
Senator Lee Bright – Present
Senator Shane Martin – Absent
Senator Harvey Peeler – Present
Representative Harold Mitchell – Present
Representative J. Derham Cole, Jr. – Present
Representative Edward R. Tallon, Sr. – Present
Representative Mike Forrester – Present
Representative William Chumley – Present
Representative Rita Allison – Present
Representative Steve Parker – Present
Representative Doug Brannon – Present
Representative Mike Anthony – Present

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices of this meeting were mailed in advance to the local news media and other interested parties.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation was rendered and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Parker.

1. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FEBRUARY 14, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Representative Allison moved to approve the February 14, 2011 meeting minutes as e-mailed and printed. Representative Tallon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. MS. TRACEY L. JACKSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PIEDMONT CARE – STATE

HEALTHCARE ACCESS RESEARCH PROJECT

Piedmont Care is a non-profit organization providing HIV and AIDS care, prevention and advocacy for Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties. Piedmont Care is the only organization 100% dedicated to the HIV and AIDS in the community. Piedmont Care provides medical care, medications, and a clinic at Spartanburg Regional serving about 450 people living with HIV and AIDS. Since Piedmont Care has been in existence, they have served more than 1,000 people.

The other side of what Piedmont Care does is to provide education, prevention, testing, and condom distribution.

Ms. Jackson provided the State Healthcare Access Research Project (SHARP) report for members who did not receive it in Columbia. The SHARP report is an analysis of the state of HIV and AIDS in South Carolina. The SHARP report was prepared by the Harvard Law School and provides the expenses, challenges and opportunities for improving healthcare access for HIV and AIDS. The Law School worked with service providers here as well as people living with HIV to compile the report.

HIV and AIDS is a critical issue in South Carolina. South Carolina ranks in the top ten in the nation of AIDS cases. South Carolina's increasing new infections ranks eleventh in the nation. This is a southern epidemic. Proportionally, this hits the south harder than any other place in the United States. South Carolina might not have more HIV cases but based on the number of people who live here, we have the impact of the epidemic. This is a critical public health issue. In the United States, every nine and one half minutes, someone is infected with HIV. It is critical here and critical around the nation. The SHARP report addresses how early diagnosis and treatment is cost effective.

Some delegation members were visited by people from the Aids Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) in Columbia. This program is mostly funded by the federal government which provides free or low cost HIV medications to people in South Carolina. HIV medications can cost \$2,000 a month. Analyses show that people cannot access that kind of medication. Unfortunately, in South Carolina, federal money coming in has not keep pace with the epidemic. Money coming in from the state legislature has not kept pace. Now, South Carolina has about 650 people around the state who are on a waiting list for life saving medications. Piedmont Care would like to eliminate the waiting list.

Some Piedmont Care partners visited some delegation members seeking \$10M to eliminate that waiting list. Ms. Jackson encouraged delegation members to give real consideration to the request.

Also included in the SHARP report is a science based report that states early interventions like medications preempts more expenses down the road i.e., hospital and emergency room visits. If money is paid upfront, money will be saved down the road. It cost about \$30,000 a year to help support an HIV patient when they are already sick. It takes about \$13,000 a year for the well patient. This is a huge amount of savings. Piedmont Care knows money is being saved through ADAP.

About 20% of the people living with HIV and AIDS do not know they have it. They could be passing it on to other people and not getting the medical care they need. All monies that Piedmont Care uses for HIV prevention is raised from this community. A few years ago, there was money coming in from the state. That money was eliminated and was diverted to Greenville. Piedmont Care wants to be pro-active as that \$10M is needed here in Spartanburg County.

3. MS. MONICA HILL, MEMBER OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD 7C – REPORT ON FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Hill thanked the delegation for standing up for the Foster Care Review Board and the Guardian Ad Litem program during the budget process.

