



COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

NC Coalition on Aging July Update – July 12, 2017

Legislature Adjourns (For Now): The “regular” long legislative session concluded around 2 a.m. on June 30. In the closing week of the session, lawmakers approved over 100 bills and sent them to Governor Cooper for his signature. At this time, most of those bills remain on his desk for his review. When the long session concludes, the legislature typically does not convene again until the “short session” begins the following spring. This year; however, the adjournment resolution adds at least two additional legislative sessions in 2017. A session to start on August 3 is scheduled so the legislature can address a variety of topics including voting to override any vetoes from the Governor, making appointments, approving bills currently in negotiations between the House and Senate or bills involving impeachment of an elected official, and responding to lawsuits including any court order on redistricting. The session starting on September 6 could focus on items left from the August session and redistricting including redistricting plans for judicial and prosecutorial districts. The adjournment resolution also includes a final deadline of November 15 for court-ordered legislative redistricting to be completed. House and Senate leaders have appointed new redistricting committees.

Legislation Passed of Special Interest to Aging Advocates/Coalition Members: In addition to the items contained in the Budget Bill (S.B. 257) which were previously reported, the legislature passed numerous bills which impact older adults and/or agencies and organizations that are Coalition members. A summary of relevant bills is posted on this website. Note that many of these bills have not been signed by the Governor as of July 11.

U.S. Senate Set to Unveil New Health Care Bill: Yesterday Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced that Senate Republicans will unveil a new version of their health care bill this Thursday, July 13, and a new CBO score on the bill is expected early next week. He also announced that the Senate August recess has been delayed until the third week in August in order to allow more time for his conference to complete its work on health care reform and other tasks, including processing the backlog of nominations for positions. The struggles the Senate is having in getting support for its health care reform proposal have been well covered by media sources. Also receiving increased attention are stories about the potential impact reform proposals could have on consumers, including older adults, as well as state Medicaid programs. Several reports of note include the following:

[What Medicaid Cuts and Caps Could Mean for Seniors](#) (the article lists several states that would be hit hard by cuts and caps, including North Carolina)

[Possible Medicaid Cuts Worry Seniors](#)

[Medicaid Cut May Force Retirees Out of Nursing Homes](#)

[Nursing Homes Worry Proposed Medicaid Cuts Will Force Cuts/Closures](#)

[Senate Health Care Bill Would Be Devastating to Elderly and Disabled](#)

[These Kids Need Feeding Tubes and Breathing Machines: Their Health Care Funding May Be at Risk](#)

On July 11, the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations sent a [letter](#) to Senator McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer expressing their strong opposition to the provisions of the Senate reform bill (Better Care Reconciliation Act) because of the harm they would inflict on our nation's seniors and their families.

A June 30 and July 1 poll from Public Policy Polling found that only 33% of North Carolinians surveyed said they approve of the Senate reform bill while 53% said they disapprove of the bill.

[Mark Up of Appropriations Bill:](#) Reports have surfaced that the U.S. House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Service, Education, and Related Agencies will begin its "mark up" on the FY 18 Appropriations Bill on Thursday. Previous *Updates* have reported on programs at risk for losing all or significant funding for FY 18 including the Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIIP in North Carolina) and the Senior Community Service Employment Program. North Carolina does not have a House member on this Subcommittee and Rep. David Price is the only Congressman from our state on the House Committee on Appropriations. It is important; however, to still let all members of our Congressional delegation know of the importance of on-going funding for programs for seniors. Telephone numbers for House members are available [here](#). **Call your House member today and ask that funding for programs be continued.**

[NCBigIdea Challenge:](#) For the first time in the history of the Institute for Emerging Issues, the Institute is seeking the public's help in finding its next big idea to move forward on behalf of the state. The Institute is asking people to share their answer to the question "What is the single biggest challenge or opportunity we should work on to shape our state's long-term economic prosperity?" on Twitter using #NCBigIdea or through an on-line submission form before July 31. Complete details, along with submission guidelines and selection process information, are available at [NCBigIdea.org](#). Coalition member Tom Aikens with LeadingAge NC has suggested that it would be great if Coalition members and our constituents flooded the Institute with messages about our growing aging population and the opportunities this presents for our state moving forward.

