



COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

NC Coalition on Aging February Update – February 17, 2017

Coalition Gears Up for Legislative Session – After several quiet weeks at the General Assembly, the pace is picking up quickly as many legislative committee meetings have been added to the calendar for next week including the House Committee on Aging that will meet on February 22 at 11:00 a.m. in room 423 of the Legislative Office Building. Representatives from the Coalition have taken advantage of the slower pace to meet one-on-one with legislators to discuss our [five priority issues](#). We have been received a warm reception from legislators and their staff and there has been genuine interest in our issues. In the weeks to come, the Coalition will be encouraging Coalition members to actively advocate for our priorities. The Coalition’s Day at the Legislature will be held on April 4. More details on this will be shared at the February 24 Coalition membership meeting.

New Members Join State Legislature – When Gov. Roy Cooper named two members of the NC General Assembly to Cabinet Secretary positions, that left two legislative seats vacant. [Deb Butler](#), a Wilmington attorney, has been selected to serve the remainder of the term of Rep. Susie Hamilton’s who was appointed as Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources. She represents District 18 (Brunswick and New Hanover Counties). [MaryAnn Black](#), who is Associate Vice President of Community Affairs for Duke Health and a former Durham County Commissioner, will fill the seat previously held by Rep. Larry Hall who was appointed as Secretary of the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. She will represent District 29 (Durham County).

More New Legislator Profiles – NC Policy Watch is continuing to do profiles of new members of the NC General Assembly class of 2017. To see profiles of Rep. John Autry, Rep. Cynthia Ball, Rep. Mary Belk, Sen. Rick Horner, Sen. Paul Newton, Sen. Cathy Dunn, Rep. Joe John, Sen. Chuck Edwards, and Rep. Philip Lehman, click [here](#). WRAL @NCCapitol has also done a story profiling Rep. Ball which can be accessed [here](#).

Legislator Information – WRAL @NCCapitol has developed a feature which provides information about each legislator’s votes, campaign contributions, and annual conflict of interest disclosures plus other details. To learn more about this, click [here](#).

State Budget Developments – State House and Senate Committees on Appropriations met jointly this week to hear about revenue forecasts and the state budget outlook. This public meeting marked the formal start to the legislative budget development process. There is good

news in that state economists have projected a revenue surplus of \$550 million for the fiscal year ending June 30. The House and Senate Health Appropriations Committees on Health and Human Services are scheduled to meet jointly on February 21, 22, and 23 at 8:30 a.m. in room 643 of the Legislative Office Building to begin discussing health and human service budget matters. It is anticipated that Gov. Roy Cooper will submit his budget to the General Assembly in a few weeks. The House and Senate alternate each year on which chamber takes the lead in developing a budget proposal. This year, it is the Senate's term to first draw up a budget plan and pass it. The House will then approve their version of the budget. After that, a compromise budget will be developed by Republicans from both chambers and sent to Gov. Cooper

Legislation Filed to Cap Taxes – Coming as no surprise, Senate Republican leaders have introduced legislation again this session that would cap personal income taxes by amending the state constitution. Senate Bill 75 would prevent legislators from raising the income tax rate higher than 5.5% if voters approve the constitutional amendment in a ballot referendum that would be held during the November 2018 election. At this time, the constitution caps income tax rates at 10%. The current personal tax rate is 5.499% so the amendment would prevent any future tax hikes. The Bill is likely to face stiff opposition from Democrats and numerous advocacy group which argue that the amendment would prevent our legislature from having flexibility to set tax rates based on the state's needs and would limit flexibility and force cuts to services or shifts to other taxes.

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Named – Gov. Roy Cooper has named Dr. Mandy Cohen, a physician, at the new HHS Secretary. Prior to assuming this position, she was the Chief Operating Officer and Chief of Staff for the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She also worked previously as Executive Director of Doctors for America, a policymaking and advocacy group promoting better health services and as Deputy Director of the US Department of Veteran Affairs Women's Health Strategic Healthcare Group. She has a master of public health degree from Harvard School of Public Health and a medical degree from the Yale University School of Medicine. As has been widely publicized, the NC General Assembly passed legislation in December that would require all of Gov. Cooper's Cabinet appointees, including the HHS Secretary, to be confirmed by the State Senate. The Governor filed a lawsuit challenging the legislature's authority to do this and the issue has made the rounds in the courts for the last month. This week a three judge panel denied the Governor's request to block the Senate's action until the lawsuit goes to trial in March and Senate Leader Phil Berger has announced that he expects the Senate to announce a schedule for confirmation hearings.

