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**Proactive:** ✓

**Passive:** ✓✓✓✓✓

**Reactive:** ✓

**Positive: 2  
Negative: 1  
Neutral: 4**

**National News**

**Proactive:**

**Passive:**

**Reactive:**

**Positive: 0  
Negative: 0  
Neutral: 0**

**Local News**

**BOC to adopt FY20 budget in busy June 18 meeting –** *Clayton News-Daily*By Robin Kemp

JONESBORO—The Clayton County Board of Commissioners has a hefty agenda for its regular meeting June 18.

Topping the list is adoption of the county's $218 million budget for fiscal year 2020, amendments to which include $3.5 million in last-minute cuts; several state-mandated salary increases for commissioners and Superior, State, Juvenile and Probate Court; transferring two code enforcement officers from CCPD to Community Development; adding two aquatics coordinators, a custodian and improvements for Parks and Recreation; and adding two accounting specialists at the Tax Commissioner's office.

Highlights of the 23-item consent agenda include:

• an intergovernmental agreement for the county to supply the City of Riverdale with election machines (candidate qualification is Aug. 19 through 21);

• an intergovernmental agreement with Clayton County Schools to let Clayton County Fire and Emergency Services use modular classroom trailers, desks and chairs for the Fire/EMS Pathway program;

• a request from the Finance Department to amend the budget to establish a $48,823,925 "Life to Date Budget" for the FY 2020 Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST);

• resolutions to enter into various leasing and service agreements with the Southern Crescent Sexual Assault and Child Advocacy Center, Inc.; The Hope Shelter, Inc.; and the Georgia Department of Human Services for Clayton County Department of Family and Children Services;

• a resolution to accept Veterans Treatment Court grant money from the Council of Accountability Court Judges, as well as a $50,000 Family Connection Grant on behalf of the Clayton County Collaborative Authority, and Criminal Justice Coordinating Council grants of $25,395 for DUI Court and $22,497.05 for Adult Felony Drug Court (both of which require a 10 percent match from the county);

• a request from Parks and Recreation to join the How Big Is Your Dream Foundation to sponsor a summer music camp at Stillwell School of the Arts and $807,368.38 from the Atlanta Regional Commission's Aging Grant "to serve the senior population of Clayton County this fiscal year, reducing the cost to the county of providing needed services;"

• a $374,922 custom-designed mobile medical unit from LifeLine Mobile of Columbus, Ohio for CCFES;

• $117,944.12 in turbine module overhaul services for CCPD;

• $79,103.02 in electrical services from AC & DC Power Technologies, LLC of College Park for the Information Technology Bunker;

• $254,800 in consulting services from The Collaborative Firm, LLC of Atlanta, as requested by Central Services/Risk Management;

• a "clarification of scope" for processing audit services with the New York company PGV Advisors, LLC, under which "the Consultant will be compensated based on a percentage of discovered savings" and "only for those cost savings strategies that the County elects to implement;"

• termination of legal services by Evan Black, Esq., who is resigning as legal advisor for Juvenile Court and approval of those services to be provided by Patricia A. Buttaro of Peachtree City for $60,000 per year over a three-year contract;

• changes to a contract for residential and commercial building inspections and commercial plans review with Nova Engineering and Environmental, LLC of Kennesaw, which would add a part-time on-call inspector for $32 an inspection.

On the regular agenda are discussions of 2020 health benefits and retiree benefits management; Sheriff's Department reclassifications; position changes for clerk of Superior and Magistrate Court; a proposed pay scale for law clerks; appointments to the Zoning Advisory, Library and Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Boards; and four zoning matters which will include three public hearings:

• to allow a solid waste handling permit for a baler facility owned by Trade Your Tires, LLC of 7468 Jonesboro Road #111;

• to allow the Garners Ridge subdivision to use brick, stone, Hardi-Plank or stucco instead of brick on all four sides of its homes;

• to allow Transwestern Development Company to build a 351,000 square-foot facility on the site of an old concrete manufacturing plant at 1412 Battle Creek Rd. in Jonesboro;

• a previous request by Justina Ugwudi Barrow on behalf of Ramtech to rezone a general-business site at 855 Georgia Hwy. 138, Riverdale, as mixed-use in order to build 3,200 square feet of commercial space and six condominiums. At the May 21 public hearing, Commissioner Gail Hambrick asked the BOC to hold the vote until she could meet with Ugwudi about the project.

