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3/20/20

### **Message from the Director**

The mission of the Jackson County Department on Aging is, “*We aim for the highest quality of life for seniors in Jackson County.*” During this time of need our agency continues to put the needs of our seniors first and I wanted to give you a few updates on COVID-19. We have been working closely with our Jackson County Department of Public Health as well as following all recommendations from the CDC over the past few weeks. On Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, we closed our dining sites at the Department on Aging and Cashiers Senior Center following the recommendation of the Area Agency on Aging. Participants in these programs were able to pick-up 5 frozen meals and we will continue this each Monday we are closed unless a mandate is issued for everyone to stay home. In addition, we are still providing Meals on Wheels at this time to our homebound seniors and additional safety precautions have been implemented for those delivering the meals. A big thank you to our volunteers for their service during this time of need! On March 19<sup>th</sup>, we made the decision to close the Department on Aging Building to the public until further notice following the recommendation of Administration and the Department of Public Health. Due to this, all events scheduled at the Department on Aging have been cancelled until further notice. The Smoky Mountain Senior Games have been postponed until further notice as well.

These drastic changes have been implemented to protect the safety of our seniors here in Jackson County. Staff will continue to be on location at the Department on Aging as long as possible, so please call us if you have any needs. In addition, we will be completing safety calls for seniors in our programs and our staff is currently working on “Be Safe Bags” that include needed items that will be delivered to the homebound seniors in need. During this difficult time do not hesitate to give us a call if you need anything as we work to get through this together.

*Eddie Wells*