

# DeKalb Senior Services Overview

Presentation to the DeKalb Charter Review Commission

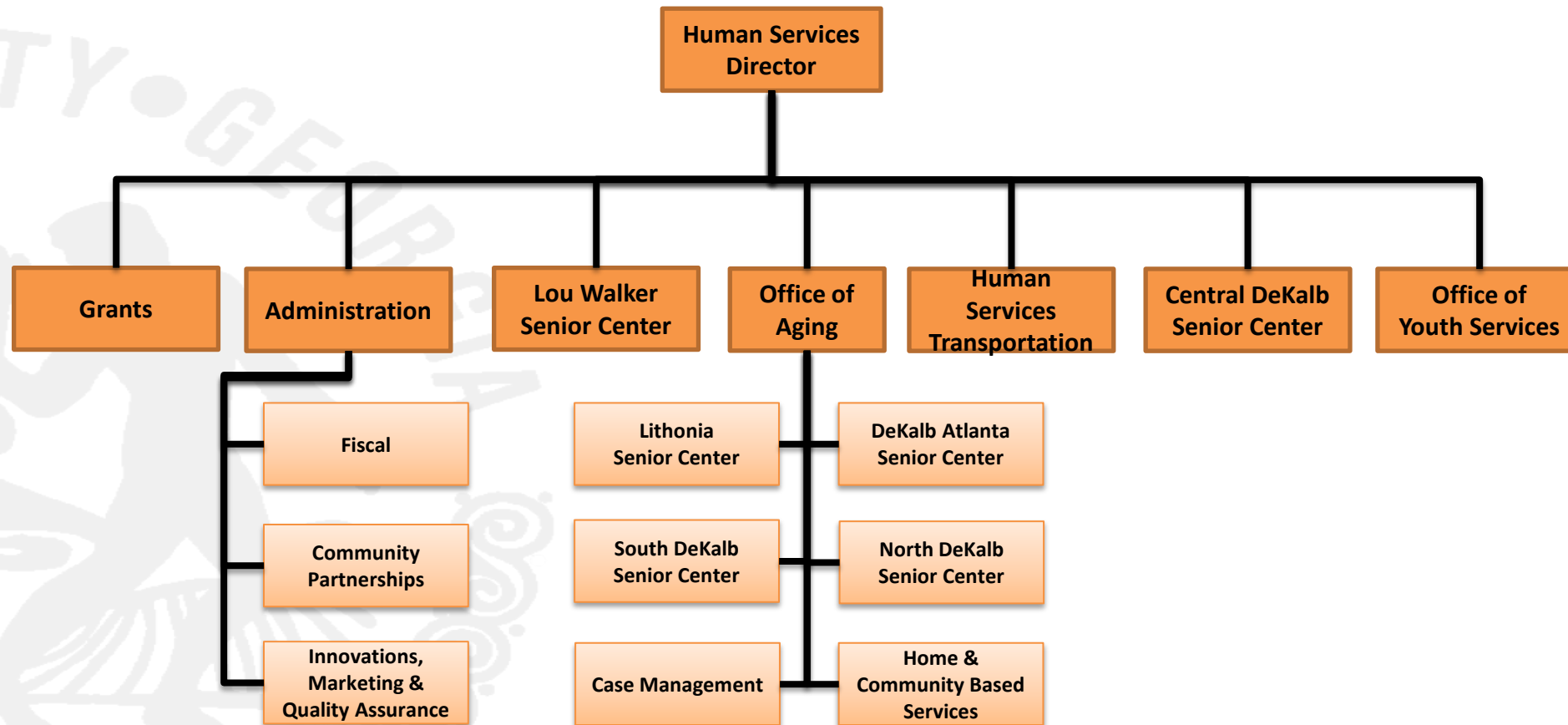
Monday, June 6, 2022

Damon Scott, Director  
DeKalb Human Services Department



DeKalb County  
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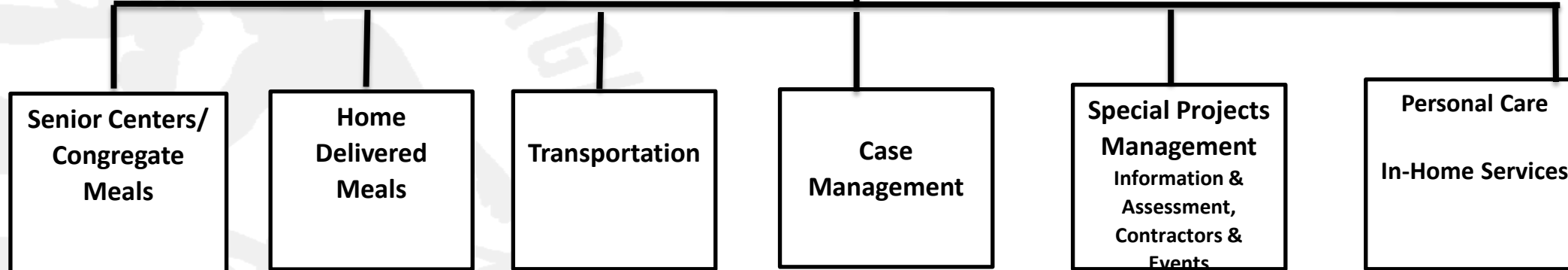
- Human Services maintains an overall budget of approximately \$5.6 million dollars which includes an annual appropriation of \$2.2 million dollars from the Atlanta Regional Commission for aging services.
- The Department provides direct services, programs and activities to DeKalb's most vulnerable populations, from birth through end of life.



