



COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

NC Coalition on Aging
June Update – June 27, 2018

Please note that there will not be a Coalition on Aging Meeting in July.

New State Aging Director Named: Joyce Massey-Smith has been named as the Director of the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) effective June 29. Joyce is no stranger to the aging network. She has worked at DAAS since March of 1996, first as an Adult Program Representative and most recently as Section Chief for Adult Services. She also worked previously as the Area Agency on Aging Administrator at the Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments in Winston Salem (now merged with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council) for a number of years. In making the announcement, Michael A. Becketts, Assistant Secretary for Human Services with the NC Department of Health and Human Services, noted that Joyce brings to her new position experience in the two primary areas DAAS serves; aging and services to adults and that she is passionate about her work and supports innovative ways to improve the Department's work and how it supports county departments of social services, Area Agencies on Aging, and community stakeholders.

Legislative Session Winds Down: The 2018 short legislative session is drawing to a close, probably by the end of this week. We have kept Coalition members updated throughout the session relative to actions pertaining to aging and issues which impact older adults and their families. When all was said and done, there was approximately \$1 million appropriated to support services to keep seniors in their homes and communities (Home and Community Block Grant) and another \$1 million to support adult guardianship. In addition, the Budget Technical Corrections Bill appropriated \$5.5 million to increase the rate for the Medicaid Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP-DA). There were no bills that specially addressed aging issues that have passed this session; however, there are several that certainly have ramifications for older adults and are of interest to aging advocates. A summary will be provided following the end of the session.

As this is being written, state lawmakers are taking votes to override vetoes made by Gov. Roy Cooper last week as well as debating whether to place six constitutional amendments on the ballot for the November election. Much news coverage is taking place on these deliberations. The Coalition does not support two specific constitutional amendments being considered:

- **HB1092** - Require photo ID to vote: This legislation would ask voters to vote FOR or AGAINST: "Constitutional amendment to require voters to provide photo identification before voting in person." The legislation also directs the General Assembly to develop laws governing the regulations needed in state law to oversee voter I.D. We oppose this amendment because there are a significant number of older adults, particularly older

adults of color and of advanced age, who were born at home and do not have a birth certificate and do not have a driver's license or other valid ID who would be adversely impacted.

- **SB 75 Constitutional Amendment- Max Income Tax Rate of 5.5%:** This amendment would apply to both state personal and corporate taxes. The amendment would cap both at 5.5%. If the bill passes, voters would vote FOR or AGAINST: "Reduce the income tax rate in North Carolina to a maximum allowable rate of five and one-half percent (5.5%)." If this passes, we believe it would jeopardize the state's ability to meet current and future needs, particularly if we faced a disaster or another catastrophic event and it would result in an increase in other taxes such as sale taxes and property taxes. Capped taxes could also mean less money available for critical state services. **Note: On Wednesday afternoon the House voted to raise the maximum tax rate to 7%. It remains to be seen if the Senate will go along with this proposed increase.**

To get a complete list of bills passed this legislative session (except bills of local impact only and bills pertaining to constitutional amendments which do not go to the Governor) click on the following links:

- [Bills Signed by the Governor](#)
- [Bills Vetoed by the Governor](#) (go to the last two pages for bills vetoed this session)
- [Enacted Bills that Became Law without the Governor's Signature](#)

Public Listening Sessions Conclude: The NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) has completed a series of listening sessions around the state to obtain public input into the 2019-2023 State Aging Services Plan. Sessions were held in Asheville, Kernersville, Wilmington, Greenville, and Charlotte. In addition, DAAS staff held a special listening session at the Coalition on Aging meeting in Raleigh on June 22. At that meeting, approximately 15 Coalition members offered remarks. Comments included the following:

- More support is needed for older adults with substance use problems as well as for older adults impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- Transportation and housing are challenges for many older adults.
- More support for the long term care ombudsman program is needed.
- The personal needs allowance for resident in long term care facilities is not adequate.
- The needs of older adults living in rural areas need to be better addressed.
- Funding for adult protective services is not adequate.
- The needs of LGBTQ older adults in the state are not being addressed.
- More support is needed for PACE programs to increase the availability of the program.
- Senior centers need more support if they are to remain viable community resources.
- Seniors need assistance in communicating and education to navigate the health care system.
- More support for caregivers is needed. There are many caregivers and older adults in need of assistance who fall through the cracks.
- Getting dental care, including paying for it, is a problem for many older adults.
- Having an adequate and trained workforce in the field of aging remains a challenge and there needs to be more collaborative efforts to address this issue.

- It is important that the Aging Services Plan be operationalized and not become a document that sits on a shelf and gathers dust. There needs to be a plan of action for addressing recommendations.

Staff at DAAS report that many of the issues raised at the Coalition meeting mirror those shared in the other listening sessions. Additional top issues raised in other sessions also included the need to expand support for nutrition programs for seniors such as home delivered meals, the importance of addressing inclusion and diversity, and supporting efforts to help people age in place.

Annual Trustees' Reports for Social Security and Medicare Released: On June 5, the reports for both programs were released. The bottom line from the reports is that Medicare's finances were downgraded while the projection for Social Security stayed the same as last year. According to the reports, Medicare's hospital insurance fund will be depleted in 2016 which is three years earlier than projected last year. Social Security's trustees said the program's two trust funds would be depleted in 2034, the same as it reported last year. The reports do not indicate that benefits disappear in those years but that changes would need to be made to continue as they currently operate. Click [here](#) to learn more about the reports.

