Abby Casey is a High School Office Intern that comes to the Regional Commission from Baconton Charter School. She began interning in 10th grade.
SWGRC Staff Shines in Annual Performance Review

Top scores were given to the staff and Executive Director of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in the FY18 Performance Standards and Evaluation by the SWGRC Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SWGRC</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
<th>No Conclusion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Development</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Staff Performance</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liaison with federal, state and local govt. organizations that impact Regional Commission programs</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsiveness</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Controls</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Record Keeping</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget &amp; Budgetary Controls</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
<th>No Conclusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Development</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Staff Performance</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Planning</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliance with State &amp; Federal Requirements</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liaison</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsiveness</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Budget &amp; Budgetary Controls</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruitment of Qualified Personnel</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SWGRC INTERNS FY18

Tyke ‘De’Antre Williams is a High School Planning Department Intern that comes to the Regional Commission from Mitchell County High School.

Eden Casey is a High School Office Intern that comes to the Regional Commission from Baconton Charter School.
The SWGRC staff took advantage of multiple training opportunities in FY18

**August 23– August 25 2017**  Steve O’Neil attended GAZA Conference in Helen, Georgia.

**September 26, 2017** Suzanne Angell and Michelle Richardson attended DHS training in Albany, Georgia.

**September 27, 2017** Planning Staff attended the GPA Conference in Columbus, Georgia.

**October 7, 2017** Barbara Reddick attended an Energy Summit in Camilla, Georgia.

**October 2-5, 2017** Brenda Wade attended the DCA Fall Workshop in Savannah, Georgia.

**October 20, 2017** Heidi Penney and Jeff Hamilton attended LU-CA training in Valdosta.

**November 8, 2017**—10th Annual Georgia Association of Regional Commission Conference in St. Simons Island. Various Council and Staff attended training sessions.

**December 6, 2017** Brenda Wade, Barbara Reddick, Kim Brooks and Shelby Rhymes attended a DCA Workshop in Macon.

**December 14, 2017** Department of Community Affairs training in Tifton. Kim Brooks and Barbara Reddick attended.

**February 6, 2018** Michelle Richardson and Suzanne Angell attended a GDOT training in Macon, Georgia.

**February 8, 2018** Steve O’Neil attended GAZA conference.

**February 19-21** Barbara Reddick attended a GICH Retreat at Calloway Gardens.

**March 15, 2018** Kim Brooks attended GA Peds Conference in Rome, Georgia.

**April 20—24th, 2018** Steve O’Neil attended APA Conference in New Orleans.

**June 21, 2018** Suzanne Angell and Michelle Richardson attended DOT and Drug & Alcohol training in Forsyth, Georgia.
November 8th through 10th the **Georgia Association of Regional Commissions** held their annual conference at St. Simon’s Island. Planning staff, GIS staff, the Executive Director and Deputy Director and twelve of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council attended the event. A Department of Community Affairs update was given by Commissioner Camila Knowles. Breakout session topics included Economic Forecast, a Georgia Department of Transportation Update, an RC Council Member Training, Updates on CCSP Contracts. A Planners Track was offered as well as a GIS Track and Workforce Development. Deputy Director and CFO Suzanne Angell attended the Finance/HR Track. Suzanne Angell was a presenter in the Georgia Department of Transportation break-out session.
## Council and Executive Council Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Council Members</th>
<th>Office</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baker County</strong></td>
<td>Chris Moore, County</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Spann, City (Executive and Personnel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eddie Hopkins, Non-Public (Transportation)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Calhoun County</strong></td>
<td>Charlie Williams, County (Environmental &amp; Natural Resources)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Chuck Cowart, City</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deidre Evans-Severson, City</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bennie Watts Jones, Non-Public (Environmental &amp; Natural Resources)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Colquitt County</strong></td>
<td>Paul Nagy, County (Community Development)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ferrell Ruis, City (Transportation and Audit)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Henry Crumley, Non-Public (Environmental &amp; Natural Resources)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Kevin Branch, Non-Public</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Dollie Crumley, Additional (Environmental &amp; Natural Resources)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Preston Jimmerson, Additional</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur County</strong></td>
<td>Dennis Brinson, County (Transportation)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kregg Close, City (Environmental)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Revonn Miller, Non-Public (Human Services)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Billy Poppell, Additional (Environmental &amp; Natural Resources)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dougherty County</strong></td>
<td>Anthony Jones, County (Community Development and Bylaws)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Bobby Coleman City (Community Development)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Matt Fuller, City (Community Development)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Freddie Grimsley, Non-Public (Community Development)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Raymond Breaux, Additional (Nominating and Transportation)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Erica Savage-Wilson, Additional (Community Development)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Matthew Reed, Additional (Community Development)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Early County</strong></td>
<td>June Merritt, County (Human Services)</td>
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<td>Al Hutchins, City (Nominating and Ethics)</td>
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<td>Freddie Speight, Non-Public (Environmental &amp; Natural Resources)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grady County</strong></td>
<td>Keith Moye, County (Human Services)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Sellers, City (Human Services and Bylaws)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joe Walden, Non-Public (Environmental)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lee County</strong></td>
<td>Dennis Roland, County (Community Development)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dwight Hickman, City (Community Development)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chad Griffin, Non-Public (Environmental &amp; Natural Resources)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glenda Battle, Additional (Executive and Transportation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates Council Members who served during the reporting period but did not serve to the end of FY18.