Benton Named HHS Deputy Secretary – Although not officially announced by the NC Department of Health and Human Services, it is widely known that Mark Benton has been named as Deputy Secretary of the Department. Mark is no stranger to North Carolina state government. He previously held senior leadership positions in HHS including service as the State Medicaid Director, Senior Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Division of Medical Assistance, and as Assistant Director/Chief of Budget and Planning of the Division of

Facility Services (now Division of Health Service Regulation). He also served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Community Care of North Carolina and was with the Millbank Memorial Fund in New York for six years where he worked with elected and appointed officials from across the country and internationally on efforts to reduce health care costs, implement evidence-informed health policies and improve population health.

ABLE Act Begins – A new tax-free investment program to assist people with disabilities without jeopardizing their federal Social Security or Medicaid eligibility began enrollment in North Carolina on January 26. U.S. Sen. Richard Burr from our state, along with Democratic Senator Bob Casey from Pennsylvania championed the ABLE Act and its passage through Congress. It was signed into law in 2014. North Carolina’s ABLE Act was passed in 2015. ABLE stands for “Achieving a Better Life Experience.” ABLE accounts allow people with disabilities and their families to save money for costs like medical expenses, legal fees, housing, transportation, and job training. The accounts work similar to a 529 college savings account. North Carolina has joined a consortium called the ABLE Alliance with the 12 other states that have established the tax-free investment program to offer a low-fee structure for the accounts. To learn more about the NC ABLE Program that is being implemented and administered by the NC Department of State Treasurer, click [here](#).

Feds Say North Carolina Not Meeting Terms of Agreement – The federal government filed a motion on January 9 in US District Court asking a judge to enforce a legal agreement the state made to provide community housing and employment services to persons with mental illness living in adult care homes. In August of 2012, the state entered into a legal agreement, known as the Olmstead settlement, with the UD Department of Justice to avoid getting sued for violations of federal laws that require states to provide services to disabled people in the least restrictive settings. The state agreed to provide housing for 3,000 mentally ill people by 2020 and supportive employment for 2,500 by 2019. According to the motion, the state is lagging far behind in meeting the terms of the agreement.

Alzheimer’s Grant – The Center for Outreach in Alzheimer’s, Aging and Community Health (COAACH) at N.C. A&T University will expand thanks to a \$2 million grant from the Merck Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the global pharmaceutical company. The Foundation gave \$1 million in 2013 to help get the Center started. The Center will use the money to expand its efforts to educate people taking care of those with Alzheimer’s disease. It holds an annual caregiver education conference, supports education and training efforts for caregivers and does research on Alzheimer’s genetics and community engagement.

Data on Older North Carolinians Drivers Involved in Crashes – The 2017 Governor’s Highway Safety Plan reports that in 2014, there were 127 drivers age 65 and older involved in fatal crashes in North Carolina. This was a 24% decrease from the 168 older drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2013 and a 35% decrease from the 196 older drivers involved in fatal crashed in 2012. The Plan also reports that when older drivers are involved in a crash, they are more likely

than younger drivers to be killed. The risk of being killed in a crash increases with each successive age group. Drivers over 85 were 5.3 more likely to be killed if involved in a crash than were the youngest (15-24 year old) drivers. In 2014, there were 35,683 drivers age 65 and older involved in a crash in North Carolina. Drivers 65 and older represented 18.4% of the driving age population and accounted for 20.2% of the drivers killed. Crashed for drivers 65 and older are highest between noon and 3 p.m.