Congress Advances Aging Services Funding: On June 26, the U.S. Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations (LABOR-HHS) Subcommittee approved its FY 19 funding bill. The bill will be considered in the full Labor-HHS Committee on June 28 and more details about what is in the bill will be known then. The Labor-HHS full committee markup in the U.S. House has been postponed twice but details released recently indicate that the bill preserves Older American Act programs and many other aging services at the current levels. As budget deliberations continue, many aging advocacy groups are concerned that Congress will look to cut Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. Click [here](#) for information from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare about this. AARP sent a letter signed by Joyce A. Rogers, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs, to the Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget and the Ranking Member on the Committee on June 21 asking that the Committee reject the large mandatory cuts the Committee is considering. Specifically the letter addressed Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, and SNAP (food stamps). Currently this letter is not available on-line.

Operation Fan Heat Relief: The NC Division of Aging and Adult Services is partnering with the NC Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers to distribute fans through Operation Fan Heat Relief until October 31. People 60 and older, as well as adults with disabilities, are eligible to sign up for assistance through the end of October at local aging agencies across the state. The program is made possible by donations from Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke Energy Progress, Dominion Resources and the Valassis Giving Committee, which allow regional area agencies on aging, and provider agencies to purchase fans for eligible individuals. Last year, the division received \$85,600 in donations, allowing for the distribution of 5,033 fans and 27 air conditioners. For more details, people should contact their [area agency on aging](#) or Lisa Worth, Housing Program Consultant, Division of Aging and Adult Services, at 919-855-3419. More information about Operation Fan Heat Relief, including tips on preparing for extreme heat and a

list of local agencies distributing fans, is available at www.ncdhhs.gov/operation-fan-and-heat-relief. And speaking of dealing with extreme heat, check out this [news release](#) from the National Institutes of Health about health related dangers for older adults in hot weather and ways to reduce the risk of hypothermia.

Dementia Discovery Fund: On Monday, AARP, joined by a coalition of powerhouse partners like UnitedHealth Group (the country's largest insurer) and Quest Diagnostics (the clinical diagnostics and lab testing giant), announced a combined \$75 million investment between the three organizations meant to tackle Alzheimer's and other dementia-related diseases. AARP's personal investment is \$60 million into a broader, \$350 million collaboration called the Dementia Discovery Fund (DDF), as part of an effort to kick off its own "Disrupt Dementia" campaign. The DDF has a number of other big name partners including Bill Gates (who's poured in \$50 million of his own money into the fund), the NFL Players Association, and a host of pharmaceutical companies like Biogen, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, Takeda, and others. (From Fortune article).

Other News and Updates

More white people are dying than being born in North Carolina, according to a national study. The same is true for the United States overall as the country becomes more racially diverse. Demographers from the Applied Population Lab looked at the volume of white births and deaths in each state and Washington, D.C., between 1999 and 2016. The study, based on data from the National Center for Health Statistics, found that **white deaths exceeded white births** in 26 states, including North Carolina, in 2016. The data are notable because this is the first time in U.S. history the trend has consistently appeared across the country, according to the study. In 2016, whites in North Carolina made up 62.5% of the state's population, Hispanics made up 10.2 % and all other non-Hispanic minorities made up 27%, according to data from the State Demographer's Office. By 2028 in North Carolina, whites are expected to account for less than 60% of the population, while Hispanics are estimated to account for 12.5% and other non-Hispanic minorities for 28%. To read more about this, click [here](#).

The final report of the stakeholders workgroup involved in the **"Rethinking Guardianship: Building a Case for Less Restrictive Alternatives"** initiative has been released. The report summarizes the work and accomplishments of each of the three years of the initiative and offers recommendations that emerged from the workgroup's efforts. The initiative was funded by the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities and administered by the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services with assistance provided by the Jordan Institute for Families at the UNC School of Social Work. A copy of the report can be obtained by contacting Charlene Wilson at the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services at Charlene.wilson@dhhs.nc.gov or at 919-855-3466.

The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services released its **first-ever Medicaid Scorecard** intended to advance a longer-term goal to improve understanding of Medicaid performance nationally. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services issued a statement in

support of this effort. North Carolina scored in the top tier of states for managing adults on persistent medications and monitoring individuals on antipsychotic medications. The report noted the state still has work to do to improve other key health performance indicators, including timely access and follow-up to mental health services. To learn more about this, click [here](#).

Rep. Scott Stone, R-Mecklenburg, announced last Wednesday that he is scrapping a bill that would have imposed stronger **regulations on assisted living facilities**. House Bill 1071 would have created new notification requirements for adult care homes that increase fees and rates on existing residents. It would also have added new protections for facility residents who are being kicked out as a result of medical issues, safety concerns, failure to pay bills or other issues. Stone held a news conference to say that he would not push the bill this year after meeting with industry representatives, regulators and other stakeholders to discuss the issues that prompted the legislation. He said those stakeholders will continue to meet to improve education about current regulations, and an administrative rule governing resident contracts could be modified by the N.C. Medical Care Commission without the legislature's involvement.