Council Members in **Blue** served as Executive Committee Members during this time period.
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council, continued

**Miller County**
*Jerry Bush, County (Environmental & Natural Resources)  
Allen Worsley, County  
Carlos Williams, City (Community Development)  
Jayme Smith, Non-Public

**Mitchell County**
*Ben Hayward, County (Executive and Audit)  
W.D. Palmer, III, City (Executive, Nominating and Audit)  
Nathaniel Keaton, Non-Public (Transportation)

**Seminole County**
*Brenda Peterson, County (Executive, Nominating, and Personnel)  
Mitchell Blanks, City (Human Services)  
Tracie Beard, Non-Public (Human Services)

**Terrell County**
Ernest Johnson, County (Human Services)  
Ed Wade, City (Human Services)  
*Jack Powell Non-Public (Executive, Ethics and Audit)

**Thomas County**
Ken Hickey, County (Environmental & Natural Resources)

Terry Scott, City (Environmental & Natural Resources)  
Donnie Baggett, Non-Public (Nominating, Personnel, and Transportation)  
*Elaine Mays, Additional (Transportation, Executive)

**Worth County**
Fred Dent, County (Transportation)  
*Randy Hill, City (Environmental & Natural Resource and Bylaws)  
Charles Jones, City  
Karen Rackley, Non-Public (Audit and Human Services)

**Governor’s Appointment**
*David Mosely (Environmental & Natural Resource)  
Courtney Brinson (Community Development)  
Norma Gilpatrick (Transportation)

**Lt. Governor’s Appointment**
Vacant

**Speaker’s Appointment**
Vacant

*indicates Council Members who served during the reporting period but did not serve to the end of FY18.  
Council Members in Blue served as Executive Committee Members during this time period.
New 2018 Council Members gathered for New Council Member Training in March. They were introduced to staff and each Staff member gave an overview of the part of the Commission they work in. The training was comprehensive. They learned about services the Planning Department offers, Grant Writing, Workshops, Geographic Information Systems, the Transportation Program, the SWGRC website, newsletter, and digital directory as well as how the Commission is financed. This training is offered at the beginning of each year after new county and city appointments are made.

**Georgia Regional Commission Welcomes its New Council Members of 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matt Fuller</td>
<td>Dougherty County</td>
<td>City Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deidre Evans-Severson</td>
<td>Calhoun County</td>
<td>City Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston Jimmerson</td>
<td>Colquitt County</td>
<td>Additional Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffery Haynes</td>
<td>Early County</td>
<td>County Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Jones</td>
<td>Miller County</td>
<td>Non-Public</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jayme Smith</td>
<td>Miller County</td>
<td>Non-Public Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Worsley</td>
<td>Miller County</td>
<td>County Representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SWGRC Director Robert McDaniel gives the new Council Members an overview before they meet SWGRC Staff
FY18 Staff Service Awards

Robert McDaniel
Executive Director
10 Years!

Heidi Penny
GIS Manager
10 Years!

Heather White
Executive Assistant
5 Years!

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
http://www.swgrc.org

Digital Directory  Clerks Resources  Newsletters  Planning  Staff Contacts and Information

Regional Information  Revolving Loan Funds  Regional Transit  Brochures  much more!
**Council Meeting Speakers FY18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GA Dept of Community Affairs</th>
<th>Gina Webb</th>
<th>July 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area Director Deborah Bell-Dison</strong></td>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>October 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debra Westberry Bell-Dison grew up in Montezuma, Macon County, GA. She attended The Fort Valley State College (now University). She graduated in June, 1992 with a B.S degree in Agriculture Economics. She began her career with the USDA agency Farmers Home Administration, now Rural Development, as a Co-Op Student in the Montezuma office. She accepted a full time position upon graduation. During her tenure, Debra has worked in North, Middle and now South Georgia offices. She was promoted to her current position of Area Director in September, 2016 where she manages the programs in twenty-five counties in Southwest Georgia.</td>
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**Stephen Collier**  
Assist. City Manager for Utilities Administration Albany, GA  
January 2018

Stephen Collier began his employment with the City of Albany in 1982. He began his current position July 3, 2014. Early on his primary focus was the procurement of vehicles and heavy equipment. He now is expanding services the City of Albany offers, such as selling off excess power, to becoming a provider of services to communities outside the city of Albany including the Marine Base.
Gary D. Nelson is President of the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, Inc., a private independent foundation in Atlanta, Georgia. Appointed in 2002, Dr. Nelson is responsible for executive management of the Foundation’s program, financial, and management operations. Working with the Foundation’s Board of Directors, Dr. Nelson oversees the Foundation’s grantmaking program dedicated to advancing the health of all Georgians and expanding access to affordable, quality healthcare for underserved individuals and communities. Healthcare Georgia Foundation, Inc. was established in 1999 with an annual grantmaking program of approximately $4-5 million strategically allocated to: 1) protecting and promoting the health of individuals, families, and communities; 2) improving the availability, quality, appropriateness, and financing of healthcare services; and 3) integrating and coordinating efforts to improve health and healthcare services.