In addition, MARTA is scheduled to make its quarterly presentation and the Clayton County Water Authority is to present an award.

The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. at 112 Smith St., Jonesboro.

See the full agenda packet at https://bit.ly/2IoBh5K

Watch the meeting live (or after the fact) online at https://bit.ly/2Y4pAa

**FIGHTING HUNGER ONE CROP AT A TIME –** *The Blackshear Times*

By Sarah Tarr Gove

David Lowman helps Helen Dunaway load watermelon at the annual Senior Farmer’s Market.

Frances Jacobs and Senior Center volunteer Karen Herndon browse the produce at a farmer’s market held for senior citizens.

“I’m hungry. Can you help?”

The face of hunger is often the wide-eyed and teary gaze of a small child. Children across America go to bed hungry every night, but they aren’t the only ones.

Here in Georgia senior citizens are suffering, too, often forced to choose between buying food and purchasing needed medications.

Georgia currently ranks tenth in the nation for senior hunger, according to a recent report from the Dept. of Human Resources. When DHS first prioritized senior hunger three years ago, Georgia was ninth in the nation.

“Senior hunger is now a priority for the state,” says Shawn Taylor, manager with the Area Agency on Aging.

Senior citizen hunger is prevalent across Georgia, and Pierce County is no exception. Just ask those who work with local seniors daily at the Pierce County Senior Center.

Eighty-eight percent of locals who receive a monthly food box from Pierce County Family Connections are seniors.

Stephanie Bell, executive director for Family Connections, regularly takes calls from senior citizens who need a little extra food. They’ll often ask for a bag of grits, she says.

Buy my medicine and live, or buy my food — that’s the question many local seniors wrestle with daily, Bell adds.

Karen Herndon, Pierce County’s representative on the Area Aging Advisory Council, reports similar problems among the seniors she serves. Many of them don’t qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) — commonly referred to as food stamps — and if they do, the amount is minimal. Transportation to grocery stores and other food resources is also a challenge for seniors who can no longer drive.

Taylor, Bell and Herndon are concerned about senior hunger in Pierce County, but they’re optimistic about finding solutions too.

The women currently serve on a Senior Hunger Coalition created by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. The group met for the first time last fall, and have already identified several senior citizen support initiatives.

“We’re trying to create a plan, not just on paper, but something that will effectively impact and reduce the number of seniors who are going to bed hungry at night,” Taylor says.

The Coalition will distribute a nutrition resource guide detailing contact information for local food banks, church programs and organizations that provide services for seniors.

The guide, to be completed in August, will be available online and in print at the senior center, social security administration office and local doctors’ offices. Law enforcement agencies and those manning the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) phone lines will also have the guide.

“A lot of seniors don’t have that information … or they may not know the hours of operation,” Taylor says.

The group is also compiling a walking-biking map to fresh food resources.

“Not every senior who is hungry is hungry because of a lack of financial resources. Sometimes it’s a lack of transportation, sometimes it’s due to a lack of mobility,” Herndon explains.

And, often seniors only have access to a discount store, where fresh food options are limited, which further compounds their health challenges as processed foods can cause more physical issues.

“They want healthy food. They don’t want the processed stuff,” Bell says.

Informational resources are a great tool, but no amount of information can solve the problem of senior hunger entirely. If seniors can’t afford adequate food or can’t secure transportation to pick up groceries, they need food brought to them.

Pierce County farmers may be key to helping get fresh food into the hands of hungry senior citizens, significantly reducing or perhaps eliminating the problem locally.

The hunger coalition hopes to create and grow a gleaning program with local farmers to provide leftover produce to seniors. Herndon approached local officials with the idea at a recent meeting.

“We want to build relationships with our farmers and our senior centers,” Taylor says.

The senior center can coordinate seniors to glean in the fields, or send someone to pick up the produce if farmers can’t allow direct access to their crops.

So far, volunteers have helped distribute 300 pounds of blueberries, 300 pounds of squash, 125 pounds of cucumbers, 40 pounds of green tomatoes and 50 pounds of zuchinni donated from local farms to seniors.

Pierce County’s seniors have helped build our local economy, working long, hard hours in their prime.

“They’re the ones who built where we are today,” Bell says.

Now, they need community support.

