



Georgia's Senior Hunger Initiative thanks Former First Lady Sandra Deal



On behalf of Georgia's Senior Hunger Initiative, we would like to express our deepest condolences to the Deal Family as they mourn the loss of former First Lady Sandra Dunagan Deal. Mrs. Deal was instrumental in championing the work and the efforts that

followed to create and implement the first state plan to address senior hunger in the nation. Mrs. Deal faithfully committed her time to speak at the first two Senior Hunger Summits held in 2016 and 2017 during her tenure as First Lady, and shared her personal stories of caregiving and creatively made the solutions to senior hunger tangible to each audience she stood before. Her legacy of care and support lives on, and we are truly honored to have had the opportunity to be among the many recipients.

DAS leadership attends national ADvancing States conference

DAS Deputy Director Bryan Hay attended the ADvancing States' Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) conference in Washington, D.C. in August and shared his thoughts on the experience. "HCBS is a great conference to network with leaders across the nation on both the Older Americans Act and Medicaid. One of the many great sessions I attended was, "How to Address Self Neglect: The Rising Tide of APS Caseloads."

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This session was led by Kathleen Greenlee, who previously served as the U.S. Secretary of Aging. Hay enjoyed learning about APS practices on the national level related to self-neglect and ways that professionals should look at reframing language and program design regarding clients experiencing self-neglect.

Hay said he is proud that Georgia APS is part of a national multi-state workgroup dedicated to program design and funding opportunities through Medicaid for important supportive services to self-neglect clients. To learn more about the annual HCBS Conference, [click here](#).



Follow DHS' **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram** page for information on current happenings and future events.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day observed around the state

DAS and AAA staff around the state observed World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15. Look at the photos!

Cherokee Sheriff's Office sergeant receives Pat King Award

Sergeant Marianne Kelley was presented the Pat King Award of Excellence recently for her work protecting an elderly man. The Pat King Award was established by the North Georgia Elder Abuse Task Force (NGEATF) to recognize an individual or team that makes an unselfish or otherwise extraordinary effort to rescue, guard or protect an elderly at-risk adult(s) from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and/or fraud. The man had fallen victim to a large-scale extortion scam. Sgt. Kelley worked with other agencies to recover the victim's money. Read more about how Sgt. Kelley helped the man [here](#).



APS Metro and Three Rivers Team participate in community event

The APS Metro and Three Rivers Team hosted a table at the Lamar County Senior Health and Fitness Day. Staff had a great time meeting with community members and sharing information on DAS resources.



DAS staff attend Georgia Gerontology Society Conference

Many DAS staff members attended the Georgia Gerontology Society annual conference in August at Callaway Gardens. At the conference, Dr. Temitope Walker, Senior Hunger Nutrition Coordinator, and Aimee Stowe, State Legal Services Developer – ELAP, were sworn in as board members of the Georgia Gerontology Society.

The Georgia Gerontology Society (GGS) is a statewide multidisciplinary professional network that educates, serves, and advocates for older adults and their families. Congratulations, Tope and Aimee!



Aimee Stowe, State Legal Services Developer - ELAP (left); Dr. Temitope Walker, Senior Hunger Nutrition Coordinator (right)

Staff Shoutouts

APS Supervisor **Karen Rohrbach** helped a client who was in dire need of assistance. The client, a woman, first reached out for help by leaving a note inside her mailbox that said, "Help me. Call 911." The mail carrier found the note and called 911. The client was living in deplorable conditions with no utilities and was being financially exploited by people who were supposed to be helping her. The woman was high functioning but had cognitive delays.

Karen stepped in to assist on this case and took the lead in further assessing the client's needs, safety, and well-being. During her assessment, she was able to locate family in Ohio through diligent searches and found a brother who shared that family had been searching for her for 5 years since their father died. The client was happy to hear family had been searching for her and decided to go back home to be with family in Ohio. Karen was able to coordinate with family and they traveled to Georgia to take the client back home. Great work, Karen!

A client sent a note thanking APS Investigator **Jeffrey Limbaugh** for his help with a possible financial elderly exploitation case. The note said they were fortunate to have Jeffrey's professional expertise in handling the situation. Great job and customer service, Jeffrey!



The Temporary Emergency Relocation Funds (TERF) team and APS Fulton County team came together to help clients in need when a personal care home was shut down. APS staff members (photographed above) **Selecia Belle, Karen Langston, Michelle Davis, April Martin, Jajuana Jackson, Jacob Bell, Talisha Rivers**, and TERF supervisor **Daunte Thompson** collaborated to help safely relocate eight APS clients. Great job to all DAS staff involved!



Sowega Council on Aging hosts senior resource fairs and farmers markets

Nearly 350 seniors and caregivers in the Southwest Georgia region took advantage of gathering information on resources available to them during events held in May, June, and July. Thirty-two community partners joined the Sowega Council on Aging (SCOA) to provide information, health screenings, and goodies to event attendees. SCOA Operations Coordinator Yteela Ford said, "Each of the resource fairs were great. I was happy to be able to join forces and serve the seniors in the Southwest Georgia region. Although we had good turnouts and enjoyed each event, I am excited about next year and expect the resource fairs to be even bigger."

This year, all three of the resource fairs were combined with the farmers markets. Farmers setup outside of the resource fairs and qualifying seniors were able to receive thirty dollars' worth of fresh fruits and vegetables. Qualifications were determined by the seniors' household sizes and income. Healthy foods like squash, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, peaches, and watermelons were available.