WIOA Director Melody Pierce March 2018
Ms. Pierce informed the Council about a need for placement for displaced employees from the mass closing of Winn Dixie, Harveys, and Kmart stores in our region. This requires a "rapid response" which is a response to massive, sudden layoffs. Needs assessments are being done for these employees deciding what the next step will be for them. Some of those options are returning to the workforce, returning to school for a degree, or getting technical training. WIOA will help these individuals with their resumes, counseling, and interviewing tips.

Council on Aging Director Debbie Blanton May 2018
Director Debbie Blanton from the SOWEGA Council on Aging spoke to the council and guests at the June Council meeting. She spoke of the resources available to the aging population in Southwest Georgia. She made it clear that all of us are aging so this is not exclusive to the 65+ community.

GA Dept of Revenue Commissioner Lynn Riley June 2018
Georgia Department of Revenue Commissioner Lynne Riley spoke to a very full room during the June meeting at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. She brought several staff from her compliance division. She delivered a message of positive changes happening at the GDOR. One of those messages was about House Bill 61 from Wayfair vs South Dakota and how it includes an internet sales tax that will bring revenue to local Georgia communities that would get that tax stimulation if the money were spent locally. She gave Representative Jay Powell (who was also a guest at the meeting) kudos for his diligent work in getting this bill passed.
# Finance & Management

## FINANCE & MANAGEMENT FY 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>$693,021.01</td>
<td>$558,164.93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Service</td>
<td>$5,882,599.87</td>
<td>$5,849,179.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning &amp; Zoning</td>
<td>$289,566.06</td>
<td>$324,987.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>$293,968.11</td>
<td>$374,988.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,159,155.05</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,107,320.14</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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![FY18 Revenue by Program Type](image-url)
The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission administers a regional coordinated transportation program, partnering with our local governments, to provide transportation to DHS clients (elderly, mentally and/or developmentally disabled and DFCS) and to the general public. The program is funded through the Georgia Department of Human Services and the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Southwest GA Region Transit Service Area

Legend
- 5311 Services provided under SWGRC Contract
- Thomas 5311 Services not provided by SWGRC
- Medicaid Transportation provided by SWGRC sub-contractors

*GHS services are provided in all 14 counties under SWGRC contract*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>348,321</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elderly (65+)</td>
<td>49,489</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>54,202</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelors or above</td>
<td>37,022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 9th grade</td>
<td>16,642</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living in Poverty</td>
<td>86,200</td>
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</table>
Mrs. Angell has more than 20 years of experience in accounting and grant administration. The majority of her experience has been with local government and community-based agencies. She holds a Bachelor Degree of Business Administration in Accounting and an Associate of Science Degree in Business Administration. She has been employed with the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission since 1995. Her duties include: the supervision of accounting and administrative personnel; the tracking and monitoring of expenditures for various federal and state funded programs, the preparation, monitoring and revision of an annual budget, monthly financial reports, oversight of all payroll and accounting functions, and assistance with all audit and federal/state monitoring functions and managing the SWGRC Regional Transportation Program.

Michelle joined the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in December 2000; she is a graduate of Mitchell-Baker High School, and also attended Albany Technical College. As Transportation Coordinator, she is responsible for ensuring that all trip billing is reconciled and accurate, and for the payment of transportation providers. Michelle has many years of experience in various accounting and business office functions. She currently resides in Grady County with her husband and two daughters.
We are unique among the Regional Commissions in Georgia for our involvement in transportation coordination. Beginning in 1999, SWGRC began to work closely with the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) to promote the efficient use of available transportation resources and was awarded the contract for the Southwest region. The system is now operating 76 vehicles providing transit services to the public and the Division of Aging Services, Department of Family and Children Services, Mental Health, and Development Disabilities and Addictive Disease. This program currently provides approximately 363,000 trips annually. In addition, our regional rural public transit service provides over 60,000 trips per year to work, businesses for shopping, and other personal activities.

An interesting anecdote: In the first proposal we submitted to DHR, we were told to plan services to meet between 180,000 and 220,000 trip requests per year, but in the first year of the contract, we were actually able to provide nearly 300,000 trips for DHR’s clients, while staying within the approved budget. This was at a time when fuel prices had increased significantly. For successfully expanding services and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the coordinated transportation system, we received an untold number of compliments from the agencies we serve, and two national awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>FY18 Funding</th>
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<tr>
<td>Farebox</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDOT 5311 Operating Assistance</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHS Transportation</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCH Medicaid NET</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDOT 5311 Capital</td>
<td>16%</td>
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</table>

**Total FY18:** $7,349,649
In 2002 the Southwest Georgia RC approached the Georgia Department of Transportation and applied to be one of two pilot programs that would provide regional rural public transit services for an 11 county area. This was an ambitious undertaking and required the RC and GDOT to work closely together to find new ways of recording, reporting and administering its rural program. This program continues to assist GDOT with finding new ways of insuring a public transit choice is offered to residents without other forms of transportation. The years SWGRC has worked with the Georgia Department of Transportation to implement transit services in all 14 counties of the region, subsequently coordinating both GDOT and DHS programs, and is successfully providing seamless transit services in all 14 counties of the region.

Thirteen counties are served under the regional umbrella, and Thomas County operates an independent system that contracts to provide Human Service transportation their county.
McRee Hall is a Neoclassical Georgia wooden house built in 1906 during Camilla’s Broad Street Gilded Age. It is one of Camilla’s grandest homes and is located at 181 E. Broad Street. James Price McRee, a prominent timber and turpentine dealer, built this house for his new bride, Jeanette Wade McRee. Although Jeanette called her husband Price, others called him James or Jim.