Can we help? Yes, we can.

For more information regarding the gleaning program and food waste reclamation, contact Stephanie Bell at 912-230-7835; Pierce County Senior Center Nutrition Manager Lynn Platt at 912-449-0145; Area Aging Advisory Council representative Karen Herndon at 281-4449; or Shawn Taylor at 912-285-6097.

**DFCS celebrates, hosts mini-conference during Foster Parent Appreciation Month –** *Marietta Daily Journal*

The month of May proved busy for local volunteers, Department of Family and Children Services employees and more as time was taken out to celebrate Foster Parent Appreciation Month as part of a national effort to recognize those willing to give back to children in need of a home and family.

Among those this year shown appreciation for all they've done is Cassie Laminack.

She was chosen as this year's DFCS Region 3 (serves- Polk, Haralson, Bartow, Paulding, Floyd, and Douglas counties) Foster Parent of the Year, chosen from among 200 families in the six county area.

Robin Forston of the Polk County DFCS office said the single foster parent and "her first placement was a sibling group of three. She developed a strong bond with the children’s birth mother and was very supportive and inclusive of the mother during the children’s seven months in care."

Forston added that "After reunification, this mother said, "Cassie encouraged me to be a better mother and I saw her do things for my children and I knew she loved them and was not against me." [Laminack] also makes keepsake memory books for all of her placements."

In July 2018, Laminack adopted her son after he spent 18 months in her home.

Laminack is an active member of Haralson County’s Foster Parent Association and actively recruits new foster parents. She also established the annual “Kicks for Kids” event for Polk and Haralson foster children who need new shoes. She's a photographer and offered free 30 minute sessions in exchange for a pair of new sneakers. In 2018, she received over 50 pairs of new shoes.

She was honored by DFCS statewide Director Tom Rawlings with 22 other families from across Georgia on May 20 at a luncheon at the Omni Hotel at The Battery Atlanta.

Additional special thanks went out this May to local business owners who contributed back to the community as well. Jason and Katie Graham are the owners of the Cedartown Papa John’s Pizza, and they provided a generous donation to the Polk County Foster Parent Association. They helped provide the donation after the location in Cedartown from May 5 through May 11 by collecting funds from a portion of their sales that week.

That organization also helped provide information in a May mini-conference with the help of several others.

Dwayne Yarbrough, a former Polk County foster parent of 24 plus years and current Polk County CASA (court appointed special advocate volunteer for foster children,) hosted a foster parent mini-conference for required training hours for current foster parents at One Door Polk on Main Street in Cedartown on Saturday, May 11, 2019.

Along with Yarbrough, recently appointed Tallapoosa Judicial Court Juvenile Judge Laura Wheale spoke to the foster parents about the juvenile court expectations for foster parents and answered questions of the foster parents.

CASA supervisor Lisa Dowdy took part as well and discussed the responsibility of the CASA volunteer and the partnership with foster parents. Leann Chastain, a person in long term addiction recovery, shared with foster parents how with the support of her church and community partners she maintains her sobriety and is an advocate for more parents in the community of Recovery.

The mini-conference provided foster parents with six training hours on the day. Forston wrote "the event made a big impact on those in attendance and was helpful for the foster parent participants."

If anyone is interested in opening their heart and home to children in need please contact Robin Forston at 404-895-6517 or robin.forston@dhs.ga.gov. Also call 1-877-210-KIDS or visit fostergeorgia.com

**Abandoned baby highlights state’s safe haven law –** *Dawson County News*

By Brian Paglia

When a newborn infant was found abandoned in woods in south Forsyth County on June 6, it sparked conversations about Georgia’s safe haven law that provides parameters for a mother to drop off her baby without fear of criminal consequences.

Sarah Koeppen, the founder of The Hope Box, a nonprofit that focuses on issues surrounding child abandonment, said the mother probably didn’t even know what options she had.

“She probably didn’t even know the safe haven law existed,” Koeppen said. “We need to get the information out.”

Koeppen and her Cobb County-based organization were instrumental in getting Georgia’s safe haven law updated in 2017.

In 2002, Georgia followed several states in passing a safe haven law. The “Safe Place for Newborns Act” gave mothers seven days after birth to leave their newborn baby at any hospital in Georgia. The newborn had to be left with hospital staff, and the mother had to leave their name and address.

