



COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

**NC Coalition on Aging
May Update – May 20, 2019**

House Approves Budget Proposal; Senate Plan Expected Soon: The House approved its \$23.9 billion budget proposal ([HB 966 – 2019 Appropriations Act](#)) on May 3 and sent it on to the Senate which is expected to release its own budget plan soon. Senate approval of their plan is expected before the end of May. A conference committee of House and Senate members will be charged with ironing out the differences in the two documents, hopefully in time for final approval of the budget before the current fiscal years ends June 30. As reported earlier, the Coalition is pleased that the House is proposing to increase funding for the Home and Community Care Block Grant by almost \$4.47 million dollars and to direct \$893,041 in Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) funds to increase the number of adult protective service workers in county departments of social services. Both of these are priority issues for the Coalition on Aging, and we will need to continue to be vigilant in advocating for this funding in the Senate budget as well as when the conference committee begins its deliberations. The chart below, which is an updated version of what was distributed previously, provides details (from the [“money report”](#) for HB 966) about these appropriations as well as funding approved for additional aging related programs. In the listing, “R” notes recurring funding and “NR” notes non-recurring funding. Information is also provided on several special provisions in the budget of interest.

	<u>SFY 2019-20</u>	<u>SFY 2020-21</u>
Home and Community Care Block Grant Expansion (Fund Code 1370)	\$ 65,539 R 100,000 NR	\$ 65,539 R 100,000 NR
Net Appropriation	\$ 165,539	\$ 165,539
Home and Community Care Block Grant Expansion (Fund Code 1451) (The Block Grant provides services to support older adults and their unpaid primary caregivers. This total Block Grant increase is expected to serve an estimated additional 2000 individuals)	\$ 904,010 R 3,400,000 NR	\$3,404,010 R 900,000 NR
Net Appropriation	\$4,304,010	\$4,304,010

Adult Protective Services

(Provides additional Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds in the amount of \$893,041 each year of the biennium to increase the number of Adult Protective Services workers in local county departments of social services. Federal funds are being directed for this)

NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature \$ 12,000 R \$ 12,000 R

Veterans Health Care Pilot Program

(Provides funds to develop and implement a two-year pilot program in Cumberland County to provide health care and job training services to veterans)

\$ 400,000 NR \$ 350,000 NR

Food and Nutrition Services Outreach (FNS) for Medicaid/Medicare Dual Eligibles

(Continues a pilot project established in 2016 to increase FNS benefits to dual eligible individuals)

\$ 420,000 R \$ 420,000 R

Special Assistance Personal Needs Allowance

(Increases the personal needs allowance for adult care home residents from \$46 to \$70 a month effective October 1, 2019)

\$2,250,000 R \$3,000,000 R

Medicaid Enrollment Increase

(Provides funds for the projected Medicaid enrollment growth resulting from the \$24 increase in the personal needs allowance for adult care home residents)

\$ 750,000 R \$ 750,000 R

Temporary Assistance for Facilities that Serve Special Assistance Recipients (adult care homes)

(The total requirement is \$6.6 million, with a 50% match provided by counties)

\$3,300,000 NR \$3,300,000 NR

Special Assistance Caseload Reduction

(Reduces funding for Special Assistance due to reductions in Special Assistance caseload)

(\$3,000,000) R (\$3,000,000) R

Electronic Visit Verification System

(Supports the Verification system to confirm visits with Medicaid beneficiaries receiving Personal Care Services or other home and community based care, as required by federal law)

\$ 750,000 R \$1,500,000 R
\$ 650,000 NR

Net Appropriation \$1,400,000 \$1,500,000

Increase in Medicaid Copayments	(\$3,500,000)	(\$5,000,000)
(Increases copayments for Medicaid beneficiaries to \$4 effective November 1, 2019, and adjusts Medicaid payments to providers to account for the \$1-2 increase in the copayments)		
National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society- Home Modification Program	\$ 300,000 NR	\$ 300,000 NR
(Provides funds to the National MS Society to provide home modifications services and home modification assistance grants to help individuals with MS remain in their homes)		
North Carolina Senior Games		
(A special provision in the HHS budget species that of the competitive grant funds available to the Dept. of Health and Human Services, \$232,757 in each year of the 2019-2012 fiscal biennium is allocated to Senior Games)		
NC Housing Trust Fund		
(No additional funding was appropriated for this. Funding remains at \$7.66 million)		
Community Living Housing Funds		
(Transfers \$7,295,643 in non- recurring funds in FY 19-20 from the Dept. of Health and Human Services' Transitions to Community Living Fund to the NC Housing Finance Agency to be used to increase access to permanent, community-based integrated housing for individuals with disabilities in support of the Olmstead Settlement)		
Long-Term Care Facility at Central Prison	-0-	\$3,500,000 R
(Provides 35 medical and custody positions to operate a long term care facility at Central Prison. This 16-bed facility will free up medical beds within Central Prison Medical Health Center and provide appropriate long-term medical needs of inmates)		
NC 2-1-1	\$ 250,000 R	\$ 250,000 R
(Provides funds for the United Way of North Carolina to support operations of the NC 2-1-1 program. This program operates a hotline that connects emergency/disaster survivors with needed resources, including Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs, State-operated support programs, and other forms of aid)		

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for State and Teacher Retirees

(There are no proposed COLA or bonus funds for state and teacher retirees for FY 2019-2020. There is a 1.0% one-time cost-of-living supplement to retirees in FY 2020-2021)

Medicaid Expansion

(No funding was included in the budget for expansion)

Additional special provisions in the budget of special interest are the following:

DISABLED ADULT CHILD PASSALONG ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 9D.12. Effective January 1, 2020, the eligibility requirements for the Disabled Adult Child Passalong authorized under Section 1634 of the Social Security Act for the Medicaid program shall consist of only the following four requirements:

- 1) The adult is currently entitled to and receives federal Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits as a disabled adult child on a parent's record due to the retirement, death, or disability of a parent.
- (2) The adult is blind or has a disability that began before age 22.
- (3) The adult would currently be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State-County Special Assistance if the current RSDI benefit is disregarded.
- (4) For eligibility that is based on former receipt of State-County Special Assistance and not SSI, the adult must currently reside in an adult care home.