J. P. McRee came to Camilla around 1900 to teach at what was first called the old Camilla Academy. This school was later to become Camilla High School, a tax-funded school. Professor McRee also went into farming as well as into the booming turpentine business with W.C. Vereen of Moultrie and Thomas McNeal. Turpentine was a lucrative business because it was a necessary ingredient in paint. Professor McRee was also an innovative farmer and one of the first to bring cattle to Mitchell County. In addition, he also implemented planting peach trees between newly-planted pecan trees.

McRee Hall is now on the National Historic Register. Originally, this home had six bedrooms and two baths, one upstairs and one downstairs. The house caught fire in 1934 and had to be rebuilt inside. The second floor living area was especially damaged. During the fire Camilla firemen had to put the fire ladders on their shoulders to make them tall enough to climb to the second story roof. After the fire, remodeling was done to the first floor. Unfortunately, the beautiful stained-glass window on the main staircase landing was lost in the fire. Another stained glass piece in shades of green was found in the attic, and this was used to replace the lost glass in the window in the landing. The hallmark of McRee Hall was the lovely leaded glass front door and side panels with reflecting lights, which could be seen at night by all when passing the Georgia mansion on Broad Street. Together with the wonderful homes built by affluent families, the Hall’s imposing columns and front porch have always been Camilla’s intriguing invitation to the charms of Broad Street during Camilla’s Gilded Age.

In the 1990s George Jefferson Joiner, III opened McRee Hall to the public as a charming Bed and Breakfast. He unfortunately died of a heart attack in January 2001. In 2002, McRee Hall was bought by Joe Harris and Linda Morgan and extensively historically rehabilitated, for the 1906 home was on the National Historic Register. The barn and carriage house on the property were completely renovated, creating from the two outbuildings the Joe B. Adams, Jr. Multi Media Conference Center. The grand opening on April 2, 2005 officially christened McRee Hall as a premier Bed and Breakfast and state of the art conference center.

Now McRee Hall is home to The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission.
The Housing Accessibility Fund (HAF) Grant program is available for homes in need of accessibility for physically disabled individuals in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas. This money is distributed to a few selected local non-profit organizations in each state that specialize in home accessibility. The Regional Partner’s Network was selected to receive $100,000 over a 24 month period.

Completed projects funded in FY18:

Eligible projects include ramps, stairs, bathrooms, circulation issues within the home such as replacing front doors, widening doorways, changing the floor finish to improve rolling or safety and efficiency of walking.

Grants Administrator Brenda Wade has more than 18 years of experience in grant-administration. The majority of her experience has been with the local governments in the region. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Albany State University. She is currently in her nineteenth year of employment as the Grants Administrator with the Southwest Georgia Regional
Her duties include; managing and monitoring expenditures for various federal and state funded grant programs, the preparation of monthly financial reporting and close out procedures related to each grant. Also, she works closely with the RC’s Planning staff on the preparation, development and budgetary component of various grants to assist the local cities and counties with their grant needs. In addition, she is Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Certified Housing Counselor.
City of Albany’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service Grant - Currently, the SW Georgia Regional Commission administered CDBG Public Service grants to five (5) non-profit agencies in the City of Albany. Each year, the City uses a competitive application process to make a portion of its CDBG funds available to non-profit groups in the form of public service grants. Eligible public service activities include, but are not limited to, programs concerned with housing, employment, crime prevention, child care, health care, drug abuse prevention, education, mental health, welfare, or recreation. This year, the City of Albany is partnering with the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) to administer these funds. The RC will administer and manage the CDBG Public Service Grant Program in collaboration with the City for fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency Information</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Program Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Arms Rosalynn Fliggins, Exec. Director 420 Pine Avenue Albany, GA 31701</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Open Arms will utilize CDBG funds for various operating costs and to provide services to 30 at risk youth ages birth to 22 years to provide housing and other basic needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strive2Thrive Alvita Swain, Executive Director 225 West Broad Avenue Albany, GA 31701</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Strive2Thrive will utilize CDBG funds for general operations and to assist 75 new families residing in Albany Housing Authority’s HUD Choice Neighborhoods in overcoming poverty through self-sufficiency programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community In Schools of Albany-Dougherty, Inc. Virginia Monroe, Exec. Director 900 Lippitt Drive Albany, GA 31701</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Community In Schools will utilize CDBG funding to fund a part-time coordinator to serve 60 students at risk for dropping out and assist them through graduating and becoming self-sufficient.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alzheimer’s Outreach Center of South Georgia, Inc. Virginia Griffin, Executive Director 314 North Jefferson Street Albany, Georgia 31701</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Outreach Center will utilize CDBG funding to provide adult day care services, including meals to (20) low and moderate income adults who suffer from Alzheimer’s disease or dementia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany Technical Foundation Lorraine Alexander, Special Assistant to the President 1704 South Slappey Boulevard Albany, Georgia 31701</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Albany Technical Foundation will utilize CDBG funding to provide (90) students with transportation and child care vouchers to improve attendance and reduce barriers to obtaining an education.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
City Clerks meet for Clerks’ Luncheon and Training at the Regional Commission

The Georgia Municipal Clerks & Finance Officers Association District 10 meeting was held Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in Camilla, Georgia.

