



## COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

### **NC Coalition on Aging Update for July 2016**

**2016 Short Legislative Session Ends** – The General Assembly adjourned the short legislative session late July 1. On July 15, you were sent a summary of aging related legislation that was passed during the session. (A copy of this [summary](#) is posted on the Coalition’s website). This session key funding was approved in several areas including providing increased support to families caring for persons with Alzheimer’s disease and increasing the number of slots available for the Community Alternative Program for Disabled Adults (CAP-DA). Enacting a uniform law on adult guardianship (House Bill 817 and a Coalition priority), expanding the Silver Alert Program (provision of House Bill 1044), and limiting the maximum rate increase for long-term care insurance premiums that may be implemented in a calendar year (provision of House Bill 287) were important pieces of legislation that were passed. Although aging advocates did not get everything they had hoped for this legislative session, there were significant appropriations made and bills approved to address critical needs facing older North Carolinians and their families. Please take the time to thank legislators for their support. Information for contacting Senate members can be found [here](#) and for contacting House members can be found [here](#).

**Seasoned Legislators Leaving** – Twenty legislators chose not to seek re-election this year including seven Senators and thirteen House members. When the 2017 legislative session convenes on Wednesday, January 11, absent will be several long serving powerful legislators including House Speaker Pro Tempore Paul (Skip) Stam (R-Wake), former majority and minority leader and 2000 candidate for Governor Rep. Leo Daughtry (R-Johnston), Senate Finance Committee Co-Chair Sen. Bob Rucho (R-Mecklenburg) and Senate Rules Committee Chair Sen. Tom Apodaca (R-Henderson). Sen. Apodaca announced his retirement from the Senate on July 15 which leaves enough time for the six-month “cooling-off period” that is required by state law in the event he should decide to become a lobbyist for the 2017 legislative session.

**Annual Coalition Meeting Set for September 23/National Speaker Will Keynote** – The Coalition’s 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, September 23, at the NC State University Club located at 4200 Hillsborough St. in Raleigh. Check-in for the Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. with a brief business meeting and luncheon beginning at 12:00 noon. Keynote speaker for the event will be Dr. Robert B. Friedland, Associate Professor in the Department of Health Systems Administration at Georgetown University. Dr. Friedland, who is also Director of the Health Care Management and Policy Program at Georgetown, is one of the leading

authorities on financing and delivery of health care and long-term care and on retirement income security. Registration for the meeting will be available by July 1. The cost is \$20 for members of the Coalition and \$30 for non-members. The Coalition has sponsorship opportunities available for the Meeting at the \$5,000 and \$2,500 levels. If interested in being a sponsor, contact Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at [mmbethel72@gmail.com](mailto:mmbethel72@gmail.com) or (919) 818-0881.

**Coalition Establishes Pioneer Award** - The Coalition is establishing a new award called the Pioneer Award to recognize individuals who have made long-time outstanding contributions to the field of aging in North Carolina. Not only is the establishment of the Award intended to honor recipients for their meritorious service, but a secondary purpose is to help enhance visibility of the field of aging and the work that has been done and is still on-going to address the needs of older North Carolinians. Applications for the Award will be accepted until July 31, 2016. Information about submitting a nomination and a copy of the nomination form can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

**Nominations Sought for Coalition Officers** – Per the By-laws of the Coalition, elections are held yearly. The President and the Secretary are elected in odd years and the Vice-President and Treasurer are elected in even years. Officers are elected to serve a two year term and may serve two consecutive terms. This year, being an even year, the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer are elected. Kay Castillo is completing four years as Vice-President and is not eligible for consideration for this office. Alan Winstead is completing his second year as Treasurer and is eligible to serve a second term. Bill Lamb, Past President of the Coalition, is leading a Nomination Committee for officers. He is joined on the Committee by Carol Meyer with The Carolinas Center. If you would like make a nominations, contact Bill at [william.e.lamb@gmail.com](mailto:william.e.lamb@gmail.com) or Carol at [cmeyer@cchospice.org](mailto:cmeyer@cchospice.org). Elections of officers will be held at the Annual Meeting on September 23.