By 2017, Georgia’s safe haven law was one of the most limited in the country, Koeppen said, so her organization worked with state lawmakers to update it. On May 8, 2017, then-Gov. Nathan Deal signed HB 391. Mothers now have 30 days after giving birth to leave their newborn baby at a safe haven location, which was expanded from just hospitals to also include fire stations and police stations. Mothers can now also decline to provide personal information.

According to Jason Shivers, a division chief with the Forsyth County Fire Department, local fire stations are equipped to handle the basic needs of an infant. If a fire station did receive a newborn, firefighters would care for the immediate needs of the child and notify the proper authorities.

Fire stations are busy places, though, and often empty out to respond to emergencies. Shivers said mothers should try to contact fire station staff before leaving their newborn, put the baby in an obvious location or provide some obvious notice about the baby’s location.

“We absolutely welcome being a part of that solution,” Shivers said.

Northside Hospital Forsyth used passage of Georgia’s amended safe haven law to provide more education to its staff, according to Melissa Sugg, manager of the hospital’s Women’s Center. The hospital also posted additional signage in the entrances to its emergency department and women’s center.

“We don’t have a program as far as signage goes. However, all of our med units are equipped to deliver and take care of newborns,” Hall County Fire Services Capt. Zachary Brackett said.

If a newborn is presented to the hospital, staff is instructed to take the baby to be assessed and ask for the mother’s information, which she can decline to do. Northside staff must then contact the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services, Sugg said.

It’s a grave situation, Sugg said, and one that’s often misunderstood. Sugg said she followed reaction on social media after the newborn was discovered off Daves Creek Road on Thursday night. Some of the reaction included harsh judgment toward the mother.

That’s not helpful, Sugg said. In fact, it could contribute to a mother’s hesitancy to come to a safe haven location for fear of being considered a bad mother.

“It could be the most loving thing she could do,” Sugg said.

When Koeppen started The Hope Box in 2014, she found there were a variety of reasons that mothers abandoned their infants. Most involved the mother being in some form of crisis – domestic violence, drugs, incest, sex trafficking.

“A lot of people don’t realize that we’ve talked to a lot of girls and they’re afraid to talk or afraid of who might find out,” Koeppen said.

Forsyth County authorities are still trying to find the mother who left her newborn.

When authorities found the child, a girl, they took her to Northside, where she was found to be in stable condition. The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office said in a Facebook post on Monday that she was in good health.

Northside staff named her “India.”

She will remain in DFACS custody for the time being.

“It’s a tragic thing that happened,” Sugg said, “but it gives us an opportunity to get the word out (about safe haven laws.)”

**Georgia ranks 38th in the nation for child well-being –** *Marietta Daily Journal*

When the Annie E. Casey Foundation released the first-ever annual Kids Count Data Book in 1990, Georgia ranked 48th in the nation for child and family well-being. According to the 30th edition of the Data Book, released this week, Georgia ranks 38th.

The Kids Count Data Book looks at Georgia across four domains — education, economic well-being, health, and family and community — to measure progress and identify areas where this state struggles. The 2019 report reveals that over the past 30 years Georgia has become a better place for children to grow up stronger, healthier and safer. Children also are better prepared for school, because enrollment is up in early education systems. However, economic well-being continues to sag, as more children and families live in poverty.

“If you want to peer into Georgia’s future, you need only measure the health and well-being of our children,” said Robert W. Woodruff Foundation President P. Russell Hardin. “The annual Kids Count data is our report card and should be required reading for everyone who cares about our state. It is encouraging to see that our state’s ranking has improved, but as long as one in five children are born into poverty, we have more work to do to ensure that all of Georgia’s children have the opportunity to succeed.”

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services Director Tom C. Rawlings agrees that Georgia has made great strides, because investments — from early care and learning and education, to child welfare and health care — coupled with sound policies, public and private partnerships, and collaboration around statewide priorities are moving families from a place of dependency and need toward self-sufficiency.

“Our role,” said Rawlings, “is to identify the most vulnerable families in every community—whether they’re coping with issues of child abuse and neglect or struggling with unemployment and the need to develop work skills to get into the work force. Working with our partners, our ultimate goal is to raise these families up to a point where they can thrive. Economic development is truly what we’re all about—ensuring that our children are well educated to become our workforce of the future, and ensuring that those vulnerable families are strong enough to get over the stresses of their lives and contribute to their communities.”