Guests included President Wynetta Bolder of GMA/FOA, Director Pam Helton of GMA Consulting Services, GIS Director Heidi Penny of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, and Executive Assistant Heather White of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission.

The meeting was called to order at 11:30am and lunch was served. Heather White gave the invocation.

Director Mary King introduced Heidi Penny. Ms. Penny gave a presentation on the 2020 Census beginning with LUCA. She said that someone in each city and county needs to be appointed as a liaison. The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission can be that liaison to receive data. She also discussed other steps that need to be completed before the next deadlines.

Director Mary King introduced GMA/FOA President Wynetta Bolder. Ms. Bolder reported that the last GMA/FOA mandatory training was cancelled due to Hurricane Irma and this meeting will be rescheduled. Classes can be taken at the conference at Jekyll Island in February. It is encouraged that although there are no prerequisites and the classes do not need to be taken in order that the mandatory classes should be taken first. The 2019 IMC Conference will be in February and will be located in Georgia. Also, there are scholarships for those who may need help attending and can go on the IMC website for more information. She encouraged everyone to attend and stated that it is a very enjoyable conference. She said that the National Conference would be held in Birmingham.

GMA/FOA President Wynetta Bolder discussed her promotion of LES is more about meaning, leadership, education, and service. She wants to send a message to the clerks that they are someone special who makes a difference in their city. Another poignant message she was sending was that ‘Good leaders never stop learning.’ She encouraged the clerks to call or email her any time.

GMA’s Director of Consulting Services Pam Helton discussed the preparations leading up to the election and answered questions from the clerks.
Planning & Development Services – “Helping Communities Plan for the Future”

The Planning Department of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) provides services needed or requested by local governments. These services can be answers to short or long term problems with suggested solutions. Governments are constantly assessing services to see when, where, and how they will grow. This process involves looking at several elements impacting a community’s growth and development addressing the population, housing and transportation needs. The Regional Plan and the Comprehensive Plan are two tools that the Regional Commission utilizes.

**Regional Plan**

The Planning Department submitted and adopted the Regional Plan 2017-2022 for Region 10 to the Department of Community Affairs in 2017. The Regional plan is reviewed and updated annually. The Regional Plan is a comprehensive assessment of the region utilizing information contained in local comprehensive plans to determine regional priorities and strategies. The plan is updated annually with a full update due every 10 years.
Planning Director Barbara Reddick joined the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in May 2000. Barbara holds a Masters of Public Administration Degree from Albany State University and a Bachelor of business Administration Degree from Valdosta State University. As Planning Director she has worked in general planning including comprehensive planning, regional planning and grant writing. She also coordinates all housing programs including all educational outreach efforts. Prior to coming to the RC, she worked in an administrative capacity in healthcare and social services. She currently serves on the Mitchell County Board of Education. She is a member of the Georgia Planning Association (GPA).

Senior Planner Stephen O’Neil joined the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in 2005. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Geography and Earth Science from Central Michigan University. He also has a Master's of Science Degree in Urban and Regional Planning and a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University. Steve received his American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification in January 2009. He is a member of the Georgia Planning Association (GPA), Georgia Association of Zoning Administrators (GAZA), and the American Planning Association (APA).

Planner I Kimberly Brooks joined the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in February 2013 as an intern. She became a Planner in February of 2015. She has a Master’s Degree in Public Administration and a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Political Science and a Minor in History from Albany State University. Kimberly mainly focuses on planning activities related to housing, human services, and transportation. She is a member of the Georgia Planning Association (GPA), and Georgia association of Zoning Administrators (GAZA). She also assists local governments with grant writing. In addition, she is a Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Certified Housing Counselor. Kimberly currently resides in Mitchell County.

Planning Assistant Tonya Rossiter joined the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in August 2017. She is a graduate of Mitchell-Baker High School and attended Darton State College where she earned an AA degree in Psychology. Tonya lives in Mitchell County with her husband and two daughters.

Shelby Rhymes comes to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission via the Worksource Southwest Georgia Work Experience Training Program. Shelby is from Meigs and attended Thomas County Central High School. She is working on an accounting degree but looks forward to earning a Masters in Business and Marketing.
Comprehensive Planning

Community members, stakeholders, local governments and the RC worked together to develop Comprehensive Plans for cities and counties every 10 years. This process is quite detailed and takes several months to complete and results in a community-based process that draws on information obtained from the general public, and other stakeholders. The SWGRC completed Comprehensive Plans for: Miller, Baker, Decatur, Mitchell, and Seminole Counties. They are working on completing Comprehensive Plans due in 2019 for Worth, Thomas and Colquitt Counties. A county and its cities are encouraged to create a joint plan, but may choose to do separate plans. All comprehensive plans must be done in accordance with the Local Planning Requirements.