State Treasurer Dale Folwell announced last week that fees have been reduced by up to 30% for the **GoalMaker tool** that helps members of the North Carolina state defined contribution plan prepare for retirement. GoalMaker allows employees who contribute to supplemental retirement plans to choose investments that best fit their retirement needs. The tool is available to members of the NC 401(k) and NC 457 and NC 403(b) supplemental retirement plans. In addition to reducing fees for most members, new enhancements to GoalMaker provide investment options for members after they retire and for early-career employees. Nearly 200,000 North Carolina pension plan members have \$5.2 billion in assets invested through GoalMaker.

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center will be able to continue to bill Medicare as it has, the federal agency that oversees the government insurance program has announced. An official from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services sent a letter to Wake Forest Baptist CEO earlier this month notifying her that the hospital was in compliance with Medicare's rules. The Medical Center had to fix problems with its pathology lab to keep the hospital in Medicare's good graces.

As **county departments of social service prepare to enter into performance agreements** with the State Department of Health and Human Services, some counties are raising questions about the agreement and performance requirements. One set of questions centers around whether all state and federal funding that comes to the county would be taken if performance standards are not met? Some counties are also arguing that NCFAS (North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology) continues to be a factor that will likely cause problems for counties to obtain goals in many program areas. Another issue some counties take issue with is the location for legal proceedings, which is in Wake County. Counties could incur considerable travel costs for proceedings..

Coalition member, the **Dementia Alliance of North Carolina has announced that it is seeking partnerships** where it can provide unique advantages by leveraging its connections and capabilities to contribute the most value. It mobilizes communities to work together to serve and support, leverages numbers as well as geography and collective voices, and uses its capabilities to help jurisdictions and community organizations meet their Dementia-care needs. To learn more, click [here](#).

The NC Medical Care Commission is currently reviewing its rules for and accepting comments on the **rules for the licensing of family care homes**. The comment period runs through July 24. Comments may be submitted directly from this web site link:

<https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/rules/hb74/subchapter.asp?abr=13g>.

The NC Medical Care Commission is also proposing to readopt **rules for nursing home hearings, transfers, and discharges**. A public hearing is scheduled for August 8, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 104, Brown Building, 801 Biggs Drive, Raleigh, NC 27603. The building is located in the Dorothea Dix Park. Ms. Nadine Pfeiffer, DHSR Rule Review Manager, is accepting public comments on these rules and fiscal analysis from June 15, 2018 – August 14, 2018. Comments will also be accepted in person at the public hearing. The proposed effective date of these rules is January 1, 2019. A copy of the proposed rules, fiscal analysis, and instructions for submitting comment can be found at the Division of Health Service Regulation web site at www2.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/ruleactions.html.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services has released a **policy paper with information for health care providers regarding the transition to Medicaid managed care**, expected to launch in 2019. The policy paper "Supporting Provider Transition to Medicaid Managed Care" describes what Medicaid providers should expect during their transition to managed care, including guidance on enrolling and credentialing, contracting with health plans and meeting Advanced Medical Home requirements. Providers must participate in managed care to continue receiving reimbursement for serving Medicaid beneficiaries enrolled in managed care plans.

Guilford County recently applied for the World Health Organization's status of "age-friendly" by joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities helps **participating communities** become great places for all ages by adopting such features as safe, walkable streets, better housing and transportation options, access to key services, and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities. Guilford now joins Buncombe, Mecklenburg, Orange and Wake as counties working on "age-friendly" designation.

According to WBTV in Charlotte, Las Vegas and Charlotte have been named the two finalists to potentially host the **Republican National Convention**.

Legislation which passed this legislative session, SB 768, would remove the phrase "mental retardation" in the state's general statutes and replace it with "intellectual disability," as well as create other **"people first" language** changes as recommended by the General Statutes Commission.

State Treasurer Dale Folwell has announced that the **State Health Plan has reached a Medicare Advantage agreement with UnitedHealthcare** on its plan rates for 2019. The agreement is expected to save the plan about a combined \$55 million in providing coverage for Medicare-eligible retirees. The treasurer's office continues to negotiate with Blue Cross Blue Shield of N.C. on their Medicare Advantage agreement. Folwell credited part of the reason for the cost savings on Congress' decision to reinstate for 2019 a moratorium on the health insurance tax from the federal Affordable Care Act.

Legislative leaders wasted no time in **asking the U.S. Supreme Court to scrap the legislative districts drawn by a court-appointed expert** and instead hold this year's election under the maps approved by the legislature last year. The request, which was filed Tuesday, bases the request on the Supreme Court's decision earlier this week in *Abbott v. Perez*, which upheld Texas' congressional districts against a legal challenge that argued the maps were drawn to suppress minority votes. The filing from legislative Republicans' attorneys argues the Abbott ruling "confirmed that a court's focus in assessing a racial-gerrymandering claim must be on the intent of the legislature that enacted the challenged plan, not the intent of the legislature that enacted the plan that it replaced."