In the first quarter of 2010 in Spartanburg County, 52 children entered care. This first quarter 26 children entered care. The nice thing on this report is even though the numbers are down a little bit, if we get children in to care, the percentages of cases reviewed rises. Foster Care is the only independent review of children. Even though an independent review of Foster Care children is the main responsibility, it is not the only thing Foster Care does. Foster Care sights concerns at DSS and some other things, but they also, as a board, actively support the local DSS.

Last month, the board, with the help of 7A, sponsored a breakfast to share Senate Bill 1172 with the Foster Care Board members, DSS Case workers, Cherokee County Case workers, Directors from both counties, Foster Care President, Jean Bradley and her counterpart from the Guardian program, as well as DSS attorneys. Attendees were trained as to what it means to advocate for children to get them moved out of the Foster Care system as fast as possible.

At the next regular Review Board meeting, questions were ask as to “How does this work”; “What did you think, etc”. The first things Case Workers asked were “Where were the attorneys? The three DSS attorneys did not show up, therefore, the Case Workers felt unappreciated and frustrated.

4. MR. JIM HERZOG, CITIZEN – CURRENT HOUSE BILL 3407 AND SIMILAR SENATE BILL 414, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ACT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. Herzog understands that the legislation on Senate Bill 414 has died in one committee in the Senate and will go no further. Hopefully, this legislation will also die in the House committee.

5. MS. ALICE HENDERSON, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY – INVITATION TO RECEPTION AND COMMENTS ON ISSUES WHICH ARE STILL PENDING IN THE LEGISLATURE

Ms. Deku distributed an invitation to the delegation members to talk to the residents of Spartanburg County, answer questions, and give all attendees an opportunity to appreciate what has been accomplished in the General Assembly and what is still needed to be accomplished on June 16th at 5:30 p.m. in the Barrett room of the Spartanburg County Public Library Headquarters.

The League of Women Voters of Spartanburg is concerned about the education status of South Carolina and what the most cost efficient way there is to do something about the issue.

One of the ways that is very important is the work that has been done over the years by South Carolina ETV Radio in preparing educational programs for schools. When Ms. Henderson first moved to Spartanburg she found the Greenville Spartanburg metropolitan area was second from the bottom in the United States, and the same percentage as the adults who graduated High School. South Carolina only passed Paducah, Kentucky once Ms. Henderson found out that you could divide Greenville from Spartanburg for separate data.

Since then great progress has been made, but there is still a long way to go. Educational television offers so many services. Many of Ms. Henderson’s colleagues were in the same situation as they had not studied South Carolina history as they attended schools in other parts of the country. Ms. Henderson finds the educational videos made on South Carolina History valuable in her women’s history class. Ms.

Henderson hopes that if Governor Haley vetoes the bill passed by the House and the Senate Finance committee has approved, that Delegation members will vote to override that veto.

Another issue the League of Women Voters would like to see if there is anything that can be done to increase the amount of time for early voting. It is so important for so many reasons. Long lines form, people arrive at the wrong polling place, their name is not listed on the printout as they have not voted in the last two elections.

So many issues are important, and Ms. Henderson knows that delegation members want to help with the educational level in South Carolina. If higher education is supported, they might be able to hire full time faculty and not rely on retirees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

6. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – SPARTANBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

No report.

7. REPRESENTATIVE DERHAM COLE – CHAPMAN CULTURAL CENTER

No report at this time.

8. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (COG)

Representative Forrester reported there had not been much change since the last meeting.

9. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – SPATS

Representative Forrester reported there had not been much change since the last meeting.

10. REPRESENTATIVE DERHAM COLE – CHILDREN’S SHELTER OF THE UPSTATE

Mr. Van Clark reported the Children’s Shelter of the Upstate is licensed to care for forty children. The first program is the emergency care of children who come in protected care through DSS which gives the Shelter an opportunity to work with assessments of the children. Each child is seen by a doctor. In many cases the children have not seen a dentist through the years. In these cases, children are seen by a dentist and other doctors. The children in emergency care stay at the Shelter up to forty-five days. The average stay is around two weeks.