MORATORIUM ON SPECIAL CARE UNIT LICENSES

SECTION 9E.2.(a) For the period beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Service Regulation, shall not issue any licenses for special care units as defined in G.S. 131D-4.6 and G.S. 131E-114. There are some exceptions to this moratorium which are spelled out in the provision that is found on page 148 of the House budget proposal.

SECTION 9E.2.(b) The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division by March 1, 2021, containing information which is specified in the provision.

AMEND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR QUALIFIED VETERANS ELIGIBLE TO BE BURIED IN STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES

SECTION 32.2. G.S. 65-43 is rewritten to delete the requirement that a veteran has to be a resident of North Carolina for 10 years to be buried in a cemetery. The requirements, with this deletion, now would be that the veteran is a legal resident of North Carolina at the time of death or at the time he or she entered the Armed Forces of the United States.

ESTABLISH NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS CEMETERY TRUST FUND

SECTION 32.3. Article 8A of Chapter 65 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

"§ 65-45. North Carolina Veterans Cemeteries Trust Fund.

(a) Establishment and Source of Funds. – There is established the North Carolina Veterans Cemeteries Trust Fund, a special fund within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

The Fund shall be maintained as a special fund and shall be administered by the Department to carry out the provisions of this section. Interest accruing from the monies in the Fund shall be credited to the Fund. The Fund shall consist of the following sources of funding:

(1) Ten percent (10%) of the total receipts collected for cemetery burials and received by the Department each fiscal year. The Department shall transfer the receipts to the Fund periodically, but no later than the end of each fiscal 9 year.

(2) All interest and investment earnings received on monies in the Fund.

(3) Any other funds, as directed by the General Assembly.

(b) Use of Fund. – The funds in the Fund shall be allowed to accumulate until they have generated sufficient interest earnings to maintain the State's veterans' cemeteries once they have reached full capacity. The interest earnings in the Fund shall be used to maintain existing veterans' cemeteries once they have reached full capacity, but the principal shall not be spent. The interest earnings in the Fund shall not be used to open new veterans' cemeteries. The Veterans Affairs Commission shall have sole authority to approve the use of the Fund for the purposes authorized in this subsection, and they shall, in exercising that authority, act without direction from or supervision of the Secretary.

Bill to Establish Task Force on Aging Stalls: It does not appear that [HB 715, Establish Task Force on Aging](#), will move forward this legislative session as it did not meet the crossover deadline established by the General Assembly. The bill was heard in the House Committee on Homelessness, Foster Care, and Dependency on April 30 and was passed without objection (it was re-referred there from the House Committee on Aging). It was then referred to the House Rules Committee. Despite the significant efforts of bill sponsor, Rep. Donna White (R-Johnston), and several members of the Coalition's Board and Coalition staff, we were not successful in getting the Rules Committee to take up the bill before the House concluded business on May 7, two days before the announced crossover deadline of May 9. The Coalition greatly appreciates Rep. White introducing the bill and pushing for its passage, and we will continue to advocate for the establishment of a task force, study committee, or some similar type entity to address issues important to older adults and their families.

Revenue Surplus: Much of the surge in North Carolina income tax collections this spring can not be counted on to repeat in 2020 and 2021, state government economists said on May 14. That could limit options on further spending or tax breaks in the upcoming two-year budget. An updated examination of April tax collections by legislative staff and Gov. Roy Cooper's budget office forecasts a \$643 million surplus for the year ending June 30, according to separate memos from the executive and legislative branches. That's 2.7% above what was anticipated last summer when the current-year state budget was finalized. The figure is slightly below the \$700 million the legislature's top economist, Barry Boardman, said earlier this month was possible when all April collections were examined. But it still marks the largest state government surplus since the Great Recession, and a surplus for the fifth consecutive year. In February, state economists projected a \$151 million surplus this year, but it grew because individual income tax payments in April were 46% higher compared to last year. (Gary D. Robertson, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 5/14/19)

Status on Some of the Bills Being Tracked This Legislative Session Following the Crossover Deadline

HB 291 – Extend Social Services Work Group and Extend Child Council: The bill authorizes the continuation of the work of the Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group and makes changes to the membership, reporting, and termination dates for the Child Well-Being Transformation Council. The bill passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

HB 325/SB302 – Update Service and Care Plan Requirements/Adult Care Home Residents:

These bills would authorize adult care homes to use service plans completed as a result of a Medicaid personal care services assessment to fulfill the activities of daily living portion of the required service plans or care plans for adult care home residents. HB 325 also modifies and adds to GS 90-288.14 requirements for certification as an assisted living administrator. Adds the requirement of not having a substantiated finding of neglect, abuse, misappropriation of property, diversion of drugs, or fraud listed on the Health Care Personnel Registry under GS 131E-256. Requires the applicant to have a high school diploma and to have either successfully completed the equivalent of two years of coursework at an accredited college or university or to have a minimum of 60 months of supervisory experience, or a combination of education and experience approved by DHHS (previously, did not specifically require a high school diploma and did not specify supervisory experience as an alternative for required coursework). Sets parameters for acceptable supervisory experience to mean having full-time, direct management responsibility, including some responsibility for hiring and firing, over the equivalent of at least two full-time employees with direct resident care responsibilities. Requires the supervisory experience to have been in a licensed adult care home or licensed nursing home within the seven years preceding the date of application. HB 325 passed the House and was sent to the Senate Rules Committee and SB 302 passed the Senate and was sent to the House Rules Committee.