Zoning

Zoning is a tool used by cities and counties to decide how land should best be utilized. It separates uses that are thought to be incompatible. It also includes regulation of the kinds of activities that will be acceptable on particular lots, the densities at which those activities can be performed, the height of buildings, the amount of space structures may occupy and the location of a building on a lot (setback). Zoning also identifies how much landscaped space, impervious surface, traffic lanes, and whether or not parking is provided. The Planning Department is in contract with the Cities of Camilla, Donalsonville, and Sylvester to provide zoning and regulation services.
**Capital Improvement Element**

The cities of Thomasville and Lee updated and reviewed the Capital Improvement Element (CIE) of their comprehensive plan. The CIE is a long-term plan for developing or improving public facilities that are financed in whole or in part by impact fees. A Capital Improvement Element is a great way for local governments to budget for large and expensive projects and anticipate and budget for these items years in advance. This useful tool is used by communities who want to charge impact fees. A local government that includes a CIE in its Comprehensive Plan must update it annually. Thomasville and Lee County are the only governments in our region that have Capital Improvement Programs.

**Solid Waste Plans**

The state of Georgia requires local governments to have a current solid waste plan that sets a path towards improved solid waste management. The plan contains annual reporting of municipal solid waste management activities including costs, reporting, collection and disposal with a compilation of these reports to be prepared and submitted to Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). RC staff are working with the City of Bainbridge and Colquitt County and its cities on updating their plans.

**Planning Internship Program**

The RC partnered with the Mitchell County High School Career Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Program to provide internship opportunities for one student, Tyke Williams. The internship program is designed to provide students with practical training and experience in the public and nonprofit sector before entering the job market.

Tyke Williams worked two days a week at the Regional Commission for two hours each day. Junior, Tyke Williams graduated in May 2018 and is currently attending College.
Hazard Mitigation Planning

The Planning Department worked with several communities on Pre-Disaster Mitigations Plans that allow communities to conduct hazard mitigation planning prior to a disaster event. These plans make communities safer for local residents while also reducing the reliance on funding when actual disasters occur. The Planning staff worked with the counties of: Terrell, Seminole, and Grady.

Training & Career Development Opportunities

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission staff and collaborative partners worked with the City of Albany to provide training to nonprofit agencies: the three trainings were: Program Planning, Financial Management and Program Outcome and Measurements.

We at the RC are committed to be the best point of reference for our area by investing in our own staff. This year our staff attended the Georgia Association of Zoning Administration Conference, Georgia Planning Association Conference (in Columbus, Georgia) and the National Planning Association Conference (New Orleans, Louisiana).

RC staff also participated in online webinars and other training events in the areas of grant writing and planning.
**Grants**

During the FY 2018 year, the Planning Department assisted local governments with various grants to meet community needs. Listed below are the grants we assisted with:

1) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Housing Preservation Grant

2) Economic Development Authority (EDA) Moultrie, Colquitt County Development Authority

3) Immediate Threat and Danger for Leary and Meigs (IDTAD)

4) Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) for Cordele, Dawson, Donalsonville, Colquitt, and Pavo

5) Recreational Trails Grant for the City of Pelham

6) Rural Zone for the City of Sylvester.

The Community Home Improvement Program grant was awarded to Dougherty County and the Cities of Meigs, Moultrie, and Sylvester. As an agency, the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission was awarded a Housing Preservation Grant. The Planning Department was successful in obtaining a $100,000 grant for the Regional Partners Network from the Universal Design Institute to help in small housing repairs for disabled persons.
Transportation

The Georgia Department of Transportation provides funding to Regional Commissions to provide technical assistance and continuous support for transportation planning. This is vital in an area where there are very few transportation options. Here are just a few ways we work with local governments.

- Scenic Byways
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Safe Routes to School
- Rural Transit Plans

The Planning Department conducted two safety and bus trainings at the Boys and Girls Clubs in Camilla and Pelham, Georgia.

Safe Routes to School

Kimberly Brooks attended the Georgia PEDs Walk Summit in Rome, GA held on March 15-16, 2018. She also participated in the Walk Safety Audit at Monroe High School, Albany, Georgia. RC staff worked closely with Chelsea Carter, Safe Routes to School Coordinator assisting with walk audits, maps and other events in the region. GIS Staff also updated the existing sidewalk data for Grady and Baker Counties.

EDA

The Planning Department prepared an updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Region 10 in December 2018. This full document outlines the Quality Control Measures for the region, economic development gains and weaknesses and regional statistics. Additionally, The Planning staff worked with the City of Moultrie to apply for and receive a $2.2 million grant that will fund in part the construction of a business incubator to serve new and existing businesses in Moultrie and Colquitt County. An estimated 60 jobs will be created and $2 million in private investment leveraged.

The Department also worked with the City of Albany on an EDA grant to make infrastructure improvement to areas around Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.
Homeless Count

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) partnered with three counties to conduct the 2018 Georgia Homeless Count. According to DCA the 2017 Count determined that 3,716 people were homeless in the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care – a 36% decrease from 2015. More information about the BoS CoC’s homeless county can be found here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>Unsheltered Homeless</th>
<th>Sheltered Homeless</th>
<th>Total Homeless</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BAKER</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALHOUN</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLQUITT</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECATUR</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOUGHERTY</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EARLY</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADY</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILLER</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MITCHELL</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMINOLE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERRELL</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOMAS</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORTH</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To identify and meet the needs of the homeless population, the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and Southwest Georgia Community Action Council partnered to count the homeless population in Region 10. It can be difficult to count all cities and counties so volunteers were needed. The Count in 2018 is being conducted in only three counties: Terrell, Miller and Colquitt. The Count will be conducted from January 23, 2018 through January 29, 2018. In the next count, we would like to improve the result through the utilization of technology. Volunteers used a Point in Time (PIT) app to record data electronically on a mobile phone or tablet. We will target those persons who reside in a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, or encampments on the night of January 22nd.
Planning FY18

**Housing Task Force** was busy hosting monthly housing workshops for individuals and non-profits. The goal of the Housing Task Force is to address housing issues and needs in Region 10 and identify and provide housing solutions for all residents in Southwest Georgia.