The U.S. Supreme Court also sidestepped making a landmark ruling last week about when **gerrymandering for partisan gain** goes too far. Some legal analysts are now speculating that North Carolina could have the next case to test that question. The justices issued long-awaited rulings in Wisconsin and Maryland cases that could have had a profound impact on legislative redistricting in the states and reshape American politics. Instead, the justices sent both cases back to lower courts for further proceedings. That means the next case in the queue for the Supreme Court is the North Carolina lawsuit questioning whether the Republican-controlled General Assembly went too far in 2016 when it redrew the state's 13 congressional districts in response to a court order. A panel of federal judges ruled in January that North Carolina's congressional districts were unconstitutional partisan gerrymanders, and an appeal awaits action by the Supreme Court.

The Trump administration has revealed in a recent legal brief that the **Justice Department no longer plans to defend the portion of the Obama-era Affordable Care Act related to pre-existing conditions**. A bipartisan group of governors is speaking out against this decision that could narrow access to health insurance benefits for those with pre-existing conditions. Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican, and Democratic Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and the governors of Alaska, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Montana, Washington, Maryland as well as Gov. Roy Cooper from our state issued a joint statement on this. They said the administration's move would hurt families in their states, add uncertainty to insurance markets and go against American values.

The U.S. House and Senate have passed the **Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (S. 1091)** which is expected to help 2.6 million children being raised by grandparents or another family member — a figure expected to keep growing along with the national opioid epidemic. The legislation will create a one-stop-shop of resources to support grandparents raising grandchildren.

By a vote of 48-50, the **U.S. Senate voted down a measure** in mid-June that would have **recouped \$15 billion in spending previously approved by Congress**. This vote was on a proposal by the Trump administration to rescind funding as a show of fiscal responsibility to address the concerns of conservative lawmakers who were outraged over the \$1.3 trillion spending bill approved in March. Sen. Richard Burr from our state was one of two Republican Senators to oppose the vote. Burr's office said he was concerned about \$16 million in cuts targeting Land and Water Conservation projects under the U.S. Forest Service.

On June 21, the **U.S. House passed the Farm Bill** by a vote of 213-211 after failing to pass the bill last month. The Bill contains the controversial work requirements for food stamp recipients that have been reported on in previous *Updates*.

The Jewish Federations of North America's Center for Advancing **Holocaust Survivor Care** is seeking local applications to expand Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed services for Holocaust Survivors throughout the United States. The application can be found at holocaustsurvivorcare.org. Intent to apply is due July 16, 2018 and applications are due August 27, 2018.

Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage health plans appear to have lower overall risks for health problems, as measured by differences in the use of prescription medications, than people enrolled in traditional Medicare, according to a recent AHRQ study. The findings may indicate that Medicare Advantage plans attract healthier patients, authors suggested. The article, in *Health Services Research*, analyzed drug use patterns for Medicare beneficiaries to determine health risk. It found that beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans in 2015 had 6.9 percent lower health risk than beneficiaries in traditional Medicare. Access the [abstract](#).

The **I&A Support Center is hosting** a Certification for I&R Specialist in Aging and Disabilities (CIRS-A/D) training, an Alliance for Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) certification exam, and train-the-trainer sessions at the National Home and Community-Based Services Conference in Baltimore, MD on August 28 and 29. To find out more and to register for the trainings, contact Nanette Relave (nrelave@nasuad.org).

June 22 marked the **nineteen anniversary** of the Supreme Court **ruling in *Olmstead v L.C.*** that declared that people with disabilities cannot be unnecessarily segregated into institutions (like nursing homes and other facilities) and must receive services in the most integrated setting possible. The *Olmstead* decision opened the door to innovations and programs that make services and supports more available, allowing people to live the lives they choose, in the communities they choose, with family and friends.

New Medicare cards may have a square code, also referred to as a **QR code** (a type of machine-readable code). The QR codes on Medicare cards allow the contractor who prints the cards to ensure the right card goes to the right person with Medicare or Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) benefits. Providers cannot use it for any other purpose. The RRB issued cards may have a QR code on the front of the card while all other Medicare patients may get a new card with a QR code on the back of the cards. These are legitimate (official) Medicare cards.

A California appeals court has reinstated the state's **medical aid in dying law** that a county judge overturned last month. The Fourth District Court of Appeal's ruling on Friday allows the controversial law to stay in effect while litigation is ongoing. The law, called the End of Life Option Act, gives patients with less than six months to live the option to request access to lethal medications from their doctors.

The **Administration for Community Living (ACL)** has announced two **funding opportunities**:

- 1) Promoting Aging in Place by Enhancing Access to Home Modifications. Proposals are due August 13. One agreement will be awarded for \$250,000. [View the full funding announcement on grants.gov](#)
- 2) Strengthening the Financial Literacy and Preparedness of Family Caregivers. Proposals are due August 10. One agreement will be awarded for \$250,000. [View the full funding announcement on grants.gov](#)

In addition, the **Administration for Community Living previously announced the Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative (ADPI)** funding opportunity. This funding will support and promote the development and expansion of dementia-capable home and community-based service (HCBS) systems in both states and communities. There are two application options contained in the single funding opportunity. The first is Option A, grants to states. The second is Option B, grants to communities. The dementia-capable systems resulting from program activities under either option are expected to provide quality, person-centered services and supports that help individuals remain independent and safe in their communities. All successful applicants will have significant direct service components, include implementation of evidence-based or evidence informed interventions, and robust evaluations. ACL has \$20,400,542 available for cooperative agreements under the ADPI. There will be approximately twenty-two cooperative agreements to state and community entities for 36-month project periods. Applications for this funding opportunity are due on **July 16, 2018**. For more information about this opportunity, go to <https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/oppHHS-2018-ACL-AOA-ADPI-0307-cfda93.470-cidHHS-2018-ACL-AOA-ADPI-0307-instructions.pdf>.