HB 410 – Require Generators in Nursing Homes and Adult Care Homes: This bill was amended from what was originally introduced to create the House Select Committee on Emergency Electrical Service for Nursing & Adult Care Homes. The Committee is to study the feasibility of requiring all nursing homes, combination homes, and adult care homes, to provide emergency electrical service for use in the event of failure of the normal electrical service. The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services no later than March 1, 2020. The bill passed the House and is in the Senate Rules Committee.

HB 480 – NC Cancer Treatments Fairness: This bill would require insurers to cover oral chemotherapy drugs in the same manner as intravenous chemotherapy. It is intended to give cancer patients more options as some insurers currently make it more expensive to get oral cancer drugs, which often can be taken at home without needle injections. The bill passed the House and now goes to the Senate, where similar measures have not advanced in previous years. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 5/07/19)

HR 550 – Urge Congressional Support of VA Mission Act: This resolution which was passed by the House on May 2 without objection urges Congress to ensure full implementation of the VA Mission Act of 2018.

HB 604 – Small Business Retirement Program: The bill creates the joint Legislative Study Committee on small business retirement options. The Committee is to report its findings and recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Fiscal Research Division no later than March 31, 2020. The bill passed the House and was referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

HB 619 – Rethink Guardianship: Establishes a Rethink Guardianship workgroup to study the laws governing guardianship in the State, including proposed legislative changes and reforms to Chapter 35A of the General Statutes. The Workgroup shall provide findings and recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2020. The bill passed the House and is in the Senate Rules Committee.

House Bill 678 - Amend Counselor/Substance Abuse/Social Worker Professional Acts: This bill would amend the Licensed Professional Counselors Act, updates and revises the Substance Abuse Professional Practice Act, and amends the Social Work Certification and Licensure Act. Three bills were combined into this one bill as all were licensing board bills and supported by various organizations. The bill passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

HB 698 – Adult Care Home Accreditation: The bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to study the standards for obtaining assisted living program accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Health Care to determine the feasibility of issuing adult care home licenses based on accreditation. The Department shall also determine which inspections and rules, if any, would be impacted if the accreditation is used in the licensure process. In addition, the Department shall evaluate application of the Star Rating Program to this potentially revised licensing process. The Department shall report on or before March 1, 2020, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services its findings and recommendations, including any legislative changes, on the study required by this section. The bill passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

HB 699 – Regulatory Reform/PACE Program Organizations: This bill proposed to reduce or eliminate regulations that may be duplicative or not cost-effective for the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) managed care program. It did not meet the crossover deadline.

HB 708 – Legislative Research Commission – Study Affordable Housing: The Legislative Research Commission (LRC) is directed to study the availability of affordable housing in this State by this bill. The LRC is to report its findings, together with any proposed legislation, to the 2020 Regular Session of the 2019 General Assembly upon its convening. The bill passed the House and is in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 724 – Truth in Caller ID Act: This bill would prohibit the use of misleading telephone identification methods for telephone solicitations by voice or text. The practice, known as "spoofing" or "cloning," is commonly used by scammers posing as tax collectors or kidnappers. Even some legitimate telemarketers often use what's called "neighbor spoofing" to make their calls or texts appear to be coming from local numbers. Under this bill which passed the House unanimously and is now in the Senate Rules Committee, telemarketers who use misleading

information to hide the origin of their calls could be sued by a citizen or fined from \$500 to \$5,000 by the state attorney general.

HB 899 – Enact KinCare Act: This bill would amend the Wage and Hour Act to allow employees to use sick leave for the care of family members. There is an expanded definition of family to include grandparents and grandchildren. The bill also specifies that employers who offer sick leave must let their workers use that leave for as many as five consecutive days off to care for a family member. The bill did not pass the House and, therefore, did not meet the crossover deadline.

HB 904 – Identity Theft Protection Act/Changes: It amends the Act by addressing such issues as security breach, security freeze, and credit score reports. No action has been taken on the bill since it was filed, however, groups such as AARP NC are still advocating for its passage.

HB 1014 - 2020 Census VTD Verification Program: This bill would allow the state of North Carolina to continue participating in the 2020 voting district (VTD) verification project with the U.S. Bureau of the Census and to establish a process to review precinct lines in advance of the 2030 Census. Under this bill, which was introduced on May 6, a long-delayed update to voting precinct maps would be delayed. The State Board of Elections had been tasked with developing a new proposed voting district map and submitting it to the legislature as part of a U.S. Census program. But the project stalled, deadlines were missed, and several voting rights groups recently voiced concerns that rushing the changes could leave voters confused about where they will vote in 2020. The bill would shift the responsibility to the Legislative Services Officer, who would submit precincts based on 2010 Census data -- with any changes to precincts on hold until after the 2020 Census. House Rules Chairman David Lewis, R-Harnett, said the delays in the process mean that it makes sense to wait for a new Census. The bill is in the House Rules Committee. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 5/07/19)

SB 143 – The SAVE Act: This bill is entitled an Act to deliver safe, accessible, value directed and excellent (SAVE) health care throughout North Carolina by having less restrictive regulation of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). Because there are fees in the bill, it was not subject to the crossover deadline. The bill has not yet been heard in a Senate committee.

SB 161 – Enact the NC Caregiver Act: This bill stipulates that each hospital licensed under Article 5 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes may provide each patient or, if applicable, the patient's legal guardian with at least one opportunity to designate at least one caregiver as soon as possible following the patient's admission into a hospital and prior to the patient's discharge or transfer to another facility. The language of the current bill is more flexible than originally proposed as the “shall’s” in the original bill were changed to “may’s.” The bill passed the Senate and is now in the House Rules Committee. This bill is a priority of AARP NC, and staff there will work to strengthen the bill in the House.