The **18th Annual Housing Conference** was held on May 8\(^{th}\), 2018 at the James H. Gray, Sr. Civic Center in Albany, Georgia. The theme was “Better Jobs! Better Health! Better Housing!”, which focused on promoting and understanding that better jobs and health equals better housing.

The conference began with a welcome from Sharon Edwards, Executive Director, Community Outreach Training Center, Inc. The first session started with Jamilla Byrd, Grants Coordinator, Department of Community Affairs, discussing the HUD Housing Counselors rules to become a housing counselor. Melody Pierce, Executive Director, WorkSource Southwest Georgia presented information about the WorkForce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to promote jobs within the area. Kimberly Scott, Vice President, Community Health, Horizons Community Solutions, discussed the health issues in the area and solutions to some of the health issues. Bambie Hayes-Brown, President & Chief Executive Officer, Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc. (GA Act), presented during lunch, discussing housing throughout the state, giving participants a chance to learn about the different housing programs each agency offers. Region 10 Representative, Gina Webb, Department of Community Affairs (DCA) discussed DCA Rural Zone and how it can help communities with economic development. The conference ended with Issac Davis, Coordinated Entry Systems Coordinator, Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) discussion on how to incorporate the prison population back into society and how to provide housing to meet their needs. The entire day was full of housing resources for anyone and everyone!

The conference was made affordable through sponsorships from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, Georgia Power, City of Albany, Georgia, Georgia Power, Waffle House, and Jerry's.
Planning Services Survey Findings – FY18

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Planning Department distributed surveys to all 14 counties and 43 cities from November 2017 through June 2018. The purpose of this survey is so that the planning department can get a clear picture of what services are being utilized and which municipalities are using them and what their overall feelings are regarding the service received. The participants consisted of City and County Administrators, Mayors, City and County Clerks. After various follow-up methods (emails, postal mail, and phone calls) the survey had only 4 counties out of 14 and 17 out of 43 cities to respond to the survey. A total of 57 communities was surveyed and only 23 communities responded to the survey.

Planning Department Staff:

Thinking about the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission’s “Planning Department” would you say the Planning Department is

- Getting Worse
- About the Same
- Getting Better

Planning Department Services:

Which of the following services has your community used in the past 12 months:

- Environmental
- Grant Writing
- Transportation Planning
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Historic Preservation
- Mapping & Geographic
- Land Use Planning
- Zoning & Subdivision
- Other
Planning FY18

Planning Services Survey Findings – FY18 (continued)

Based on your last contact, how satisfied were you with the results of the contact?

Quality of Service ratings for each of the services ranked as good or great. Most notable were “great” marks from nine communities for the service they received with Grant Writing and Hazard Mitigation services. Housing Resources and GIS services provided were also ranked highly among respondents.

The votes are in and it seems the customer service the Planning Department offers is excellent. Respondents agree that services are provided in a timely manner and the staff demonstrate a willingness to help with knowledge and expertise. All were in agreement that the Planning Department Staff provide a wide range of planning services and makes information easily available. Though the majority of respondents agree that the Planning Department Staff provide services and answers correctly when asked, a few feel that this is not the case and the department will be taking caution to ensure all of the Local Governments in Region 10 receive timely and correct information in the future.

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Planning Department serves all 14 counties and 43 cities in Southwest Georgia. Staff members are Barbara Reddick, Planning Director, Steve O Neil, Planner II, Kimberly Brooks, Planner I, Shelby Rhymes, Administrative Clerk, and Brenda Wade, Grants Administrator. Please rate the quality of service received from the RC Staff:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Good (21%)</th>
<th>Great (50%)</th>
<th>Not Applicable (29%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Writing / Admin.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (21%)</td>
<td>7 (50%)</td>
<td>4 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Planning</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (21%)</td>
<td>6 (43%)</td>
<td>5 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (21%)</td>
<td>7 (50%)</td>
<td>4 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Planning</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (21%)</td>
<td>3 (21%)</td>
<td>8 (57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (21%)</td>
<td>6 (43%)</td>
<td>5 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping &amp; GIS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (21%)</td>
<td>7 (50%)</td>
<td>4 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Preservation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (21%)</td>
<td>5 (36%)</td>
<td>6 (43%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Use Planning</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (14%)</td>
<td>5 (36%)</td>
<td>7 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning &amp; Subdivision Regulations</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (21%)</td>
<td>5 (36%)</td>
<td>6 (43%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (21%)</td>
<td>5 (36%)</td>
<td>6 (43%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission's Planning Department?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provides services in a timely manner</td>
<td>14 (100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides services correctly the first time</td>
<td>14 (100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff demonstrate a willingness to help local governments</td>
<td>14 (100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff demonstrate knowledge and expertise</td>
<td>14 (100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC employees are courteous and respectful</td>
<td>14 (100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The RC makes information easily available</td>
<td>14 (100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am satisfied with the range of services provided by the Planning Department</td>
<td>14 (100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 2018 Southwest Georgia Youth Summit was the result of a collaborative effort of more than a dozen Southwest Georgia organizations. The Youth Summit was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2018 at Southwest Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) in Camilla, GA. The Summit brought together nearly 66 youth in grades 11th and 12th from 5 counties in Region 10. Students enrolled in public and private schools in any of the 14 counties in Region 10 were invited as well as those students who were home schooled. The theme for this year’s Summit was Building Blocks for the Future.