The National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) has partnered with the National Council on Aging (NCOA) to create a **Fall Prevention Conversation Guide for Caregivers**. The Guide highlights fall risk factors and ways that caregivers can work with loved ones to develop a falls prevention action plan. This resource provides a guide for starting conversations about falls with loved ones. It also outlines specific falls prevention action steps and highlights additional resources which may be helpful. [Click here](#) to read more.

Federal authorities announced on June 11 a significant coordinated **effort to disrupt Business Email Compromise (BEC) schemes** that are designed to intercept and hijack wire transfers from businesses and individuals, including many senior citizens. Operation Wire Wire, a coordinated law enforcement effort by the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, was conducted over a six month period, culminating in over two weeks of intensified law enforcement activity resulting in 74 arrests in the United States and overseas, including 29 in Nigeria, and three in Canada, Mauritius and Poland. The operation also resulted in the seizure of nearly \$2.4 million, and the disruption and recovery of approximately \$14 million in fraudulent wire transfers.

The National Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services recently issued a final report from the first **National Research Summit on Care, Services, and Supports for**

Persons with Dementia and Their Caregivers. The Summit, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and private sector organizations, was held October 16-17, 2017, at the National Institutes of Health, to develop national recommendations for research priorities on care and services for persons with dementia and their families.

About 1 in 3 people will develop shingles, a disease that causes a painful skin rash. Although there is no cure, shingles can be prevented and treated. The National Institute on Aging has an [infographic](#) on 5 facts about shingles.

The **American Society on Aging is accepting proposals** for presentations at the next Aging in America Conference. The 2019 conference, to be held in New Orleans **April 15-18**, will have a strong focus on critical and emergent topics facing the field of aging, as well as cutting-edge and responsive programmatic, research, policy, and advocacy efforts. [Click here](#) to learn more about to call for proposals and [Click here](#) to learn more about the conference.

According to a recent report from UsAgainstAlzheimer's and the USC Roybal Institute on Aging, 1 in 6 **millennial caregivers**—at an average age of 27—is caring for someone living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia.

At the May Coalition on Aging meeting, we heard about the new report published by the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger (NFESH) and Feeding America which analyzes data on **food insecurity among older adults ages 60 and over**. This data, pulled from the most recent year available, 2016, illustrates that while the food-insecurity rate for this population has recently declined, it is still significantly higher than rates from the Great Recession a decade ago. North Carolina did not “show up well” in this report and in July we plan to contact the Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services to express our concern and to ask for action to address this problem. [Click here](#) to read the report.

The National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) surveyed senior centers, in partnership with the Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) to gather **promising practices related to animals and the health of older adults in senior centers**. The information gathered was shared in a recent NISC webinar. This webinar broke down the results of the survey on pet policies in senior centers, which took place in the fall of 2017. Ways to include pets and pet therapy programs in centers were highlighted. To learn more about pet policies and best practices, please **read the report** that was released which summarizes the findings and offers examples to many situations that centers may encounter.

People in the News

Former North Congressman Bill Hendon, who represented North Carolina's 11th Congressional District, has died at the age of 73 in Forest City after a long illness. He served two separate terms in Congress, from 1981 through 1983, and from 1985 through 1987.

Former NC Senator Jim Phillips Sr. passed away May 25 at the age of 86. He worked as an aide to former U.S. Rep. Steve Neal, a Democrat from Winston-Salem and in 1996, he successfully ran for NC Senate District 23, which served Davidson, Iredell and Rowan counties. He won as a Democrat in a heavily conservative region. He was re-elected in 1998.

Christen Linke Young who has served as Deputy Secretary for Policy and Operations for the NC Department of Health and Human Services is leaving this position to return to Washington, D.C. Her duties will be taken over by **Susan Perry-Manning** who has been Deputy Secretary for Human Services in the Department.

UNC Health Care CEO and UNC School of Medicine Dean **Dr. William Roper** has announced he will step down in May of 2019.

Samuel Gunter, Director of Policy and Advocacy with the NC Housing Coalition, will become the Coalition's Interim Executive Director effective July 1. Satana Deberry, the current Executive Director, will be leaving the organization to begin her new role as Durham's District Attorney.

Suzanne Black, Associate State Director for the Coastal Region for AARP NC, assumes the position of President of the NC Association on Aging effective July 1.

The NC Division of Aging and Adult Services has recently announced the addition of several new staff members. **Lisa Worth** is the new Housing Program Consultant, **Jessalyn Bridges** who most recently worked for Senior Services in Winston-Salem has taken the No Wrong Door/NC 2-1-1 Coordinator position, **Renea Kea** is a new Long Term Care Ombudsman, **Melinda Charles** is the Senior Community Service Employment Program (Title V) Coordinator, and **Lisa Lewis** is the new Business Services Coordinator. In addition, **Rebecca Freeman** has changed positions – moving from working with senior centers to the health promotion program position.