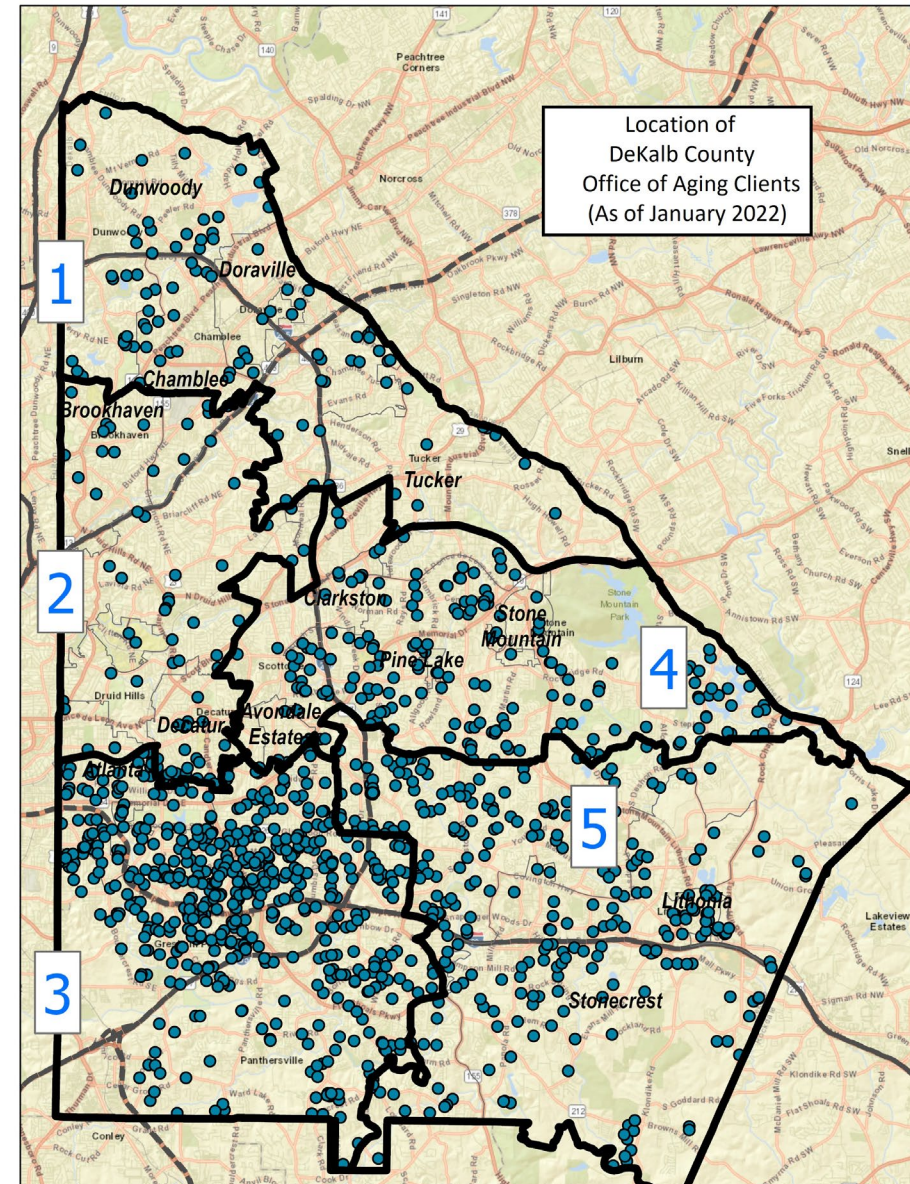


**Office of Aging (OOA):** offers services and programs designed to meet the nutritional, health and wellness, social, recreational and transportation needs of seniors (age 65 and older). OOA is the designated County-Based Agency, recognized by the Atlanta Regional Commission to receive state and federal funds for senior programs. Specific services include: congregate meals at four (4) neighborhood senior centers, home-delivered meals, information and referral (SeniorLink line), case management and transportation (medical appointments, dialysis and non-medical).

## Senior Services



- Office of Aging clients are located throughout the County, within every district.
- Daily 1,700+ seniors receive at least one of the following services:
  - congregate meals
  - home delivered meals
  - transportation
  - case management
  - personal care, respite, homemaker services
  - material aid



# Neighborhood Senior Centers



DeKalb Atlanta Senior Center, which is in Kirkwood/ East Atlanta, East DeKalb Senior Center, which is in Lithonia, North DeKalb Senior Center, which is in Chamblee & South DeKalb Senior Center, which is in Decatur are federally funded to provide congregate meals, health and wellness classes and recreational programs to seniors.