SB 212 – Child Welfare/Aging Component/NC FAST: This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to postpone deployment of the NC Families Accessing Services Through Technology (NC FAST) system as related to child welfare system and aging and adult services’ programs. The bill passed the Senate and awaits action in the House Rules Committee.

SB 316 - Affordable Housing: This Senate bill directs municipalities with populations of at least 90,000 to report their affordable housing activities to the General Assembly. Cities would have to prepare a report on the amount of affordable housing units being subsidized by local government revenue or tax credits, or that are under local government oversight. The report would also detail the ways municipalities are promoting affordable housing. The report is due by October 1, 2019, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government and the Fiscal Research Division. The bill passed the Senate and has been referred to the House Rules Committee.

SB 399 – Rehire High Need Teachers: This bill would allow teachers who retired before Feb. 1, 2019, to teach at a "high-need" school -- one that's labeled Title I or has a school performance grade of D or F. They would keep their pension benefits while earning the entry level teaching salary. STEM teachers could earn the same salary as teachers with about five years of experience. The goal of the bill is to address a shortage of qualified teachers. The bill passed the Senate and has been referred to the House Rules Committee.

SB 556 – General Statutes Commission People First Language 2019: This bill is the latest attempt by the General Statutes Commission to remove offensive terminology in state laws. It updates statutes related to the provision of services with people first language by changing the phrase “mental retardation” to “intellectual disability” or “ intellectual or other developmental disability” and makes further people first language, technical, and clarifying amendments in those statutes. The bill has passed the Senate and has been referred to the House Rules Committee.

SB 559 – Storm Securitization/Alternate Rates: This bill, which is backed by Duke Energy, would change the way North Carolina regulators set electricity rates. It would allow the NC Utilities Commission, which reviews an electric company's requested rate increases, to approve increase plans up to five years ahead of time instead of going through the lengthy annual reviews used now. Proponents have stressed that the bill simply gives this power to the commission, a 7-member board appointed by the governor with General Assembly confirmation. It doesn't require the multi-year plans. But dozens of companies, including some of North Carolina's largest employers and energy users, oppose the measure, fearing rate hikes. Environmental groups are against the bill, as are consumer advocates who fear less opportunity for public input if multi-year plans are approved. The bill has two sections: One changing the way utility companies raise money to pay for storm repairs and another with the multi-year plan language. The storm repair section has not been that controversial, but bill sponsors have resisted repeated efforts to split the bill in two and let each section rise or fall on its own. The Senate has approved the bill and it has been sent to the House Rules Committee. (Travis Fain, WRAL NEWS, 5/02/19)

SB 622 – Tax Reduction Act of 2019: This bill is a package of personal and business income tax cuts backed by legislative Republicans, and it has passed the Senate with a few tweaks along the way. The bill would raise the standard deduction for personal income taxpayers by 3.75 percent starting in 2021, and it would reduce franchise taxes on businesses while requiring online "marketplace facilitators," such as eBay, to collect sales taxes. Nearly identical provisions were included in the House budget, and the vote is an indication the Senate is moving in the same

direction. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 5/15/19 and Gary D. Robertson, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 5/16/19)

Certificate of Need Legislation: The controversy over Certificate of Need (CON) healthcare regulations is a perennial one at the legislature, but Sen. Ralph Hise, R-Mitchell, said May 15 at a press conference with fellow House and Senate Republicans who want to repeal or scale back CON regulations that "I predict there will be large movements in CON laws in this session." While Hise favors a full repeal of CON laws, the news conference focused on legislative proposals to eliminate CON rules for ambulatory surgical centers. Rep. Ed Goodwin, R-Chowan, said he's "trying to take a baby step and get the ball rolling" with [HB 857](#), which would make that change but has not yet received a hearing in the House Health Committee. The Senate has historically been more willing than the House to change CON laws, and Sen. Jim Burgin, R-Harnett, touted a package of changes in his [SB 646](#). That bill would exempt a number of healthcare facilities, including ambulatory surgical centers, from CON, and it would require a \$300,000 bond to challenge a CON application, with a two-year expiration on CONs. Previous CON proposals have faced opposition from the state's major hospitals. The N.C. Healthcare Association has said that CON repeal could endanger hospital facilities in rural communities. Certificate of Need is expected to be an issue that will figure into the budget deliberation discussions. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 5/16/19)

Nonprofit Game Night Legislation Becomes Law: Charities can soon hold special casino "game nights" at fundraisers across most of North Carolina and offer alcoholic beverages to patrons without worrying that they're breaking the law. Gov. Roy Cooper has signed legislation ([HB 130](#)) that lays out the regulations for nonprofits and some employers and trade associations to operate such events occasionally. Cooper had vetoed a casino night measure in 2017, worried it could attract video poker back to the state. Cooper spokesman Ford Porter said the governor's concerns have been addressed. The law takes effect June 1 and still only applies east of Interstate 26 to comply with casino exclusivity agreements for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 5/10/19)

Older Americans Month Kick Off: To celebrate the kickoff of May as Older Americans Month and the accomplishments and creativity of older persons across the state, the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services held an [event](#) at noon on May 3 at its offices in Taylor Hall on the Dix campus in Raleigh. At the event, Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Service Dr. Mandy Cohen, Director of the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services Joyce Massey-Smith, and Brad Allen, President and Executive Director of NC Senior Games, Inc. delivered remarks about the significance of this observance and about healthy aging. During the event, the doors at the Division of Aging and Adult Services were opened to visitors to view the works of visual arts created by local Senior Games Silver Artists. These works will remain on display throughout the month of May. Also on hand to help celebrate the occasion were the award winning senior cheerleaders from Durham – the Senior Divas and Dudes – who entertained those in attendance with their routine. The theme for Older Americans Month this year is "CONNECT, CREATE, CONTRIBUTE."