Georgia ranks 34th in educationSignificantly more children in Georgia are proficient in reading and math today than 30 years ago. Two-thirds of Georgia children scored below proficient in fourth grade reading in 2017, an improvement from the three-quarters who scored below proficient in 1992. And 69 percent of children scored below proficient in eighth grade math in 2017, compared with 86 percent who scored below proficient in 1990.

The percentage of Georgia’s children not attending pre-school has decreased from 60 percent to 45 percent since 1990. However, the significant increase in population in Georgia means that, although a higher percentage of children are attending pre-school, the total number not attending is higher in 2019 than it was 30 years ago.

The proportion of Georgia’s youth, age 16 to 19, who are not in school and not working, has dropped from 11 percent in 1990 to 9 percent today.

Georgia has made positive strides in education outcomes over the past 30 years, a result of increased investment in our education systems. The data indicate that continuing those investments is critical to maintaining our positive trajectory.

Georgia ranks 40th in economic well-being

Today 28% of Georgia’s children are living in homes where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, compared with 30% in 1990. And yet more than 500,000 of Georgia’s children live in poverty. At 2%, Georgia’s child poverty rate is higher than it was in 1990.

More children are living in homes with a high housing cost burden, because families are spending more than 30% of their household income on housing. In 1990, 27% of Georgia’s children lived in households with this burden, compared with 30 percent — 750,000 children — today.

Georgia ranks 34th in healthIn 1990, 13% of Georgia’s children did not have health insurance. Today only 7% lack coverage. Still, Georgia’s child uninsured rate remains higher than the national average of 5%.

Georgia’s child and teen death rate was 52 per 100,000 in 1990. Today that rate is 28 per 100,000, which indicates improvements in safety and health care over the past three decades. And according to the most recent data, fewer teens abuse drug and alcohol, cut in half from 6% in 1990 to 3% today.

Despite these positive health trends, Georgia’s low birthweight rate has increased significantly since 1990, at a 30-year high of 9.9%.

Georgia ranks 38th in Family and CommunityIn 2017, 13% of Georgia’s children were growing up in families where the head of household did not have a high school diploma, down from 27% in 1990. Georgia’s teen birth rate has also significantly decreased during the past 30 years. Georgia had one of the highest teen birth rates in the nation in 1990 at 76 per 1,000 females age 15 to 19. Today, Georgia’s rate is 22 per 1,000, closing in on the national average of 19 per 1,000.

Despite these improvements, more of Georgia’s children — 13%, more than 330,000 children — are living in high-poverty areas today than 11% in 1990.

“The data confirm that Georgia’s investments in children and families are paying off,” said Georgia Family Connection Partnership Executive Director Gaye Smith. “We have a significant opportunity ahead of us with 2020 Census to continue to make gains, so it is vital that we count every child or risk losing significant resources and backsliding. As our state’s population grows larger and more diverse, we must continue to work together to build a strong social infrastructure and evaluate our progress, and we must continue to invest in our most valuable resource — children and families — so we can enjoy the collective prosperity that comes from having vibrant, healthy families and communities throughout Georgia.”

**Georgia ranks low on child welfare, but not among worst –** *Athens Banner-Herald*

By Lee Shearer

Georgia stayed out of the bottom 10 states for the second consecutive year in an annual national child welfare ranking.

Georgia ranked 38th among the 50 states, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s 2019 “Kids Count” rankings and data book. That’s one spot higher than last year’s ranking. In 2017, the foundation ranked Georgia No. 42, and in 1990, the first year for the ranking, Georgia stood at No. 48.

“We’ve made progress. We’re out of the 40s,” said Rebecca Rice, Georgia Kids Count manager at the Georgia Family Connection Partnership.

New Hampshire ranked first this year, followed by Massachusetts, Iowa and Minnesota. The lowest-ranking states are disproportionately in the nation’s southern tier, including No. 50 New Mexico, No. 49 Louisiana and No. 48 Mississippi.

The survey compares states on four kinds of measures related to children’s welfare — economic well-being, family and community, education and health.

Georgia ranked at No. 34 in children’s health, No. 38 for family and community, No. 40 in economic well-being, and No. 34 in education.