**Voter ID Case Goes to Trail in September** – The elections this fall got a bit more uncertain on July 11 when Wake County Judge Mike Morgan signed an order rejecting a request by legislative leaders to set the state’s Voter ID case in front of a three-judge panel or dismiss it. A trial date of September 26 has been set at which time the question of whether North Carolina’s voter ID requirement violates the state Constitution will be debated. The trial is expected to last about a week. To learn more about this go to a News and Observer story [here](#). Older adults are one of the largest population groups to not have a valid voter ID.

**State’s Redistricting Case Headed to U.S. Supreme Court** – The state’s redistricting case seems to have a life of its own. In the latest development, the U.S. Supreme Court will take up the case this fall of whether North Carolina legislators relied too much on race when they drew new Congressional districts five years ago. Check out [@NCCAPITOL](#) for more details about this.

**U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee Maintains Funding for Key Programs** – To the relief of aging advocates, the House Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee approved its FY 2017 funding bill the first week of July and the Subcommittee increased funding for many programs funded by the Older Americans Act and maintained funding levels for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The Senate Appropriations Committee proposed cutting \$52.1 million from SHIP effectively eliminating the program and cutting \$34.4 million from SCSEP. Aging service providers and service recipients from North Carolina and around the country have been actively engaged in advocacy efforts to retain funding for both programs. To learn more about the House Appropriations Subcommittee proposal, see this [list](#) with funding recommendations provided by NCOA.

**Time Running Out to Comment on State’s Medicaid Waiver** – The federal comment period for North Carolina’s Medicaid Waiver application ends on July 20. To see a copy of the application the state submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services go to [Pending Application](#). To view or submit public comments go to [View/Submit Public Comments](#). North Carolina is requesting a new section 1115(a) demonstration waiver to transform and re-organize the state’s Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs. The state intends under the demonstration to reform the Medicaid program through statewide managed care plans, transforming primary care medical homes (PCMHs) to person-centered health communities (PCHCs), integrating behavioral health and physical health, and lastly, by allowing managed care entities to provide long-term services and supports (LTSS) for Medicaid only individuals. On a related note, the N.C. Justice Center has released a fact sheet which summarizes the content of the waiver request. The fact sheet also highlights how Medicaid expansion in North Carolina supports and strengthens the aims and initiatives outlined in the waiver application. To see a copy of the fact sheet, click [here](#).

**Social Security and Medicare Trustee Report Released** - Each year the Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds report on the current and projected financial status of the two programs. Their latest report was released in late June. As noted in the report, both Social Security and Medicare face long-term financing shortfalls under currently scheduled benefits and financing. Lawmakers have a broad continuum of policy options that would close or reduce the long-term financing shortfall of both programs. The Trustees recommend that lawmakers take action sooner rather than later to address these shortfalls, so that a broader range of solutions can be considered and more time will be available to phase in changes while giving the public adequate time to prepare. Earlier action will also help elected officials minimize adverse impacts on vulnerable populations, including lower-income workers and people already dependent on program benefits. To see a summary of the report, click [here](#).