Eldercare Workforce Coalition – With the guidance and support of the [Eldercare Workforce Alliance](#) and LeadingAge, efforts are underway to develop a NC Eldercare Workforce Coalition. The Coalition will be comprised of representatives from agencies and organizations in North Carolina that are educating, training and employing workers that care for older North Carolinians. The goals for 2017 are to: establish the Coalition, develop recommendations to submit to members of the NC General Assembly, meet with legislators during the Day at the Legislature, develop and promote internships within the aging field, and participate in a U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging field hearing in the summer. Additional goals for 2018 include: hold a NC Eldercare Workforce Solutions Summit and develop a clearinghouse for internship opportunities in the aging field in the state. To find out more about plans for the Coalition and to share ideas about the eldercare workforce in North Carolina, contact Amanda Borer at amanda@charleshouse.org or (919) 967-7570. Amanda is a member of the Coalition on Aging and is a Fellow with the Health and Aging Policy Fellow Program which is funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies and the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) Update – Several news outlets are reporting this week that U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan has told reporters on Capitol Hill that House Republicans will introduce legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act after a 10-day recess that begins February 18. The House returns on February 27. The *Wall Street Journal* reports that House Republican leaders have sketched out a plan for repeal that offers a set of policy specifics but it shows that they have yet to bridge significant Republican divisions over many of its components. The proposal seeks, among other things, to revamp the individual insurance market where millions of Americans who don't get employer coverage buy insurance. It would replace the health law subsidies with tax credits that could be used to help pay for private insurance and it would allow for skimpier health plans not permitted under the ACA. Concerns have been raised that some of the proposals being considered would charge older Americans not yet eligible for Medicare five times what others must pay for health insurance. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that at least 18 million people would lose health insurance in the first year if Republicans re-create previous plans to repeal major portions of the ACA. There is also speculation that Congress is looking to restructure the way Medicaid is funded as a part of the ACA replacement proposal. States could face a per capita cap that limits the federal contribution. Caps would be based on a preset formula and would no longer cover actual expenses. This would make federal spending more predictable, but it would also shift the risk of

rising costs onto states which could result in cuts in services for low-income seniors and other vulnerable populations.

Coalition's Priorities Get A Shout Out – Thanks to Tommy Goldsmith who is now reporting for *Indy Week*, for listing two of our legislative priorities in a [piece](#) he did about six ways lawmakers could spend the forecasted budget surplus of \$552.2 million. The two priorities noted were the Home and Community Care Block Grant and funding for Adult Protective Services and guardianship services. We are also pleased that we have done interviews with several other news outlets about the Coalition's priority issues.

Legislative Priorities for the NC Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NC4A) – The Association is comprised of the 16 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in the state. These offices, which are located within Council of Governments or other lead regional organizations, were established through the Older Americans Act and they facilitate and support programs addressing the needs of older adults in a defined geographic region. AAAs function in five basic areas: advocacy, planning, program and resource development, information brokerage, and funds administration quality assurance. The legislative priorities NC4A for 2017 are:

- Increase the recurring state funding for the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) by \$7 million.
- Establish a joint legislative committee to examine issues pertaining to the state's growing older adult population and to make recommendations on how the state can better support ways for North Carolinians to age with dignity.

Legislative Priorities for the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging – The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging has been in existence since the early 1970's and its duty is to make recommendations to the Governor and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on finding ways to improve services for older adults. Members of the Council are appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Temp of the Senate. The 2017 recommendations which the Council has forwarded to Gov. Cooper are:

- The \$969,549 non-recurring state appropriation to the HCCBG be funded as a recurring appropriation and an additional \$20 million be appropriated to wipe out the waiting list for HCCBG services.
- A \$7 million increase in state funding, as well as the review and revision of the Adult Protective Services (APS) program authorizing legislation and funding source.
- The NC Study Commission on Aging be re-instituted.
- The expansion of programs such as PACE (Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly) which effectively integrate social supports and medical services.

Additional News:

- PolitiFact North Carolina, which is a partnership between PolitiFact and the *News and Observer*, has developed an on-line tool to track campaign promises made by Gov. Roy Cooper. **Coop-O-Meter is tracking nearly 40 promises made by the Governor.** The link for this is politifact.com/north-carolina/promises.
- **Rick Brajer**, Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services from August of 2015 through the end of December 2016, has been hired by not-for-profit **Novant Health, Inc. as Senior Vice President of Business Strategies.**
- **Former Rep. Marilyn Avila** (R-Wake), a five term lawmaker from Wake County and key figure on the Health and Human Service Committee during her tenure who lost a close election in November, has **joined the staff of House Speaker Pro Tem Sarah Stevens (R-Surry)** as a health and human services policy staff person.
- **Sen. Angela Bryant** (D-Nash) has been selected as the new **chair of the NC Legislative Black Caucus.** Other leaders of the Caucus are Rep. Kelly Alexander (D-Mecklenburg) as First Vice-Chair, Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram (D-Northampton) as Second Vice-Chair, Rep. Jean Farmer-Butterfield (D-Wilson) as Secretary, and Rep. Rosa Gill (D-Wake) as Treasurer.
- **Carla Obiol has been hired as the Director of Care4Carolina**, a Coalition working to close the coverage gap for North Carolinians who cannot obtain affordable health insurance. Carla retired from a 30+ year career at the NC Department of Insurance the end of January. She was a Senior Deputy Commissioner at the Department where she oversaw the Consumer Services Group which is comprised of the Consumer Services Division, Health Insurance Smart NC, and the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP). Prior to assuming this position she was the long-time SHIIP Director for the state.
- **Vivien Green began work in December as the new Executive Director of Alzheimer's North Carolina.**
- **Kathryn Saine has been hired as the new Director of Lincoln County Senior Services effective February 18.** She has worked as a supervisor in the admitting department at Frye Regional Medical Center in Hickory for the past 12 years. Also, she was a staff supervisor with a home healthcare agency that staffed nurses in client's homes and worked as a certified nursing assistant and an EMT with the Charlotte life Saving Crew while in college and graduate school. She is the wife of state Rep. Jason Saine.