Registration for Annual Meeting Opens: Speaking of opportunities for the state’s increasing older adult population to move North Carolina forward, Dr. James H. Johnson, Jr. from the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School, will be the guest speaker at the Coalition’s 2017 annual meeting and luncheon and his presentation will be on “Bracing for the Silver Tsunami: Golden Dividends and Strategic Business Opportunities.” Dr. Johnson is a much sought after presenter, and we are excited that he has agreed to be with us.



Dr. Johnson is the Business School’s William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor for Strategy and Entrepreneurship and the Director of the Urban Investment Strategies Center

The annual meeting and luncheon will be on September 22 at the N.C. State University Club at 4200 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh (the same location as last year). Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with the program starting at 12:00 noon. A flyer about the event and registration information are on this website. Registration can be completed [on-line](#) at the Coalition’s website and payment made through PayPal on-line or the registration can be mailed to the Coalition’s P.O. Box along with payment.

Call for Nominations for Pioneer Award: Last year the Coalition established 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. Nominations are now being accepted for this Award. Information about the Award and a nomination application is on this website. The deadline for submission of nominations is August 15. Last year’s Award recipient, Dorothy Crawford from Macon County, recently celebrated her 99th birthday and continues to be active in aging issues in her county and region and on the state level. She sets a wonderful precedent for the Award.

Changing the Story of Aging: The National Council on Aging (NCOA) has joined with seven other aging organizations and the FrameWorks Institute to help bridge the gap between the public’s perception of growing older and the real story. They researched the best way to “reframe” the story of aging and have developed a new communications toolkit to provide practical tips and tools to help do this. To learn more, click [here](#).

Notes and Updates

SAGE's #WeRefuseToBeInvisible campaign has been successful in getting the Trump administration to reverse course and restore lesbian, gay, and bisexual elders to the federal survey that measures who is and is not receiving federally-funded services for older adults across the country. The administration decided to continue to exclude transgender elders from the federal survey.

All of the presentations from the **Aging and Disability Symposium at the 2017 AIRS Conference** are now available on the I&R Center website. Visit:

<http://www.nasuad.org/initiatives/national-information-referral-support-center/airs/airs-annual-conference-and-national-4>.

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles began offering the **N.C. REAL ID** on May 1. This form of identification meets a new federal identification requirement for boarding planes, accessing federal buildings, military installations, and nuclear facilities. The federal government will require a REAL ID for commercial air travel and access to other federal facilities effective October 1, 2020. To read more on this, click [here](#).

July 26 marks the **27th anniversary of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA)**. President George H.W. Bush signed the ADA on July 26, 1990.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has published **data on health care spending at the state level from 1991 to 2014**. An interesting tidbit from the report showed that per capital personal health spending grew at an average rate of 5.2% per year for 2004-2009 but only 2.8% per year from 2010-2013.

Coalition member **Alzheimer's NC has received a \$25,000 Ribbon of Hope Grant from the North Carolina GlasoSmithKline Foundation**. These funds will support the Rural Caregiver Education Alliance Project that assists dementia caregivers living in rural communities through educational programming and additional supportive resources. Alzheimer's NC has moved to a new office location. Their address is 9131 Anson Way, Suite 206, Raleigh, NC 27615.

According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the proportion of **hospital stays for mental health/substance use increased by 20% from 2005 to 2014**, representing nearly 6% of all hospital stays by 2014. To learn more, click [here](#).

The **Administration for Community Living is accepting public comment** on proposed revisions for the Older Americans Act Annual State Program Performance Report until July 31.

The Administration for Community Living has announced that a new [issue brief](#) is now available that addresses opportunities to **improve nutrition for older adults** and also to reduce the risk of poor health outcomes.

The **Youth Movement Against Alzheimer's (YMAA)**, based in Los Angeles, has formed a partnership with The UCLA Division of Geriatrics to create TimeOut@UCLA and a free on-

campus day program that connects college students with older adults with Alzheimer's and other dementias. The mission of the organization is to encourage youth to be more engaged with the aging sector. Many of the college students involved in the program have picked up a minor in gerontology based on what they learned at YMAA.