DHHS Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen (center) poses with a Picture with the Durham Divas and Dudes Award Winning Cheerleaders

Older Americans Act Update: The U.S. House Appropriations Committee passed its FY 20 funding bill for Labor-HHS-Education on May 8. The National Council on Aging (NCOA) reports the bill increases funding for most Older Americans Act programs, including an \$84 million increase for congregate and home-delivered meals, \$64 million more for the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP), \$37 million increase for Supportive Services and Senior Centers, \$5 million more for the Elder Justice Initiative, including \$2 million in new funds for additional work to address the link between elder abuse and opioid abuse, and \$2 million increase for the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. See more on the funding proposed [here](#).

Senior Health Rankings Report Released – North Carolina Falls in Rankings: The United Health Foundation released the 2019 America’s Health Rankings *Senior Report*. This report, created in partnership with the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA), builds on the United Health Foundation’s ongoing efforts to improve the health of America’s seniors. The *Report* provides a comprehensive look at the health of seniors across the nation and on a state-by-state basis. North Carolina is ranked 37th this year; it was 33rd in 2018. The state ranks 33rd for general population health and 30th for the health of women and children. Strengths identified for the state in the report included: high flu vaccination coverage, low percentage of low-care nursing home residents, and high prevalence of seniors with a dedicated provider. Challenges noted included: high prevalence of frequent mental distress, low prevalence of arthritis management, and high prevalence of food insecurity. Key findings for the state identified were:

- In the past three years, obesity increased 17% from 25.9% to 30.3% of adults aged 65+
- In the past two years, four- or five-star rated nursing home beds increased 24% from 28.2% to 34.9% of certified nursing home beds
- In the past six years, food insecurity increased 31% from 15.7% to 20.5% of adults aged 60+
- In the past five years, hospice care use increased 16% from 48.4% to 56.2% of Medicare decedents aged 65+
- In the past six years, high health status increased 12% from 34.1% to 38.3% of adults aged 65+

- In the past six years, depression increased 28% from 14.0% to 17.9% of adults aged 65+

Thirty-four core measures of health are used to create the senior health state rankings. Supplemental measures, such as risk of social isolation, also highlight current and emerging issues affecting seniors. Data for the measures are obtained from more than a dozen sources including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*, the Administration on Aging's *State Program Reports*, the U.S. Census Bureau's *American Community Survey* and *The Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care*. The report includes a special 15-year focus on the health of seniors aged 65 to 74. This perspective examines how the health of young seniors has changed from 2002 to 2017 regarding population demographics, behaviors and health outcomes. Among the 2019 report's key findings:

- Encouraging progress in the use of services that help older adults remain in their homes and communities. The number of home health and personal care aides nationwide has increased by 550,000 since last year. Hospice care among Medicare decedents has increased 48 percent since 2013. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) now serves 5.4 million eligible seniors, a 13 percent increase since 2015.
- The 65 and older population still faces notable challenges to their health and well-being. Most notably, depression increased 19 percent in the past year, with significant increases in 11 states. Nearly 8 percent of seniors reported frequent mental distress, with female seniors reporting a higher prevalence of frequent mental distress (8.7 percent) compared with male seniors (6.8 percent).
- Hawaii remains the healthiest state for seniors, followed by Utah, Connecticut, Minnesota and Colorado. Mississippi has the greatest opportunity for improvement in overall health, followed by Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma and West Virginia. ([Senior Health Report 2019](#))

Washington State Approves Long Term Care Trust Act: Washington State's Governor has signed into law the country's first social-insurance program to pay for long-term care. Under the law, all residents will pay 58 cents on every \$100 of income into the state's Long Term Care Trust. After state residents have paid into the fund for ten years—three if they experience a catastrophic disabling event—they will be able to tap \$100 a day up to a lifetime cap of \$36,500 when they need help with daily activities such as eating, bathing, or dressing. The cap will rise automatically each year as inflation rises. The money can be spent in a variety of ways. It could cover a home health aide to provide periodic support and care. But it could also be used to install an accessible shower in someone's home or a ramp so they can get in and out of their front door more easily. It could cover transportation costs to and from medical appointments or to have food delivered to someone who is homebound. The long-term-care fund won't bring relief only to the elderly. A younger person who suffers an unexpected injury or illness could similarly hire someone to help him in their home. Passage of the law took years of work on behalf of a broad coalition which included organizations representing home health workers, disability-rights advocates, and advocates for the elderly. ([The Nation](#), 5/13/19 and [Home Health Care News](#), 5/19/19)

Other News and Updates

Public Transportation Conference: Public transportation professionals from throughout North Carolina convened in Wilmington on April 28 – May 1 for their annual conference. The theme for this year’s event was “Nobody Moves Us Like Transit.” A session held at the conference that drew many attendees was a roundtable with three of the five entities selected as the prepaid health plans (PHPs) for North Carolina Managed Care. Representative from UnitedHealthcare of NC, WellCare NC, and Carolina Complete Health (Centene Corp.) along with representatives for the transportation brokers for each of these PHPs were in attendance. After brief opening comments from each PHP’s representative and transportation broker, a question and answer session was held. Transportation providers noted that they were anxious relative to the uncertainty surrounding the changes coming as a result of managed care. The PHPs emphasized that they hoped to build on what is working in North Carolina relative to medical transportation. They also discussed the importance of communication and collaboration among the PHPs and the transportation providers. Providers stressed that for the changes that are coming to work effectively, they need uniformity and consistency from the PHPs as well as predictability around rates. Mary Bethel, Executive Director of the Coalition, spoke to Conference participants prior to the roundtable about the importance of partnerships and collaboration with advocacy work.