The Summit’s goal is to bring economic development and other opportunities to Southwest Georgia for all students in the region. The high impact event was filled with motivational speakers, real world experiences and a panel of college students that students has the opportunity to interact with and gain insight about college. Kimberly Brooks, Planner with the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission said “The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and the Regional Partners Network Inc. are committed to helping youth understand that they can be successful in their communities without leaving the area.” The day started off with Jay Sharpe, Co-Owner for U Save-It Pharmacy, encouraging attendees to find their purpose and achieve their goals. The panel of college students included: Joshua Moore, Mitchell County High School Senior & Albany State University Junior, Business Management Major; Kayla Oneal, Future Albany State Student; Kaczarea Sims, Albany State University, Sophomore, English Major; and Ja’Kharis Burns, Sophomore, Albany State University, Political Science Major. The panel answered questions from the students about how to have a successful freshman year and the lesson learned from their first year of college. This lively discussion ended with questions still coming from the students after more than an hour. The take away for students was to remember the reasons they decided to go to college and follow their dreams, purse careers they are passionate about and things they enjoy. The youth attended sessions on federal documentation, financial literacy, and social media do’s & don’ts. Youth were able to see first-hand how the things they post on social media have long lasting consequences. They realized how important it is to handle finances and how developing the right skills can impact their ability to move forward successfully in their careers.
The day ended with students participating in an escape room based on real life scenarios. Youth had to select the correct scenario to “escape from the room”. Those that successfully escaped were rewarded prizes.

This is an annual event that would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Sponsors for the 2017 Youth Summit were Waffle House, Debbie’s Main Street, Southwest Georgia RESA, Flowers Foods, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Regional Partners’ Network Inc. and the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. Special thanks to all of our speakers for the event: Jay Sharpe, U Save-It Pharmacy; Karen McWhite, McWhite Law Office; Betty Jackson Burton, Loan Officer II/Counselor, City of Albany Department of Community Economic Development (DCED); Patricia Fletcher Edwards, National Investment Division (NID) Housing Counseling Agency and Melody Pierce, WorkSource Southwest Georgia.
In 1997, the RC recognized the need for non-traditional planning to support the social and human aspects of planning. This item was included in the Regional Agenda and implemented over 15 years ago. Today, the Regional Partners Network Inc. (RPN) is a successful nonprofit arm of the Regional Commission. RPN mission and initiatives are focused on literacy, housing, youth development and the arts.

Leadership Training for Nonprofits was conducted in the region by Jenny Robbins with Georgia’s Electric Membership Corporation. Jenny Robbins represents Georgia's Electric Membership Corporations in the South Georgia area by providing education, training, leadership development, meeting facilitation and strategic planning to community groups involved in community and economic development. The workshop provided opportunities for leaders in both the public and private sector to obtain valuable education in leadership communication and strategic planning. The training was well attended and the day was full of interactive training events that will impact our nonprofit organizations in the region.

Ms. Robbins spent the day discussing what makes communities successful. She pointed out that successful communities invest equally in three areas: Leadership Development, Community Development and Economic Development.
Map-21:
The Georgia MAP-21 program is a unique collaborative effort bringing together the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government ITOS Division (ITOS), and the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC). The work conducted under this program will help meet the state's Federal reporting requirements under the new MAP-21 initiative.

Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA):
LUCA is the only opportunity offered to tribal, state, and local governments to review and comment on the U.S. Census Bureau's residential address list for their jurisdiction prior to the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau relies on a complete and accurate address list to reach every living quarters and associated population for inclusion in the census. The Census Address List Improvement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-430) authorizes the LUCA. The GIS Department is assisting with the registration and creating the most accurate address information possible.

Maintenance of E911 Data:
The Regional Commission maintains and updates E911 data for several counties including Mitchell, Decatur, Grady, and Worth counties.

Fire District Mapping:
The GIS Department Creates and maintains data used by fire departments, including fire district, Fire hydrant, alternate water source mapping.

GIS Manager Heidi Penny joined the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in May of 2008. Her interest in maps and geography began at an early age. When she was 15 she went to work alphabetizing land deeds for a local tax mapping office. Her duties expanded to drawing those land parcels onto the tax maps. Heidi received her Bachelor's Degree in Geography from the University of Georgia. She has over 15 years' experience in mapping and GIS services. A large majority of her experience has been in tax mapping and in electrical utilities mapping. As GIS Manager, Heidi assists local governments in our region with implementation and improvement of their mapping and GIS data.

GIS Technician Jeffery Hamilton joined the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in 2000. He attended Moultrie Technical College where he earned various technical certificates. As the GIS technician Jeff maintains the GIS data for the local governments in our region as well as assisting with other projects including GPS data collection, map creation for a variety of planning projects including community development block grants, comprehensive plans, land use maps, and zoning maps. Jeff currently resides in Colquitt County with his wife and two children.
If you have a question, where do you turn?

Any questions can be directed through:

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