Suzanne Martin, has been named the Interim Director for the NC Oral Health Collaborative (a program of the Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation). She has been the Director of Outreach and Engagement for the Collaborative. Zulayka Santiago was the previous Director of the program.

Vivien Green, Executive Director of the Dementia Alliance of North Carolina (formerly Alzheimer's North Carolina), will be leaving the organization effective July 29.

To recognize their integral work to support family caregivers in North Carolina last year, AARP NC has named **Governor Roy Cooper, State Senators Warren Daniel and Paul Newton and State Representatives John Szoka, Gale Adcock, Beverly G. Boswell, Donna McDowell White** as "Capitol Caregivers." They join a group of over 100 Capitol Caregivers from 30 states. These leaders advanced policies in 2017 to support family caregivers who help their parents, spouses and other loved ones live independently at home and in the community.

Helen Savage had been selected by AARP NC to fill a new top volunteer position as their Fraud Prevention Impact Leader. In this position, she will work with AARP NC Executive Council members

and other volunteers to develop and implement a statewide fraud prevention plan and extend AARP Fraud Watch Network programs and advocacy across the state. Helen was a long time AARP NC employee before retiring several years ago and while there was, among many other things, the lead on consumer protection and fraud issues.

Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy announced Wednesday that he is retiring the end of July. The 81-year-old Kennedy was often the voice of moderation over three decades on the Court. He provided the key vote on such closely divided issues as affirmative action, guns, campaign finance, voting rights, same-sex marriage, and the right to abortion. His retirement will give President Trump the opportunity to cement conservative control of the Court.

President Trump has picked North Carolinian **Robert Wilkie** to be Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. If the Senate confirms him to the position, he would lead the second-largest agency in the U.S. government. Wilkie worked as Vice President for Strategic Initiatives at CH2M Hill, an engineering consulting firm in Washington, from 2010 to 2015. He was the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs during President George W. Bush's second term. He is a Capitol Hill veteran, having worked for then-Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott from 1997 to 2003. He was Executive Director of the North Carolina Republican Party before going to work for Lott. Wilkie also served as an aide to Jesse Helms, the late North Carolina senator, and former U.S. Rep. David Funderburk. He unsuccessfully ran for the Republican nomination in the 7th Congressional District in 1996.

Upcoming Meetings/Events Through September and Meetings/Events New to the Calendar

July 13, 2018 – Lifespan Respite Advisory Team Meeting, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Brown Building on Dix Campus in Raleigh

July 16-17, 2018 - Healthy Aging Summit - at Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.

July 23, 2018 - 2018 Durham VA Health Care System and Community Mental Health Summit - (focus on preventing veteran suicide), 8:00 am - 4:30 pm at Durham County Department of Public Health

July 25, 2018 – Conversation with Friends of Residents in Long Term Care, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Centralina Area Agency on Aging located at 9815 David Taylor Drive, Charlotte, NC

July 26, 2018 – Conversation with Friends of Residents in Long Term Care, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Land-of-Sky Area Agency on Aging located at 339 New Leicester Hwy # 140 in Asheville, NC

August 7, 2018 - Caregiver Summit - at The William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education (100 Friday Center Dr.) in Chapel Hill from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Info. & Registration [Click Here](#).

August 24, 2018 – NC Coalition on Aging Monthly Meeting – Brown Building on Dix campus (801 Biggs Drive) at 10:00 a.m.

August 27-30, 2018 - National Home and Community Based Services Conference - at Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore, Maryland

September 10-12, 2018 - The Carolinas Center 42nd Annual Hospice and Palliative Care Conference "How We Strengthen the Tools in Our Toolbox" - at Hilton Charlotte University Place in Charlotte

September 12-14, 2018 - 2018 NC Nonprofits Conference - at Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Research Triangle Park, NC - Information at: www.conference.ncnonprofits.org

September 21, 2018 - High Country Care Transitions Summit at Grandfather Golf and Country Club, Linville, NC. To register click [here](#).

September 28, 2018 – NC Coalition on Aging Annual Meeting – NC State University Club (4200 Hillsborough St.) in Raleigh at 11:30 a.m.

October 2, 2018 - Caregiver Summit - at Campbell University at Leon Levine Hall of Medical Sciences in Lillington from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Info. & Registration [Click Here](#).

October 20, 2018 – Triangle Festival of Hope/26th Annual Walk – Sponsored by Dementia Alliance of North Carolina – 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Knightdale Station Park, Knightdale, NC

October 24-25, 2018 – NC Affordable Housing Conference – Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh. For information click [here](#).

October 30, 2018 - Caregiver Summit - at McKimmon Center in Raleigh from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Info. & Registration [Click Here](#).

November 7, 2018 – Chatham County Senior Education Conference – Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Additional Future Items Not Previously Added to the [Calendar](#) are on the Coalition's Website.