Representatives from WellCare NC, UnitedHealthcare of NC, and Carolina Complete Health (Centene Corp.) and Their Transportation Brokers Addressed the NC Public Transportation Association Annual Conference in Wilmington on May 1

Congressional Primary Results: State Sen. Dan Bishop easily won the Republican nomination for the 9th Congressional District special Republican primary held on May 14. Bishop, R-Mecklenburg, garnered 48 percent of the vote in the 10 person race. He will face Democrat Dan McCready on September 10 in the general election. In the 3rd District, Urologist and state Rep. Greg Murphy will be in a runoff with Pediatrician Joan Perry. The runoff is July 9. Former Greenville mayor Allen Thomas won the Democratic nomination with about 50 percent of the vote.

Medicaid Expansion Discussion: Gov. Roy Cooper keeps trying to build pressure on state legislators to approve Medicaid expansion in North Carolina through another public meeting with those in the health care profession supporting it. Cooper held a round-table discussion on

May 15 at the Executive Mansion with obstetricians and pediatricians who later visited lawmakers. The governor held a similar meeting at the Mansion pushing expansion last month with rural hospital executives. He's also visited hospitals on recent travels to discuss expansion. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 5/15/19)

State Health Plan Update: The State Health Plan posted May 13 its controversial new reimbursement contracts that medical-care providers must sign to stay in-network for patients. The contracts are backed by state Treasurer Dale Folwell, who is attempting to move the plan to a government pricing model tied to Medicare rates similar to those used in Montana and Oregon. The SHP is the largest buyer of medical and pharmaceutical services in North Carolina, spending \$3.2 billion in 2017. It represents more than 720,000 teachers, state employees, the governor, current and former legislators, state university and community college personnel and their dependents, and non-Medicare retirees and their dependents. The state Insurance Department gave final approve May 6 to the contracts, which are part of Folwell's Clear Pricing project initiative. The contracts have drawn stiff opposition from healthcare advocacy groups, as well as [HB 184 \(Study State Health Plan Design\)](#) has been introduced that would halt the effort and form a study committee. Folwell's proposal would allow the SHP on Jan. 1 to begin paying about 61,000 providers based on a percentage above current Medicare rates, along with an additional and adjustable profit margin. Folwell's goal has been to have providers sign up for the new payment system by June 30. (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 5/13/19)

Hurricane Recovery Money: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded slightly more than \$336 million to North Carolina in response to damage caused by Hurricane Florence last fall. Gov. Roy Cooper says that the funding announced on May 14 falls short of the state's needs, and he is calling for Congress to pass additional disaster relief legislation. Cooper says in a news release that "far more is needed to help North Carolinians rebuild their lives and communities. The governor's office announced on May 13 that eight communities that were hard hit by Florence will get \$2.7 million from the 2019 state Rural Housing Recovery Fund to help address affordable housing shortages. (Amanda Morris, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 5/14/19)

Wake Redistricting: The House Redistricting Committee met May 16 to begin the court-ordered process of redrawing four Wake County House districts. The legislature faces a July 1 deadline to approve new districts after the court sided last year with plaintiffs who argued that they violated a constitutional ban on mid-decade redistricting in an effort to give Republicans a boost as other districts were redrawn to address unconstitutional racial gerrymanders. Legislators did not appeal the ruling. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 5/14/19)

Hepatitis Awareness: Chronic viral hepatitis affects more than 230,000 people in North Carolina, and because many more may have hepatitis but do not realize they are infected until they have symptoms, Gov. Roy Cooper proclaimed May as Hepatitis Awareness Month, and May 19 as Hepatitis Testing Day.

Rural Small Businesses: The number of small businesses is on the decline in rural North Carolina, and the closing of bank branches could be a major factor, according to a new [report](#) from the N.C. Rural Center. The report focuses on businesses with fewer than 10 employees,

and it found the number of such businesses in rural counties dropped by 4,289, or 7 percent, between 2005 and 2015. Meanwhile, six of the state's most urban counties saw a 9 percent increase in small businesses. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 5/13/19)

Managed-Care Oversight: The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services has failed to effectively monitor the performance of the managed-care organizations (MCOs) that handle behavioral health care for the state's Medicaid recipients -- increasing the risk that health care costs were unreasonable and those performance standards were not met, the state auditor's office says. An audit released on May 6 is one of a series of reports the auditor's office has done while the state begins to transition to a managed-care model for most of its Medicaid system for low-income, disabled and elderly residents. The auditor's office decided to study the first seven years of that approach before the model is expanded in November. "If we are not doing a great job with the first seven (MCOs), then when we transition the vast majority of the rest of the Medicaid program over to MCOs, we stand to be doing a lot wrong there, too," State Auditor Beth Wood said in a phone interview. "We are pointing out what deficiencies they might have, so we can get it right" with the next five MCOs. Wood added that she has a five-person team that is tasked with only looking at Medicaid issues in the state. In a written response to the audit on April 30, DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen said her department recognized the need to improve its oversight of MCOs and that it would be taking steps to improve its monitoring capabilities. She added that while DHHS often was receiving reports from MCOs, the process was decentralized and "timestamp data was not specifically maintained" leading to many issues identified in the audit. To correct that problem, Cohen said DHHS has designed a new, formal system to provide oversight of MCOs, which will include automating the tracking of the reports and data they create. It will also be hiring employees to oversee that data and reports created by MCOs are delivered and seen by the department. Cohen also said DHHS is in the process of recruiting a new associate director position that would be in charge of all MCO oversight. (Zachery Eanes, [THE NEWS & OBSERVER](#), 5/07/19)