- **Roger Manus**, Director of the Senior Law Clinic at Campbell University Law School in Raleigh, has been **appointed to the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging**.
- Democracy North Carolina, which lobbies for voting access, analyzed the November election data for the state and found that some demographic groups had far better turnout than others. Overall voter turnout was at 69% - just 1% behind the record in 2008. Only 53% of registered voters in the 18 to 25 age group voted – the worst rate of any group. Older voters set a new record for turnout with **78% of registered voters 65 and over casting a ballot**.
- A provision of the Medicaid reform legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2015 called for the development of a long-term strategy for serving Medicare-Medicaid dual-eligible beneficiaries through capitated contracts. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Health Benefits (DHB), in partnership with a Dual Eligibles Advisory Committee (DEAC) comprised of an array of stakeholders, worked during 2016 to shape this strategy. The report on **“The Managed Care Strategy for North Carolina Medicaid-Medicare Dual Eligible Beneficiaries”** was sent to the General Assembly at the end of January and should be posted on the site there soon.
- Litigation between Republican state legislators, federal officials, and Gov. Roy Cooper’s administration on his **efforts to expand Medicaid** to hundreds of thousands of state residents has been **put on hold for a couple of months**. A federal judge delayed the proceeding on January 27 as requested by Republican legislative leaders and federal health regulators who are part of President Donald Trump’s administration.
- The **NC Medical Society has announced that it is forming a managed care company called Carolina Complete Health** to compete for a contract to provide medical care to Medicaid recipients statewide when the state changes to a managed care system for Medicaid. The state is waiting for approval from the federal government to move to managed care. The Society will partner with Centene Corp., a national managed care company and the NC Community Health Center Association in this endeavor. The Carolina Complete Health Network will be jointly owned by the Medical Society, doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- State public health officials fear that a repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) could mean the loss of approximately \$20 million a year in funding for preventive services such as administering vaccines, investigating communicable disease, and addressing obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and falls among the elderly. The **ACA’s Prevention and Public Health Fund** was created to give state and local health departments support for disease

prevention programs that operate outside traditional health care settings. Before the ACA, funding for public health programs flowed to the states directly from the federal Department of Health and Human Services. When the ACA was enacted, funding was put into the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

- A new Agency for Health Care Quality [study](#) has found that **adults who were uninsured for more than three years were the largest group to gain health insurance coverage** once the benefits under the ACA took effect in 2014. Prior to 2014, 18% of non-elderly adults were uninsured with more than half having been uninsured more than three years. In 2014, the uninsured rate had dropped to about 14% and those uninsured for more than three years decreased to 7%.
- At the January 27 Coalition on Aging membership meeting, Theresa Matula, Principal Legislative Analyst with the Legislative Analysis Division, shared a copy of the summary of **2016 Substantive Enacted Legislation Pertaining to Health and Human Services**. A copy of this summary can be found by clicking [here](#).
- The US Department of Health and Human Services released the **2017 federal poverty guidelines** on January 27. The federal poverty level is \$12,060 for an individual and \$16,240 for a couple in the contiguous 48 states. Click [here](#) to get the guidelines.
- Dozens of national groups with an interest in aging issues are calling for the new Trump administration and Congress to **protect and improve programs for older Americans**. A [letter](#) from the **Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO)** outlines priorities in the areas of health care, community service, and retirement security.
- Smart Growth America has put out its [2016 Dangerous by Design](#) report. According to the report, between 2005 and 2014, a total of 46,149 people were struck and killed by cars while walking. In 2014, the most recent year for which data are available, 4,884 people were killed by a car while walking—105 more people than in 2013. On average, 13 people were struck and killed by a car while walking every day in 2014. And between 2005 and 2014, Americans were 7.2 times more likely to die as a pedestrian than from a natural disaster. *Dangerous by Design 2016* ranks the 104 largest metro areas in the country, as well as every state, by the Pedestrian Danger Index (PDI) — a calculation of the share of local commuters who walk to work and the most recent data on pedestrian deaths. It also includes a significant racial and income-based examination of the people who are most at risk, showing that **people of color and older adults are over-represented among pedestrian deaths**.
- New State Treasurer Dale Folwell has persuaded the State’s Debt Affordability Panel to make a recommendation that the General Assembly begin making **annual contributions**