**Upcoming Events and Activities:**

- **North Carolina's Proposed Direction:** (This Webinar Provides an Overview of the State's 1115 Waiver Application) - Friday, July 22, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.; Click [here](#) to register which is required.
- **Living Sustainably in Community: Cohousing** – Friday, July 22, 7:00 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Founders Hall), Raleigh – Katie McCamant and Charles Durrett, the nation's experts in cohousing who have designed over 50 cohousing communities in the U.S. and Canada will share their 25 years of experience in designing socially vibrant and environmentally sustainable communities. For information contact Sonya at (919) 676-6648 or go to [Raleigh-cohousing.com](http://Raleigh-cohousing.com) or [cohousing@mindspring.com](mailto:cohousing@mindspring.com).
- **Durham VA Community Mental Health Summit** – Friday, August 26, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Hosted by Durham County Public Health – The central goals of the Summit are to identify existing resources and services, acknowledge strong practices, recognize gaps and challenges in meeting the mental health care needs of Veterans and families, and begin conversations on how to bridge these gaps. RSVP by clicking on this link [2016 Community Mental Health Summit Registration](#). Contact [Cynthia.Woods@VA.Gov](mailto:Cynthia.Woods@VA.Gov) or [Evan.Mallard@VA.Gov](mailto:Evan.Mallard@VA.Gov) with any questions.
- **Senior Center Month is observed in September** – This year's theme is *Find Balance at Your Center*. NCOA has a free Program Guide for ideas to celebrate that can be downloaded [here](#).
- **Grandparents Day is observed on September 11** – Generations United has a website full of activities to help mark the observance. Go [here](#) to find ideas.
- **2016 N.C. Social Services Institute** – October 19-21 at the Hickory Metro Convention Center in Hickory.
- **Aging and the Environment** (A mini-conference designed to connect N.C. State researchers, community partners, aging adults and their families in looking at the critical role the environment plays in healthy aging) – Friday, November 11, 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at James B. Hunt Jr. Library at N.C. State University – This free event is hosted by N.C. State University, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Department of Psychology and the Daily Well-Being in Adulthood Lab. To find out more and to register for the event which is required click [here](#). Coalition members interested in having a free informational booth at the networking reception should contact Jennifer Bellingtier at [jabellin@ncsu.edu](mailto:jabellin@ncsu.edu).
- **2017 Southern Gerontological Society Annual Meeting** (New Horizons in Aging: Advances in Research and Practice) – April 6-9, 2017 at Double Tree by Hilton/Asheville Biltmore, Asheville – For additional information click [here](#).

#### **Other Reports and Resources of Interest:**

- From NC Budget and Tax Center – [County Economic Snapshot 2016](#)
- From Savvy Living – [Choosing an Appropriate Walking Cane](#)

- From NC Health News – [Improving Health Care for North Carolina’s Older LGBT Community](#)
- NC Health News – [Lawmakers Axe Long-Term Care Oversight Panel](#)
- PoynerSpruill - [North Carolina General Assembly Enacts Major Reforms to Adult Care Home Deficiency and Penalty Laws](#)
- News and Observer – [Indefensible Loss of a Protection for NC’s Most Vulnerable](#)
- News and Observer – [Baby Boomers’ Retirement: The Country’s Biggest and Most Predictable Train Wreck?](#)
- From FutureStructure – [Can Car-Centric Suburbs Adjust to Aging Baby Boomers?](#)
- From HHS.gov – [Medicaid Expansion Under the Affordable Care Act Leads to Better Care and Improves Financial Well-Being for New Enrollees](#)
- From McClatchy DC – [As with Prince, Baby Boomers Chronic Pain Means Risk of Opioid Abuse](#)
- From News and Observer – [Women More Likely Than Men to Face Poverty During Retirement Years](#)
- From NPR – [Few Young Doctors Are Training to Care for US Elderly](#)

**Calendar of Events** – If you have conferences, workshops, or other events you would like to have posted on the Coalition’s calendar of events, please send details to Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at [mmbethel72@gmail.com](mailto:mmbethel72@gmail.com).

**No July Coalition on Aging Meeting** – Because many of our members take vacations in July, there will be no Coalition meeting this month. We will continue to send out the Update and other items of interest during the month. The next Coalition meeting will be held on Friday, August 26, at 10:00 a.m. in the first floor conference room at the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services located in Taylor Hall on the Dorothea Dix campus in Raleigh (693 Palmer Drive).

**Welcome New Coalition on Aging Members** – The Coalition welcomes our newest organizational member, The Partnership to Address Adult Abuse, and our most recent new individual member, Robert Palombo, President of AARP North Carolina. If you are interested in getting more involved in being an advocate for older North Carolinians, consider becoming a member of the Coalition on Aging. Membership in the Coalition is open to any agency, organization, group, or individual who is interested in aging in North Carolina. To renew your membership or to sign up for the first time, go to <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/membership.aspx>.

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