## CENTRAL DEKALB SENIOR CENTER |

Central DeKalb Senior Center (CDSC) is a multipurpose facility designed for seniors, 62 years and older, who are active and independent. This 15,000 sq. ft. facility is located in the Emory/Toco Hills/Medlock/Briarcliff-LaVista Corridor and serves approximately seven hundred forty-two (742) seniors annually. Its main mission is to provide programs, services, and activities that promote health, wellness, social interaction, community engagement, education, and independence to the central DeKalb County communities.





## LOU WALKER SENIOR CENTER | LWSC

Lou Walker Senior Center (LWSC) is nationally accredited multipurpose facility for seniors 55 years and older who are active and independent. The building is 40,000 square feet and includes a swimming pool, a gym, and hair salon/barber shop. LWSC is located in the Stonecrest community and serves three thousand five hundred (3,500) seniors annually. LWSC provides a variety of programs and activities that promote health, wellness, social interaction, community engagement, education, and independence.

**Senior Services Transportation:** offers residents of DeKalb County who are age 60 or older a variety of transportation services to meet their needs. Provides over 30,000 coordinated trips annually

## **Types of Transportation:**

- **Medical and Dialysis-** rides to medical appointments and dialysis (scheduled at least one week in advance);
- **Senior Center-** rides to and from one of the four neighborhood senior centers
- **Group Trips-** rides from neighborhood senior centers to community events
- **DeKalb Transportation Vouchers-** rides to any location within the community. Seniors select the driver, determine the rate of pay and plan their own trips
- **Shuttle-** a scheduled bus route that takes seniors to community places like grocery stores, Target, Walmart and other places of interest. There are three shuttle routes (North DeKalb, South DeKalb and Toco Hills)

- The Department maintained service delivery from the very beginning of the pandemic.
- We continue to provide services with the help of frontline staff, volunteers, non-profit organizations, grantees, partners, and Human Services staff members.

## Services Include:

In-home services

Health Care Services

Youth Services

Infant Care

Human Services Hotline

Meals

Transportation

Senior Services have all continued throughout the COVID pandemic.

# PROGRAMS for SENIORS



## SENIOR LINK LINE

Do you have questions about services for seniors? Call the **DeKalb Senior Link Line** at

**770-322-2950**

**Monday - Friday**

**8:30AM - 5:00PM**

- Meals are delivered to seniors' individual homes for all **seniors** who attend congregate meal sites- over 70,000 meals provided annually.
- Meals are also delivered to **eligible homebound seniors** at their homes- over 129,000 home delivered meals provided annually.
- **In-home personal care services and respite services** provided to homebound seniors.

**PROGRAMS**  
*for SENIORS*

*Continued*

- Conducting senior wellness checks and continuing case management
- Created a virtual environment that offers **more than 60 online classes for DeKalb seniors**
- Providing information and assistance through the **Senior Link Line – 770.322.2950**



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DeKalb County instructors and senior participants stay connected through online classes.

# SENIOR MOBILITY PROGRAMS



- Providing essential transportation to dialysis treatments and medical appointments
- Conducting wellness checks on current transportation consumers and connecting them to additional resources that they may need
- Partnering with our transportation providers to deliver meals to seniors
- Collaborating with MARTA Mobility to facilitate access to Mobility paratransit for seniors who require additional transportation options



Seniors at Central DeKalb enjoy their community garden and receive COVID Safety supplies.





Dementia Spotlight Program- held outdoors with safety protocols



- Achieved new annual appropriation of \$2.2 million dollars from the Atlanta Regional Commission for aging services for 2022.
- Lou Walker Multi-purpose senior center became the first senior center in DeKalb County to achieve National Accreditation as a Senior Center of Excellence from the National Council on Aging.
- Conducted the first “pop up” COVID vaccination clinic for seniors in partnership with the DeKalb County Board of Health vaccinating over 1,300 seniors.
- Assisted in the development of the first mobile COVID vaccination program for homebound seniors in partnership with DeKalb Fires Rescue department and DeKalb Board of Health
- First County to re-purpose Human Services Transportation to deliver meals to homebound seniors who did not have access to senior centers or were not part of the home delivered meals program.
- DeKalb Human Services received a National Award from the National Association of Counties (NACO) in Washington, D.C. for its service delivery model during the pandemic “Senior Center Without Walls Concept.”
- Launched the Human Services Virtual Village for Seniors online platform with live instructors, 60 online classes, for over 4,500 classroom hours, over 4,100 senior center memberships and more than 50,000 visits to the Senior Services website.
- Two new senior centers coming-- Lithonia & Stone Mountain (in Construction Phases) in partnership with Dekalb Community Development Department who leads the building/construction process.
- DeKalb County became the first County in the State of Georgia (May 2022) to receive the designation of “Dementia Friendly” by Dementia Friendly America National Organization through Human Services programming for seniors (3-year process)

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## Questions

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