



COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

NC Coalition on Aging Update – February 2, 2016

The **Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging** has submitted its recommendations for the **2016 legislative session to Gov. Pat McCrory**. The recommendations are:

- Expand programs such as PACE (Program of All Inclusive Care of the Elderly) which have demonstrated lower costs and improved health care outcomes.
- Restore the \$969,549 state appropriation to the Home and Community Care Block Grant as a recurring appropriation.
- Reinststate the NC Study Commission on Aging in the General Assembly as a vehicle for research and action regarding all legislation pertaining to older adults.
- Support the review and revision of the NC Adult Protective Services program including its authorizing legislation and its funding sources.
- Support House Bill 817 – An Act Enacting the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceeding Jurisdiction Act of 2015).

The recommendations of the Advisory Council are similar in many respects to priorities identified by the Coalition on Aging (<http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/>) and the NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature (<http://www.ncsthl.org/priorities.html>).

The North Carolina Association on Aging is accepting nominations until February 5 for its Excellence in the Field of Aging Awards. Go to

http://www.ncaoa.org/MISC%20Docs/2016_Aging_Awards_Form.pdf to learn about the award categories and their criteria and to print a nomination form. The awards categories are the Service Excellence Award, the Guiding Star Award, the Rising Star Award, the Leadership Excellence Award, and the Reaching for the Stars – Innovative Program Award.

AARP North Carolina has released an update of its popular **North Carolina Family Caregiving Guide**. The Guide provides information about resources to assist families in caring for their loved ones. This updated version of the Guide includes a new section especially for Veterans who have access to added programs and benefits. A copy of the Guide can be downloaded at <http://states.aarp.org/nccares/>.

Data from the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services reports that almost 9,500 older adults were on the **waiting list for services funded by the Home and Community Care Block Grant** on January 1 of this year. Services with the largest waiting list were in-home services and home delivered meals.

The 16 Area Agencies on Aging in North Carolina are seeking the public's input as they develop their 2016-2020 Area Plans. They are specifically interested in information about the needs of older adults, caregivers, and people with disabilities within each county. A short online survey has been developed by each Area Agency on Aging which will assist their future planning for addressing the needs of older adults in North Carolina. The surveys are available using the links below. Please complete the survey for the region in which you live and share the survey with others to also complete. If you are not sure which region you live in, visit http://nc4a.org/?page_id=239 to find out.

Region A – Southwest <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWC1620>
Region B – Land of Sky <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LOS1620>
Region C – Isothermal <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IPC1620>
Region D – High Country <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HC1620>
Region E – Western Piedmont <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WP1620>
Region F – Centralina <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/takemetothsurvey2016>
Region G – Piedmont Triad <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PT1620>
Region J – Triangle J <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tj1620>
Region K – Kerr Tar <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KT1620>
Region L – Upper Coastal Plain <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UCP1620>
Region M – Mid-Carolina <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MC1620>
Region N – Lumber River <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LR1620>
Region O – Cape Fear <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CF1620>
Region P – Eastern Carolina <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECC1620>
Region Q – Mid East <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MEC1620>
Region R – Albemarle <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AC1620>

Raleigh Senior Cohousing Project – A group of senior adults in the Raleigh area are initiating steps to investigate developing a cohousing community in Wake County. There are over 150 cohousing communities in the United States with several in North Carolina, including well established ones in Durham and Asheville, and additional communities that are under development in communities around the state. The Cohousing Association of the United States defines cohousing as an intentional community of private homes clustered around shared space. Each attached or single family home has traditional amenities, including a private kitchen. Shared spaces typically feature a common house, which may include a large kitchen and dining area, laundry, and recreational spaces. Shared outdoor space may include parking, walkways, open space, and gardens. Neighbors also share resources like tools and lawnmowers. Households have independent incomes and private lives, but neighbors collaboratively plan and manage community activities and shared spaces. To find out more about the Raleigh Cohousing project, contact Dave Davenport at daviddavenport@mindspring.com or (919) 345-7886.