Articles/News Stories/Resources

- HealthCareDive: [More Medicare Patients Dying at Home, JAMA Study Finds](#)
- ABC News: [Trump pick to head VA: Time to 'shake up' Department](#)
- New York Times: [G.E. to Spin Off Health Care Division as Part of Major Reshaping](#)
- New York Times: [Is It Getting Harder to Care for Poor Patients?](#) (social determinants of health)

- CNN: [The health care industry needs workers. So it's turning to former factory and retail workers](#)
- New York Times: [Why Competition Won't Bring Down Drug Prices](#)
- Politico: [Trump's new health insurance rules expected to hurt Obamacare](#)
- New York Times: [A Common Virus May Play Role in Alzheimer's Disease, Study Finds](#)
- Washington Post: [The Health 202: Some of Obamacare's loudest critics are now defending the law in court](#)
- Washington Post: [Broad health-care coalition opposes administration stance in anti-ACA lawsuit](#)
- Politico: [Reversal of fortune: Obamacare rate hikes pose headache for Republicans](#)
- New York Times: [When a Health Insurer Also Wants to Be a Hospice Company](#)
- Washington Post: [How a flood of corporate funding can distort NIH research](#)
- Washington Post: [Trump's GOP is looking to deeply cut food stamps — hitting his voters hard](#)
- Wall Street Journal: [Are Medicaid Work Requirements a Good Idea?](#)
- New York Times: [Suicides Have Increased. Is This an Existential Crisis?](#)
- New York Times: [Common Drugs May Be Contributing to Depression](#)
- Washington Post: [The Health 202: Democrats sharpen attacks on Trump administration on drug prices and preexisting conditions](#)
- CNN Money: [As Medicaid costs soar, these states are trying a new approach](#)
- Kaiser Health News: [Medicare Takes Aim At Boomerang Hospitalizations Of Nursing Home Patients](#)
- PBS News Hour: [In rural America, tightened access to Medicaid means tough choices](#)
- The Hill: [CMS releases guidance to states on using Medicaid to address opioid crisis](#)
- Washington Post: [The Health 202: Three reasons Obamacare might not get another big SCOTUS moment](#)
- New York Times: [Is Health Care Really a Winner for Democrats?](#)
- Modern Healthcare: [CMS unveils scorecard for Medicaid programs](#)
- Bloomberg: [Prescription drug prices drive many to black market for medicines](#)
- NBC News: [Mental health services: How to get treatment if you can't afford it](#)
- Vox: [4 states could expand Medicaid this year. That's a big deal.](#)
- NPR: [VA's Caregiver Program Still Dropping Veterans With Disabilities](#)
- Washington Post: [Homes with Multigenerational Family Members Are a Growing Trend](#)
- New York Times: [How to Age Well and Stay in Your Home](#)
- AP News: [Concerned About Elder Abuse, States Loan Out Free Secret Cameras](#)
- Health Affairs: [Meal Delivery Programs Reduce the Use of Costly Health Care in Dually Eligible Medicare and Medicaid Beneficiaries](#)
- Henry J. Kiser Family Foundation: [Medicaid Spending by Enrollment Group](#)
- Pacific Standard: [America Is Not Ready for Disability Disaster Response in the Coming Hurricane Season](#)
- Washington Post: [The American Medical Association has long opposed assisted suicide. Is that about to change?](#)

North Carolina Related

- News & Observer: [You can say no to Duke Energy's wireless meter. But you'll need a doctor's note](#)
- Salisbury Post: Op-ed: Donna Fayko: [Elder abuse reports on the rise as awareness increases](#)
- Charlotte Observer: LTE: [NC legislators should take better care of our elderly](#)
- Progressive Pulse: [Federal tax plan and ongoing federal budget debates make N.C.'s future uncertain](#)
- Triad Business Journal: [Staying alive: Rural hospitals eye larger health systems, strategic partnerships](#)
- Winston-Salem Journal: [Forsyth County commissioners vote to consolidate DSS and public health departments](#)
- Tryon Daily Bulletin: [New director takes the helm of Polk senior services](#)
- NC Capitol Connection: [DHHS Paying Out \\$1.5M in Grants to Combat Opioid Abuse](#)
- WRAL: [Sweltering temps dangerous for people and pets](#)
- News & Observer: [To ID or Not to ID: The Question NC Voters May Have to Answer \(Sunday forum\)](#)
- News & Observer: [The New Voter Photo ID Bill Is Vague and Leaves Lots of Questions \(commentary\)](#)
- Winston-Salem Journal: [Salem town retirement community plans high-end apartments](#)
- Salisbury Post: [Hefner VA Medical Center has one-star rating in nursing home care; director says improvements already underway](#)
- The Hill: [House GOP 2019 budget calls for deep Medicare, Medicaid spending cuts](#)
- News & Observer: [Senators say no to a study of expanding Medicaid in North Carolina](#)
- WUNC: [Tillis Talks Health Care Policy And Experience With Depression](#)
- News & Observer: [North Hills retirement center planning 15-story tower, says more assisted living needed](#)
- Appalachian Today: [Appalachian offers updated and renamed graduate certificate in aging, health and society](#)
- WTVD: [1 in 14: The startling truth about elder abuse](#)
- Charlotte Observer/WBTV: [Her mom's assisted living bills cost thousands. They 'didn't even give you sheets'](#)
- The Wilson Times: [State offers free fans for elderly, disabled residents](#)
- WNCN: [Hidden camera captures employees abusing patient at Raleigh nursing home](#)
- Wilson Times: [Deputies: Hospice aide stole from elderly couple](#)
- Carolina Journal: [Insurance mandate was never wise](#)
- News & Observer: [Another powerful reason to close the Medicaid coverage gap](#)
- The Robesonian: [Op-ed: Close Medicaid gap to fight opioids](#)
- WRAL: [Hefty Medicare fines levied against nursing home chain accused of patient abuse](#)
- The Urban News: [Operation Fan Heat Relief](#)
- Carolina Journal: [Remote corners of N.C. face dental-care shortage; lawmakers take note](#)