River Valley AAA Caregiver Support Group Meeting

In June, the River Valley AAA held its second Care-Net Caregiver Support group meeting of 2022. With a total of 18 participants, the support group discussed the stressors and responsibilities of caregiving. The guest speaker, LaTasha Morss, LPC, provided insight on symptoms of stress/depression and ways to take care of oneself in order to continue caring for loved ones and clients.

Virtual ADRC

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES SUMMIT
June 14-17, 2022

CSRA and Southern AAAs honor staff who received ADRC awards

The CSRA AAA would like to congratulate two of its employees for being recognized by the ADRC Healthy Communities Summit.

Barbara Sprow was awarded the ADRC Counselor of the Year Award. The CSRA AAA would also like to congratulate Kimberly Mathis, senior center director of Burke County. Mathis received the ADRC award of Senior Center Director of the Year.



Barbara Sprow and Betsy Teasley

The Southern AAA would like to congratulate Lead Program Manager Shawn Taylor who received an ADRC Service Award. Congratulations to all of the awardees!



Shawn Taylor



Kimberly Mathis



CSRA AAA hosts 14th annual Elder Rights Conference

On June 16, the Elder Rights Conference, "Empowering Generations to Protect Against Elder Abuse" took place in Augusta. More than 250 people participated in the event, which was in person for the first time in over two years. Two FSIU staff members, Shawonda Wright and Mark Fellows, presented on the newest scams and financial exploitation of seniors. Panel sessions included district attorneys and others to discuss the legal needs of seniors.

Legacy Link AAA senior centers host Wii bowling tournament

Strike! Six senior centers in the Legacy Link region participated in a Wii bowling tournament recently. Seniors competed on teams and one member from the Towns County Senior Center bowled a perfect score. The winning team received a trophy and were all smiles.



Congratulations!

Summer milestone anniversaries

DAS honors the milestone anniversaries of our long-time employees. This summer, DAS celebrated anniversaries for 53 employees. Thank you for your many years of service to help Georgia's seniors and disabled adults live healthier and stronger lives.

Jean Ocallaghan – 41 years
Cheryl Lamb – 33 years
Russell Bass – 31 years
Lartechia Johnson – 29 years
Penny Walden – 29 years
Arvine Brown – 26 years
Tanya Poillucci – 25 years
Leland Tarrant – 24 years
Stacy McCallum – 24 years
Jennifer Yancey – 23 years
Michelle Davis – 22 years
Leigh Dabary – 22 years
Kimberly Dukes – 22 years
Sabrina Fairbanks – 22 years
Frank Gray – 22 years
Val Pittman – 20 years
Emily Shook – 19 years
Yolondo Brown – 18 years

Gail Knott – 18 years
Michelle Hollis – 17 years
Sherry Jordan-Demons – 17 years
Sharee Rines – 17 years
Candace Coley – 16 years
Y-tiki Davis – 15 years
Shannon Bailey-Gooch – 14 years
Tonya Melton – 14 years
Morgan Ogle-Alexander – 13 years
Lisa Adair – 12 years
Shernell Belasco – 12 years
Gloria Hunter – 12 years
Melanie McNeil – 12 years
Isais Sylvestre – 12 years
Christine Williams – 12 years
Brenda Vanatter-Williams – 10 years
Allison Bernal – 9 years

Connie Duckworth – 9 years
Kanisha White – 9 years
Mecheryl Bass – 8 years
Tajada Carrington – 8 years
Mary Darby – 8 years
Anquavese Jones – 8 years
Shonda Lassiter – 8 years
Kim Johnson-Prince – 7 years
Valerie Stafford – 7 years
Kandia Al-Haddad – 6 years
Erie Chiles – 6 years
Kamal Dixon – 6 years
Wildred Johnson – 6 years
Shelby Lewallen – 6 years
Shenika Shakespeare – 6 years
Anna Thomas – 6 years
Lisa Roth – 5 years
Jeffrey Taylor – 5 years

New hires join DAS

This summer, DAS onboarded 18 new employees, featured below. We are excited to have them on our team as we continue to support Georgia's aging population.

Aleida Carty
Rebekah Davis
Misty Dove
Sara Evans
Veronica Garlic
Shandria Hamler

Andrea Holloway
Amelia Lawson
Annjodi Stewart Lewis
Alexis Love
Brenda Lynn
Karla Navarro

Tommy Ray
Bridgette Robinson
Christie Thomas
DaVita Thomas
Juanecia Thompson
Sharita Washington

Upcoming Webinars

Save the date! Georgia SHIP Medicare webinars

November 22 | 1 –1:30 p.m.

December 6 | 1 –1:30 p.m.

November 29 | 1 –1:30 p.m.

Whether you're new to Medicare or you need a refresher, join us to learn about Parts A, B, C, and D. The Georgia State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) can teach you about Medicare enrollment options, coverage changes, out-of-pocket costs, Medicare Supplement (Medigap) policies, and how to protect yourself from scams and fraud. Learn how to make informed decisions about your health and drug coverage. Register for the webinars [here](#).

REACT Training for mandated reporters

November 18 | 10–11 a.m.

REACT training is for mandated reporters and any person interesting in learning more about the abuse of vulnerable adults in Georgia. REACT training will cover the basic types of elder and disabled adult abuse, Georgia laws on mandated reporting, and reporting resources. Register for the training [here](#).

Honor a centenarian in your community

Do you know someone who will be 100 years of age or older this year? Share their story with kaylan.storey@dhs.ga.gov, so we can highlight them on our social media pages.

Click here to request a DHS Centenarian Recognition Certificate. Please submit requests 45 days in advance of the honoree's birthday.



DAS Digest newsletter story ideas

Do you have a story idea for the newsletter? Want to give a shout-out for your coworker? Send your ideas to Kaylan Storey at kaylan.storey@dhs.ga.gov.