The second program the Children’s Shelter has is a new program started last May for teen moms. This gives the mother and baby an opportunity to be united and stay together. The program is outcome driven. The Children’s Shelter gives the mother an opportunity to attend college, if she elects not to go to college, then she gets ready for the workforce. The outcome is to break the cycle of being dependent of the

system.

The third program is the teen program for young ladies twelve to eighteen years old. At this present time there is not an opportunity for adoption in foster care. The program teaches life skills. They are housed in a duplex. One side of the duplex houses the twelve to fourteen years olds while the other side houses fifteen to eighteen years olds.

It is an incredible opportunity to be a part of the Children's Shelter. The job is very fulfilling. You feel like you have gone home every day.

Mr. Clark asked for continuation of prayer for the children as well as financial support.

11. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Sergeant Ted Beaty from the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office has submitted a request for Water Recreation funds for a Transport Trailer, Mercury Heavy Duty Rescue Boat, Rescue ONE Special Response 30hp Mercury 4 Stroke Manual Start Tiller Steering – Short Shaft, and Cover in the amount of \$18,460.36

Sergeant Beaty reported the boat approved a little over a year ago has been a blessing. A week after the Rescue One boat came in, the Spartanburg County Sheriffs office assisted in a body search in Greenwood. This equipment is being use in more places than just Spartanburg. It has been used in Union, Cherokee County, North Carolina and Greenville County. This Rescue One boat requested is a different name brand than listed under state contract, but it is an inflatable boat similar to a Zodiac.

This past weekend, they were asked to go to Boiling Springs to assist with the Fire Chief's son who had been in the river for about a week and five days. The boats available couldn't be used for that specific incident. There was a child in the river and you could not put divers or equipment in because the metal boats would be hitting the rocks.

The reason for the request is that even in shallow, rocky waters; the boat requested would hit the rocks and bounce off instead of bend like a metal boat.

The metal boats purchased last year cannot be used for this particular type of rescue.

The delegation requested Mr. Beaty evaluate the availability of equipment in the County for use in water rescue and present the status of such equipment at the next delegation meeting before a decision is made regarding this request.

Representative Allison moved to carry this item over until the next meeting. Senator Bright seconded the motion. The motion carried.

12. REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL – PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

No report

13. REPRESENTATIVE PARKER – POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Representative Parker reported the committee is constantly reviewing the Policy and Procedures in regards to nominations for committees in ways to make sure that all the information is gathered that is

needed and make sure people are certified to serve in the area in which they are seeking a nomination.

The committee will continue to update to make the policy and procedures better.

14. SENATOR MARTIN – UPSTATE CAUCUS

No report.

15. SENATOR MARTIN – SPARTANBURG COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No report, however, a copy of the CTC proposed minutes of the last meeting have been included in each notebook.

16. REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD MITCHELL – UPSTATE ALLIANCE

No report.

NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS

17. CHILDREN’S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD 7A AND 7C

TERMS OF LIZZIE FOSTER AND KIRIN MITCHELL FROM 7A; AND, TERMS OF ALICE C. ARMANTROUT AND ZORA MASSING FROM 7C

APPLICATION RECEIVED: ZORA MASSING FOR 7C

Representative Allison moved to nominate Zora Massing for re-appointment to Children’s Foster Care Review Board 7C. Representative Tallon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

18. UPSTATE REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

TERMS FROM UNION COUNTY BUSINESS AND CIVIC LEADERS: ROGER BAILEY AND BETH SMITH

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM UNION COUNTY: FRANK M. HART

Representative Anthony moved to nominate Frank Hart for the appointment to the Upstate Regional Education Center Advisory Board. Representative Brannon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

19. SPARTANBURG AREA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

TERM FROM SPARTANBURG COUNTY PAMELA V. HAGAN, NCC.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: NONE

There were no applications received, therefore Representative Allison moved to carry this appointment over. The motion carried.

20. SPARTANBURG AREA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

TERM FROM UNION COUNTY: JOHN ANTHONY (PREVIOUSLY NOMINATED) DOES NOT QUALIFY TO SERVE.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM UNION COUNTY: NONE

There were no applications received therefore, Representative Anthony made a motion to carry this appointment over. The motion carried.

21. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

TERMS OF J.C. CALDWELL, II AND JAMES G. TOBIAS

APPLICATION RECEIVED: NONE

There were no applications received therefore, Representative Tallon moved to carry this appointment over. The motion carried.

22. SPARTANBURG COUNTY COMMISSION FOR TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

TERMS OF TANNY DEVINE (DISTRICT 2) AND DELORIS HAM OLIVER (DISTRICT 7)

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: EUGENE S. ANDERSON, JR. (DISTRICT 2), AND GLENDA SIMS (DISTRICT 7)

The Deloris Ham Oliver seat is an At-Large commission seat, but was not advertised as such. Therefore, this appointment will be carried over to properly advertise the vacancy.

Representative Parker moved to nominate Mr. Eugene Anderson for the District 2 seat of the Spartanburg County Commission for Technical and Community Education. The motion carried.

23. GLENN SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

TERMS OF JEFFREY W. CHANDLER AND PETER T. REICH. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: PETER T. REICH AND JEFFREY CHANDLER

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: PETER T. REICH AND JEFFREY CHANDLER.

Representative Tallon moved to nominate Mr. Reich and Mr. Chandler for re-appointment to the Glenn Springs Fire District Commission. The motion carried.

24. SPARTANBURG COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD

TERM OF RICHARD STANLEY TILLOTSON. APPLICATION RECEIVED: RICHARD STANLEY TILLOTSON

Representative Brannon moved to nominate Richard Stanley Tillotson for re-appointment to the Spartanburg County Forestry Board. The motion carried.

25. SPARTANBURG COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

TERMS OF WILLIAM HAMILTON, HOUSE DISTRICT 31; HAL MURPHY, HOUSE DISTRICT 33 & 42; AND STEVEN J. MCABEE, HOUSE DISTRICT 36

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: TONY GILLESPIE (HOUSE DISTRICT 36) AND HAL MURPHY (HOUSE DISTRICT 33 & 42)

Representative Allison moved to nominate Tony Gillespie as the House District 36 representative on the Spartanburg County Transportation Committee. Senator Bright seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Tallon moved to nominate Hal Murphy as the House District 33 & 42 representative on the Spartanburg County Transportation Committee. Representative Anthony seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Mitchell moved to carry over House District 31 appointment. The motion carried.

26. REIDVILLE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

TERM OF FRANKLIN W. VAUGHN.

APPLICATION RECEIVED: FRANKLIN W. VAUGHN

Representative Chumley moved to nominate Mr. Vaughn for re-appointment to the Reidville Fire

District Commission. The motion carried.

27. NORTH SPARTANBURG FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION

TERMS OF DAVID A SHAFTO, JAMES W. FOWLER, JR. AND CARROLL WOLFE, SR.

APPLICATION RECEIVED: DAVID A. SHAFTO, JAMES W. FORLER, JR. AND CARROLL F. WOLFE, SR.

Representative Parker moved to nominate Mr. Shafto, Mr. James Fowler and Mr. Carroll Wolfe, Sr. for re-appointment to the North Spartanburg Fire and Rescue District Commission. Senator Reese seconded the motion. The motion carried.

28. VETERAN AFFAIRS OFFICER:

TERM OF JERRY KIEHL. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: JERRY KIEHL AND TERRY SIMMONS

Senator Reese moved to nominate Terry Simmons. Representative Chumley seconded the motion.

Representative Parker moved to nominate Gerald Kiehl. Representative Cole seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Kiehl receiving 12.781% of the vote, and Mr. Simmons received 73.428% of the vote. A confirmation letter will be forwarded to the South Carolina Veterans Affairs office for confirmation for Mr. Simmons to begin serving as the Spartanburg County Veterans Affairs officer on July 1, 2011.

29. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

30. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

Paul M. Forrester, Chairman

Attested: Carol Crowe