- Winston-Salem Journal: [Virginia Medicaid expansion boosts credit ratings for healthcare systems](#)
- WECT: [Suicide in the spotlight: One person dies every six hours in our state](#)
- The Mountaineer: [Hospice experience shakes up family](#)
- Asheboro Courier-Tribune: [DSS: How to prevent elder abuse](#)
- OPEN MINDS: [Leveraging Medicaid To Address The Housing Issue](#)
- WNCN: [North Carolinians describe guardianship as a 'sick, twisted process'](#)
- WWAY: [Senior resource center to hold health fair, listening session and more](#)
- WBTV: [Gastonia neighbors aim to 'end stigma' about mental health](#)
- Winston-Salem Journal: [Our view: Improve medical care for rural residents](#)
- Carolina Journal: [Bridging the state's health-care divide](#)
- Durham Herald-Sun: [Opinion: Bill Roper without equal in contributions to health care in North Carolina\)](#)
- Triangle Business Journal: [Why BCBSNC is investing \\$1.2M in UNC's School of Medicine](#)
- WUNC: [Closing The Racial Gap In Healthcare: Meet Dr. Kimberly Johnson](#)
- WECT: [Assisted living facility doesn't want you to forget about this flock](#)
- Patch.com: [What's The Worst Thing About Living In North Carolina?](#) (food insecurity)
- WITN: [ECU to establish School of Rural Public Health](#)
- Salisbury Post: [Long-term care residents take in a 'Sand and Sea' adventure](#)
- Triangle Business Journal: [Ahead of opening, hiring binge continues at Raleigh senior living community](#)
- Hickory Daily Record: [City of Hickory received \\$50,000 grant to help with home repairs](#)
- New Bern Sun Journal: [Touched: My grandmother's long descent into schizophrenia](#)
- Carolina Journal: [Blue Cross, Blue Shield of N.C. removes Stokes hospital from its network](#)
- Wilmington StarNews: [Health services are among the region's major employers](#)
- Greensboro News & Record: [Don Flow: Closing N.C.'s health coverage gap is good for businesses and communities](#)
- News & Observer: [Millennials in, Boomers out? Lawsuit against IBM claims age discrimination in hiring](#)
- News & Observer: [This Raleigh Nurse Has Written a Handbook for Caregivers](#)
- WRAL: [What is a Death Cafe?](#)

NC Health News Stories:

- [Access to Guns Debated for People with Dementia in North Carolina](#)
- [Advocates for Medicaid Expansion Continue to Press for Legislative Actioning Days](#)
- [Legislative Health Care Round Up](#)
- [LGBTQ Senior's Wariness Can Affect Access to Health Care](#)
- [Wake Forest Baptist Still Reviewing Thousands of Pathology Cases](#)
- [Legislators Get Help Understanding Health Policy from Colleagues Across the Aisle](#)

- Legislature Moves to Reduce Psychiatric Boarding in Hospital Emergency Rooms
- More African-American Blood Donors Needed for Sickle-cell, Other Treatments
- Across NC, Professionals Treat Hoarding as a Distinct, Potentially Deadly Disorder
- State Funding Lags as NC Seniors Face Threat of Hunger
- Raising the Profile of Better Oral Health
- N.C. Organizations Worry, Hope as Feds Rewrite Association Health Plan Rules

NPR Aging Series:

- Researchers Find Herpes Viruses In Brains Marked By Alzheimer's Disease
- Does Vitamin D Really Protect Against Colorectal Cancer?
- Medicare Takes Aim At Boomerang Hospitalizations Of Nursing Home Patients
- Get Screened Earlier For Colorectal Cancer, Urges American Cancer Society
- To Lower Your Medicare Drug Costs, Ask Your Pharmacist For The Cash Price
- One Woman Helps Others Make Sure End-Of-Life Planning Is 'Good To Go'

Dates for 2018 Coalition Meetings: Mark your calendar for all the Coalition's meetings for the rest of the year. The schedule is as follows:

August 24
September 28 (annual meeting at NC State University Club)
October 26
December 7

Meetings are held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in room 104 of the Brown Building on the Dix Campus (801 Biggs Drive) unless notified otherwise. For those who can not attend in person but can call in, the call in number is [1-866-215-3402](tel:1-866-215-3402) and the passcode is 5080266#.

Membership Registration and Renewal: Coalition on Aging membership registration/renewal can be done in one of two ways.

Option 1: Go to <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/membership.aspx>. And print off a membership registration/renewal form which can be completed and returned along with dues payment (payable to the NC Coalition on Aging) to the address noted on the form.

Option 2: Complete the registration and payment process (PayPal) on-line. Contributions in addition to dues can also be paid in this way.

The Coalition has a hardship provision for those who wish to join the Coalition but are unable to pay the full dues amount. To apply for this hardship provision, please contact Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at mmbethel72@gmail.com.

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 its 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/>.