As Americans become more engaged in tracking activity with apps and wearable devices, some of the **numbers that matter** most are (source *Renew Magazine* by UnitedHealthcare):

- 75-128 beats per minute – Target heart rate for a 70 year old during exercise, according to the American Heart Association;
- 10,000 – Recommended steps a day for active adults by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- 150 minutes – Minimum amount of moderate aerobic activity recommended by the CDC for older adults each week, along with at least two days of muscle strengthening.
- 150/90 – The recommended maximum blood pressure if you're 60 or older, according to a 2014 article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Aim for less than 140/90 if you are diabetic.
- 7-8 hours – How much sleep adults should aim to get each night, according to the National Institutes of Health.

The Board of Trustees for **Morehead Memorial Hospital in Eden** on Monday **filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code**. Ongoing financial pressures and the difficult past decade for the healthcare industry -- especially for small, community hospitals - were cited by the board in a news release.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services is developing a **Strategic Plan for the behavioral health, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders community and facility-based service system**. The Department will hold listening sessions to obtain **public input**. Sessions are scheduled today through July 31 in Wilmington (July 12), Winston-Salem (July 13), Charlotte (July 19), Sylva (July 20), Elizabeth City (July 27), and the Research Triangle Park (July 31). In addition to speaking at one of the scheduled sessions, written comments can be sent to BehavioralHealth@dhhs.nc.gov; mailed to the Department at 2001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-2000; or dropped off at the Department office at 101 Blair Drive in Raleigh on the Dix campus.

In June, NCOA President and CEO **James Firman assumed the chairmanship**, for one year, of the **Leadership Council of Aging Organizations**, a coalition of 70 non-profit organizations representing millions of older adults.

Lance Robertson, Director of the Oklahoma Aging Services Division since 2007, is **awaiting Senate confirmation as Assistant Secretary of Aging and Administrator of the U.S. Administration for Community Living**.

Lynn Berry, long-time **Legal Services Developer** with the N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Service is retiring the end of July.

Coalition member **Roger Manus**, Director of the Senior Law Clinic at the Campbell University School of Law, has been named the **new chair of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging**. **Additional new members to the Council** appointed by the Governor are Kathie Smith of Raleigh, Charles M. Johnson of Rocky Mount, Dr. Amit Shah of Waxhaw, Elizabeth Eaton of Morehead City, and Dan Mosca of Brown Summit.

Chris Mackey, who served as press secretary under Governor Bev Perdue, was hired in June to serve as **communications director for the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services**. After serving in the Perdue administration, Mackey worked as a spokeswoman for Greenville-based Vidant Health.

Upcoming Meetings/Events (not previously reported)

July 13, 2017 (9:30 to 10:30 a.m.) – Dementia Capable NC Webinar on Orange County NC CARES (Caregiver Awareness Respite Education and Support). Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5224703717013203457>.

September 11, 2017 (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) – 2017 VA and Community Mental Health Summit at the Edwin W. Monroe Conference Center at 2000 Venture Tower Drive, Greenville, NC

Check out the Coalition on Aging [website](#) for additional meetings and events.

Articles/Resources:

[Recent NPR Stories in Their Series on Aging](#)

[The Big Medicaid Spend on The 65+ Population](#)

[Census: State Population Getting Older, More Diverse](#)

[Doug Dickerson with AARP of North Carolina discusses what’s at stake for seniors in the health care debate in Washington](#)

[NAS Report: Promising But Inconclusive Evidence on Interventions to Prevent Cognitive Decline, Dementia](#)

[More Baby Boomers Are Drowning in Student Loan Debt – And No One Knows How Bad It Will Get](#)

[The Crisis of Patient Privacy in Nursing Homes](#)

[Can Helping High-Risk Patients With Basic Needs Reduce Costly Care in Rural Areas?](#)

[Overnight Program for Dementia Patients Gives Caregivers a Rest](#)

No Coalition Meeting in July: The next Coalition meeting will be held on Friday, August at 25 at 10:00 a.m. in the Brown Building (regular meeting location) on the Dix campus in Raleigh.

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. The Coalition also posts 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, including information about joining the Coalition or renewing membership, please contact us at mmbethel72@gmail.com or check out our website at <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/>.