Each of the four broad ranking systems is based on four indicators, 16 in all. Indicators for economic well-being, for example, are the percent of children in poverty (21 percent for Georgia children in 2017, the latest year with data available), children whose parents lack secure employment (27 percent), children living in households with a high housing cost burden (31 percent) and teens not in school and not working (8 percent).

This year’s Kids Count report compares several of the 2017 statistics to those of 2010, when measures such as the number of children living in poverty were rising dramatically as the recession of 2008 took hold.

The percentage of Georgia children in poverty reached a 21st-century low of 17.8 percent in 2002, according to the Kids County database, then rose from 20.2 percent in 2008 to a peak of 27.3 percent in 2012 before gradually falling again the next several years, according to the Kids Count data.

Georgia did better compared to its 2010 scores on all but three of the 16 indicators, according to the latest report.

The levels of children in single-parent families (38 percent) was unchanged from 2010, as was the percent of young children ages 3 and 4 not in school at 50 percent.

The percentage of low birth-weight babies worsened, increasing from 9.7 percent to 9.9.

“That’s fairly disheartening to us because it’s such an important indicator,” with implications for maternal health and consequences later in life for the babies, said Rice.

Measured against last year and the year before rather than 2010, some measures are headed the wrong way. The percentage of children without health insurance actually went up from 6 percent to 7 percent.

It was the second year in a row that the percentage of children without health insurance increased in Georgia. That percent also went up nationwide, according to a separate study from Georgetown University.

It’s hard to say what’s causing the increase in uninsured children, Rice said. It in part could be under-enrollment in available state and federal sources.

“It’s not always super-easy to stay enrolled,” she said, and for the working poor, “it can be a difficult extra step.”

The percent of Georgia children in “housing burdened” households (paying a relatively high share of family income for housing) remains high at 30 percent, Rice noted.

The education measures show Georgia children’s achievement levels improving, but for the most part still lagging a little behind the rest of the country. Georgia does a little better than the rest of the country in the percent of 3- and 4-year-olds not in school — 50 percent in Georgia vs. 52 percent nationally.

Georgia is below average on the other education indicators, though improving. The percent of Georgia fourth-graders not proficient in reading dropped from 71 percent in 2009 to 65 percent in 2017, while the percent of eighth-graders not proficient in math decreased from 73 percent in 2009 to 69 percent in 2017.

About 19 percent of Georgia students did not graduate from high school on time, a big improvement from 33 percent in the 2010-11 school year.

**Georgia To Cut 30,000 Poor, Elderly And Disabled From Medicaid –** *Georgia Public Broadcast*

By Leighton Rowell & Virginia Prescott

Earlier in June, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that 17,000 poor, elderly or disabled Georgians had lost their Medicaid benefits. The Georgia Department of Community Health said their accounts were terminated for not responding to renewal notices. Now, the AJC reports state officials have revealed the full number of people slated to lose Medicaid is closer to 30,000.

Approximately 2 million Georgians receive Medicaid benefits. Many of the 17,000 already dropped – and their lawyers say they never received those notices. Now they're fighting to get their benefits back. We spoke with reporter Ariel Hart, who broke the story for the AJC. Alisa Haber, a staff attorney at the Georgia Senior Legal Hotline, also joined the conversation. She assists seniors all over the state in applying for and renewing their Medicaid benefits.

Listen Listening...17:30 On Second Thought host Virginia Prescott speaks with Ariel Hart and Alisa Haber.

The Department of Community Health provided this statement to On Second Thought:

"The State Medicaid Agency recently removed several beneficiaries from the Medicaid program due to their failure to complete the annual renewal process. Federal regulations require that Medicaid beneficiaries reestablish their eligibility on a regular basis. The majority of the individuals terminated were enrolled in the Medicare Savings Program, and were receiving assistance with Medicare premiums. With the exception of approximately 68 individuals, the State Medicaid Agency provided timely notice informing the beneficiaries of the need to renew their eligibility. Unfortunately, the individuals who did not participate in the renewal process were deemed ineligible, and thus were removed from the Medicaid program. The State Medicaid Agency is allowing those beneficiaries who were terminated for failing to complete the reestablishment of their eligibility, the opportunity to complete the renewal process by August 31, 2019. If deemed eligible, they will receive retroactive coverage dating back to June 1, 2019. For those individuals who did not receive notice, their eligibility will be reinstated and they will be provided the opportunity to complete the renewal process."