Thanks to Charmaine Fuller Cooper with AARP North Carolina for sharing an excellent website (<http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>) about **how to prepare for and survive winter storms**

and extreme cold. With more cold and “bad” weather likely before spring arrives, the pointers and guides offered on this site are a great source of comprehensive information for anyone who lives in North Carolina.

Voter ID Trial Ends – Closing arguments in the federal trial about North Carolina’s voter ID law were held on Monday (February 1) and the decision about whether the ID law harms the fundamental right to vote is now in the hands of U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder. On the opening day of the trial last week, three elderly African American women testified about the challenges they have encountered in trying to get an ID. One of the witnesses, 94 year old Rosannell Eaton of Louisburg, shared that it took her 11 visits to the Division of Motor Vehicles and various Social Security offices over 21 days in January 2015 to reconcile records between her driver’s license and her voter registration card. She said she traveled more than 200 miles and waited for more than 20 hours in this process. A WUNC Public Radio story about this can be found at <http://wunc.org/post/day-one-voter-id-trial-elderly-voters-face-tough-time-getting-photo-id>. A good article by Anne Blythe with the *News and Observer* which provides an overview about the controversial ID issue can be found at <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article56372765.html>.

Democracy NC is looking for non-partisan poll monitors for the primary election in March. Volunteers are needed to collect exit surveys and incident reports and to route people to the election protection hotline as problems arise. If interested in volunteering, contact Kenya Myers at kenya@democracy-nc.org.

AARP North Carolina has announced two openings for Associate State Directors for Community Outreach and Advocacy. One position will be in Asheville and the other will be in the Triad Region of the state. Information about the jobs can be found at www.aarp.org/careers. The ID number for the position in Asheville is 12458326 and for the position in the Triad is 12458331.

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) has announced the **Call for Sessions for the 2016 National Home and Community Based Services Conference** that will be held on August 29 – September 1, 2016 in Washington, D.C. This conference offers a blend of policy, program, and practice issues for professionals interested in home and community based services for individuals of all abilities and in all settings. Proposals are being accepted for one hour and fifteen minute workshops. The deadline for submitting proposals is February 29. [Click here](#) to learn more and to submit a session.

Aging Latinos – Lunch and Learn (What You Should Know About Serving Older Latino Adults). This session will be held on February 25 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Five Points Center for Active Adults, Room 102A, at 2000 Noble Road in Raleigh. The presenter will be Ana Lima, MSW, Bilingual Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program Co-Coordinator for the Orange County Department of Aging. To register contact Mary Arthur at (919) 460-0567 or e-mail her at marthur@ctrvolcar.org. This program is sponsored by The Center for Volunteer

Caregiving, Wake County Community Resource Connections for Aging and Disabilities, and Resources for Seniors, Inc.

The Alzheimer's Association Eastern North Carolina chapter is hosting its 2nd Annual Research Symposium on Monday, February 29, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. Registration is required by calling 1-800-272-3900.

Congratulation to Lisa Gwyther, Director of the Duke Family Support Program, on being named Tar Heel of the Week by the *News and Observer*. The article about Lisa which was published in the paper on Sunday, January 17, did a very nice job of summarizing some of her many accomplishments and sharing information about the leadership role she has played in North Carolina in helping families caring for a relative with Alzheimer's. This is a much deserved honor for someone who has worked in the trenches for many years but has also used her knowledge and expertise to help shape public policy on the state and national levels. To see a copy of the article, go to <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/counties/durham-county/article55072040.html>.

Sharon Wilder, long-time State Long Term Care Ombudsman with the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, has announced her retirement effective March 1. Sharon has been a staunch advocate for residents of long-term care for over 25 years and will be greatly missed. She will leave big shoes to fill. Best wishes to Sharon as she completes her work at the Division and embarks on new things.

Pam Seamans, Executive Director to the NC Alliance for Health for the past 13 years, resigned effective December 31, 2015. Pam was a visible and effective advocate for programs and policies to promote the health and wellness of North Carolinians. Morgan Wittman Gramann will be the Managing Director of the Alliance.