to a trust fund to prepare for the unfunded future health care expenses of retired NC state employees. The money would address the health care liability and the smaller current shortfall between what the state is obligated to pay current and future retiree pensions and pension funds it has today.

- **The Congressional Review Act (CRA)** allows a new Congress to strike down regulations issued during the last 60 days of the previous administration. The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care is expressing concern that revised **nursing home regulations** which were published on October 4, 2016 during the Obama administration could be repealed by Congress. To find out more about this, click [here](#).
- Since 2009, 317 banks branches have closed in North Carolina. 195 of those closures were in rural counties. Half a dozen NC counties only have two bank branches and two counties, Camden and Northampton, only have one branch each. **Older adults**, who are less likely to be on-line or mobile customers, **lose access to valuable help from tellers and other bank employees when branches close.**
- The **NC Housing Coalition has updated its County Profile Fact Sheets** which tell a visual story of the housing cost burden in each county in North Carolina. County profiles can be accessed [here](#).
- **Village Hearth Cohousing**, a housing community for LCBT seniors and friends, is slated for construction in Durham in 2017. Pat McAulay and Margaret Roesch from Durham have been the key advocates for this development. Co-housing developments consist of private homes clustered around shared spaces. The proposed site for Village Hearth is off of Infinity Road east of the intersection with Roxboro Road.
- **Relay North Carolina** is a service that relays a conversation between a person with a speech or hearing disability using a TDD/TTY (Text Telephone) and a hearing person using a regular telephone. The person using the TDD/TTY types his or her conversation and the message is relayed to the other party by a Relay Operator. The Relay Operator then relays the hearing person's exact words by typing them back to the TDD/TTY user. When calling Relay North Carolina from inside the state dial 7-1-1 or dial 1-800-735-2962 (TDD/TTY) and 1-800-735-8262 (Voice).
- The **Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care has received** a \$1,063,800 **grant from the Duke Endowment** to fund an innovative online platform for individuals

to gain a better understanding of their health, while developing advance care plans to address life's uncertainties.

- The National Institute on Aging at NIH has a new **e-mail list that provides helpful information and tips for caregivers**. Topics include: long-distance caregiving, caregiver health, Alzheimer's and dementia, and advance care planning. Sign us at <https://www.nia.nih.gov/contact/subscribe>.

Calendar Additions (Check out the [calendar](#) on the Coalition's website for previously reported events and activities).

- March 6, 2017 – Alzheimer's Association Eastern NC Chapter 3rd Annual Research Symposium from 5-8 p.m. at Friday Center in Chapel Hill
- March 14-15, 2017 – Senior Tar Heel Legislature Meeting at Sheraton in Chapel Hill (Will have Day at the Legislature on March 15)
- March 15, 2017 – NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse meets at Guilford County Justice Center
- March 16-17, 2017 – NC Association on Aging State Aging Training Conference at Marriott Hotel in Winston-Salem
- March 30, 2017 – NC State University Department of Social Work Spring Symposium - Policy and Advocacy: Intersection of Poverty, Race, and Gender. On Campus at Talley Student Union
- April 27-28, 2017 – NC Association for Home and Hospice Care Conference at Research Triangle Park
- May 10, 2017 – AARP NC at Legislature for It's Cool to Age! (ice cream social)
- May 17, 2017 – NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse Annual Meeting
- May 17-20, 2017 – National Gerontological Society Meeting in San Antonio, Texas
- October 10-12, 2017 – NC Assisted Living Conference in Winston-Salem
- November 3, 2017 – High Country Area Agency on Aging Care Transitions Summit. At Yadkin Valley Event Center in Wilkesboro

Aging Programs on NPR – NPR has had a number of reports on aging issues in the last month. To view a program, click on it. Programs include:

- [Congress Moves to Overturn DC "Death with Dignity Law"](#)
- [Legal Dispute Continues Over Medicare Coverage of Physical Therapy](#)
- [Obamacare Repeal Could Threaten Provisions That Help Older Adults](#)
- [Legalizing Aid in Dying Doesn't Mean Patients Have Access to It](#)

Additional Articles/Resources:

The National Consume Voice for Quality Long-Term Care – [Fact Sheet on Involuntary Transfer and Discharge](#)

NC Medical Journal – January/February 2017 – [Medicaid in North Carolina: What Is Over the Horizon?](#)

The People's Pharmacy – February 16, 2017 – [Are You Taking Too Many Mind Medicines?](#)

AARP – February 7, 2017 – [Why Medicare Matters to All Americans](#)

Kaiser Health News – February 1, 2017 - [Trying to Solve the Alzheimer's Puzzle](#)

Jefferson Post – January 31, 2017 – [Medicaid Reform \(in NC\): Why Can't Both Sides Win?](#)

WRAL Editorial – January 25, 2017 – [Legislators: Drop Hyper-Partisanship and Pass Agenda NC Wants and Needs](#)

The Washington Post – January 25, 2017 – [Voting Rights Advocates Fear Trump's Unfounded Fraud Claims Will Lead to More Restrictive Laws](#)

The Hill – January 24, 2017 – [The Workforce Shortage Has Reached Long-Term Care. We Should Act](#)

NC Health News – January 18, 2017 - [Senior Advocates Pushing for More PACE Slots in 2017](#)

NC Health News – January 17, 2017 – [Transitions in Health Care Can Be Hard; Event Seeks Bridges](#)

NC Health News – January 12, 2017 – [Beyond Medicaid, Lawmakers Have Lots of Health Care Priorities](#)

National Inst. On Aging – November 15, 2016 - [End of Life Care: Alzheimer's Caregiving Tips](#)

February Coalition Meeting – The February Coalition on Aging meeting will be held on Friday, February 24, at 10:00 a.m. in the first floor conference room at the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (693 Palmer Drive – Taylor Hall on the Dix campus). The guest speaker for the meeting will be Julia Adams, Lobbyist with Oak City Government Relations. She will provide an update on what's happening and not happening at the NC General Assembly, including budget developments and other key issues. She will also share information about North Carolina's Innovations Waiver.

Coalition Moving to New Location for Membership Meetings – Due to increased attendance at monthly membership meetings, the Coalition has outgrown its current meeting space at the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services. Starting with the March 24 membership meeting, the

new meeting location will be the conference room in the Brown Building which is also located on the Dix campus.

Membership Renewal – It's that time of year again when members of the Coalition on Aging are asked to renew their membership in the Coalition. There are two options for renewal – on-line with PayPal payment of dues or completing a hard copy renewal application and mailing a check for dues. To renew on-line or to print out a paper copy of the renewal form, click **here**. Membership dues for 2017 remain unchanged from 2016. Dues are \$100 for agencies/organizations/groups and \$20 for supporting individuals. The Coalition has a hardship provision for anyone unable to pay the full dues amount. Questions about renewal or the hardship provision should be directed to Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at **mmbethel72@gmail.com**.

We believe the Coalition is a bargain and that those working in the aging field or who have an interest in aging issues will find their membership in the Coalition worth their dues investment. Benefits of membership in the Coalition include:

- Opportunity to share and network with colleagues from around the state.
- Receive in-person updates on aging issues and hear presentations on hot topics at regular membership meetings.
- Have a collective voice in advocating for and raising awareness about issues impacting older North Carolinians.
- Be included in the selection of annual legislative priority issues.
- Receive monthly updates, including legislative updates, on issues related to aging.
- Receive action alerts with talking points when contact is needed with your legislator, member of Congress, or other policy makers.
- Get discounts on registration for the Coalition's annual meeting.

Submitting Information for Updates – If you have news or information on activities and events you would like to have included in an Update to Coalition members, please send details to Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at **mmbethel72@gmail.com**.

Calendar of Events – If you have events or activities scheduled for 2017 that you would like to share with Coalition members, please send details about these to Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at **mmbethel72@gmail.com**. We post a master calendar of aging related events and activities on the Coalition's website.

Have questions about the Coalition on Aging or need more information? Check out our website at **<http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/>.**