Elections Data: After a three-month wait, state elections officials have told a small group of counties how to identify and turn over data on several hundred North Carolina voters targeted by federal investigators in a secretive election fraud probe. The State Board of Elections has issued guidance to 32 county elections boards with instructions on how to pull voting histories, signed poll books and redacted ballots dating back several election cycles, a response to subpoenas issued by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina in August 2018. Aside from the data provided by the counties, the state elections board said in February it also planned to hand over voter registration records on an additional 500 people outside the Eastern District. That is a far cry from the millions of records -- including ballots themselves -- originally demanded in subpoenas from the office of Eastern District U.S. Attorney Robert Higdon two months before the 2018 midterms. Higdon's office backed off that demand days after issuing the subpoenas following pushback over the scope of the request and its potential threats to voter privacy. (Tyler Dukes, WRAL NEWS, 5/06/19)

Operation Fan Heat Relief to Distribute Fans to Eligible Disabled and Older Adults

Beginning: As warmer weather arrives in North Carolina, the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services is partnering with the Area Agencies on Aging across the state and local service providers to distribute fans to eligible recipients through Operation Fan Heat Relief May 1 – Oct. 31. 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. Provider agencies can also purchase a limited number of air conditioners based on a person's specific health conditions. Last year, the division received \$85,600 in donations, allowing for the distribution of 5,226 fans and 26 air conditioners. For more details, individuals may contact their [area agency on aging](#) or the Division of Aging and Adult Services' Housing Program Consultant at 919-855-4993. (DHHS Press Release, 5/1/19)

Flu Deaths: North Carolina has experienced two more flu-related deaths as the 2018-19 season nears its end, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services reported on May 16. The total number statewide is at 203 when including deaths that occurred in previous weeks. DHHS has cautioned that this does not represent all flu-associated deaths in the state, since many go undiagnosed or unreported. The traditional end of the 2018-19 flu season was March 31, though the flu has lingered well into April during some seasons. DHHS plans to issue its final flu-season report May 23. (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 5/16/19)

Legal Health for Older State Residents: Legal Aid of North Carolina's Senior Legal Helpline provides free legal help to North Carolinians who are 60 years of age or older and need assistance with housing, consumer rights, public benefits, elder abuse and other civil (non-criminal) legal matters. The Helpline can provide free legal advice and information, limited representation and referrals to local legal aid offices and pro bono attorneys. There are income and other eligibility criteria and priority is given to those most in need. The toll-free number for the Helpline is 1-877-579-7562. Hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Older Americans Act Reauthorization: U.S. Senators have worked on Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization for the past several months. The Senate Special Committee on Aging met on May 8 to learn what the Administration for Community Living (ACL) is proposing.

Housing Awards: Applications are now being accepted for the 30th annual Housing North Carolina Awards which celebrate the best affordable housing in the state. To learn more, click [here](#). Winners will be showcased at a special luncheon on October 7 during the [2019 North Carolina Affordable Housing Conference](#) in Raleigh.

NC Retirement System Website Redesigned: The NC Retirement Systems website, www.myncretirement.com, is getting a significant makeover. It was launched on May 7 and features a simpler menu structure that is focused on what visitors to the site look for and removes the barriers to finding that information.

Unemployment Rate: The state's jobless rate remained at a 10-month high of 4 percent in April even with an uptick in job growth over the past year, the NC Commerce Department reported May 13. It is the third consecutive month in which the North Carolina rate has been higher than the U.S. rate, which dropped from 3.8 percent in March to 3.6 percent in April. (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 5/17/19)

PhRMA Launches New Medicine Assistance Tool: On May 8, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) launched a new Medicine Assistance Tool (MAT) that will provide patients, caregivers, and health care providers with cost and financial assistance

information for brand-name medicines, as well as other patient support resources. To learn more click [here](#).

Older Americans Fastest Growing Segment of Student Loan Borrowers: Americans age 60 and older owe more than \$86 billion in unpaid college loans. Forty percent of those 65 and older are in default, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Many of them now have their Social Security benefits garnished to pay off their student debt. ([CBS Evening News](#), 5/1/19)

Health Systems Offering Medicare Advantage Plans: About 12 percent of health systems offered a Medicare Advantage insurance plan in 2016. The most common type was a health maintenance organization plan. (AHRQ, Compendium of U.S. Health Systems—[Provider- Offered Medicare Advantage Plans Among U.S. Health Systems, 2016](#).)

Issue Brief on I&R/A: Information and referral/assistance (I&R/A) agencies and professionals often serve as a gateway to aging and disability services. Increasingly, the roles of I&R/A specialists are expanding to include benefits screening, application assistance, outreach, and other functions. A new issue brief from the National Association of States United for Aging and Disability (NASUAD), published with support from NCOA, reveals survey results from the 2018 National I&R/A Network about the role that aging and disability agencies and I&R/A specialists play in connecting individuals to public benefits. [Get the brief](#) (NCOA Week, 5/15/19)

New Research Grant Opportunity: Technologies to Enhance Independence and Community Living for People with Cognitive Impairments: A new grant opportunity from the [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research](#) (NIDILRR) at ACL has been announced. [Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technologies to Enhance Independence and Community Living for People with Cognitive Impairments](#) - NIDILRR seeks to fund research and development toward technologies that contribute to improved abilities of adults with cognitive impairment to perform daily activities of their choice in the home, community, or workplace. The purpose of the [RERC](#) program is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act by conducting advanced engineering research on and development of innovative technologies that are designed to solve particular rehabilitation problems or to remove environmental barriers. RERCs also demonstrate and evaluate such technologies, facilitate service delivery system changes, stimulate the production and distribution of new technologies and equipment in the private sector, and provide training opportunities. This grant opportunity closes on July 15, 2019. (ACL Release, 5/17/19)

Collaborating to Address HCBS Workforce Challenges in MLTSS Programs: The growing use of home and community-based services (HCBS) - in lieu of institutional services - has increased demand for direct care workers. Community-based organizations and states alike have identified direct care workforce challenges as a major issue today, and demographic changes on the horizon are poised to exacerbate this problem. Developing an adequate workforce is difficult across the country, but states with managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) programs have an additional tool with which to address this challenge as they can use managed care contracts to establish expectations, or in some cases, requirements for their managed care plans' role in this effort. The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities

(NASUAD) and Sage Squirrel Consulting, LLC discuss the pressures on the direct care workforce and how states and their managed care plans are developing and/or implementing workforce development strategies in a recent report titled 'HCBS Workforce Challenges in MLTSS Programs'. Join the HCBS Business Acumen Center on May 28, 2019 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. as Camille Dobson, Deputy Director at the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities and Debbie Pierson and Yonda Snyder, partners at Sage Squirrel Consulting discuss this report including the challenges and promising practices such as accessibility and use of data in addressing workforce challenges via network adequacy, rates and reimbursement and quality. [Click here](#) to register for this event. (NASUAD, Friday Updates, 5/17/19)

Identity Theft Protection Guide and Educational Placemat: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has released their new Identity Theft Protection Guide. This resource shares steps older adults can take to help protect their personal information. The guide explores various options for protecting your identity, including a security freeze, reviewing your credit reports, and setting fraud alerts. You can download or order a copy of this guide [here](#). The Bureau has also created educational placemats about identity theft for meal sites, senior centers, and other places older adults gather for meals. These placemats are free to order online on their [website](#). (NASUAD, Friday Updates, 5/17/19)

New Changes to CMS Nursing Home Compare Released: Changes in methodology with the [CMS Nursing Home Compare](#) numbers have kicked in the last few weeks. In conjunction with LeadingAge New York, LeadingAge North Carolina did a preliminary run of the impact by state and sponsorship type for the overall 5 star rating and each of the 3 components (staffing, health inspections, and quality). They found that overall, 15% of nursing homes nationally gained 1 or more stars and 36% lost one or more stars. North Carolina dovetailed pretty closely to national averages, with 21% of nursing homes gaining one or more stars and 35% losing one or more stars. A complete look at state numbers can be found by [clicking here](#). (LeadingAge NC, Advocacy in Action, 4/26/19)

People in the News

Charmaine Fuller Cooper, Associate State Director for Advocacy with AARP North Carolina and Chair-Elect of the Coalition on Aging's Board of Directors, has accepted an interim assignment with AARP's national campaigns team as the Field Manager for the Southern Region. She will work in this capacity until after the November 2019 elections. She will continue to be based in North Carolina and will return to her job with AARP North Carolina at the end of the assignment.



Charmaine Fuller Cooper

Kelly Tornow, Director of North Carolina Policy for the Center for Responsible Lending, a Coalition on Aging member, has left that position for a job with the NC State Board of Elections.

Rep. Josh Dobson (R-McDowell), a leader in the NC House of Representatives for issues related to health and human services, including aging, has announced that he will run for state Labor Commissioner in 2020.

Rep. Ken Goodman (D-Richmond) resigned his seat in the NC House of Representatives on April 18. He was nominated by Gov. Roy Cooper and approved by the General Assembly for a seat on the NC Industrial Commission. **Scott Brewer**, a recently retired chief District Court judge, was recommended by Gov. Roy Cooper to fill the seat upon the recommendation of local Democratic leaders in District 66 (Montgomery, Richmond and parts of Stanly counties). He was sworn in on May 1 to replace Goodman.

Rep. Sydney Batch (D-Wake) has announced that she'll be taking a short leave of absence for "continuing medical treatment" for breast cancer. Batch, an attorney in her first term at the General Assembly, was diagnosed with "early, non-invasive breast cancer" in August 2018.

Rep. Chuck McGrady (R-Henderson) has announced that he will not seek reelection next year representing District 117. He holds leadership positions on several key committees. McGrady said he wants to return his focus to his friends and family.

Rep. MaryAnn Black (D-Durham) has announced her intent to run for N.C. Senate District 20 - currently held by **Sen. Floyd McKissick** (D-Durham). McKissick was recently nominated to a position on the Utilities Commission but hasn't been confirmed by the General Assembly yet.

The state Board of Elections voted 3-2 along party lines on May 13 to replace executive director **Kim Strach**, who was appointed when Republicans controlled the Board. **Karen Brinson Bell**, a former elections board director for Transylvania County, has been named the new Executive Director of the Board.

Steve Toole left the State Treasurer's office April 30. He had served for many years as executive director of N.C. Retirement Systems where he oversaw more than \$90 billion in state-sponsored retirement funds.

Anna Beavon Gravely has been named the new executive director of the NC FreeEnterprise Association. She replaces former executive director **Jonathan Kappler**, who left in February to take a job at the NC Department of Health and Human Services. Gravely is a former deputy state director for the conservative group Americans For Prosperity (AFP), and she was also the state director for Generation Opportunity, an AFP affiliate group focused on issues affecting young adults. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 5/15/19)

Washington City Council Member **William Pitt** was chosen by representatives from cities and towns across North Carolina on May 16 to lead the N.C. League of Municipalities as its president over the next year. League members also selected Cary Town Council Member

Jennifer Robinson the organization's first vice president and Salisbury Council Member **Karen Alexander** as second vice president. (NEWS RELEASE, 5/17/19)

Garland Tucker III, the retired chairman and CEO of Triangle Capital Corporation and an author, has filed paperwork with the Federal Election Committee to run in the Republican 2020 primary against Sen. Thom Tillis.

The state Department of Public Safety has announced the leadership chosen for the new state Office of Recovery and Resiliency. The three individuals named were selected "to lead the state's initiative to help storm-affected communities rebuild smarter and stronger in the face of future natural disasters and long-term climate change," according to the announcement. **Jessica Whitehead** has been named as chief resilience officer and **Marlena Byrne** and **Amanda Martin** have been named as deputy chief resilience officers.

Ray Starling has been appointed as general counsel of the NC Chamber and president of the NC Chamber Legal Institute. He is currently serving as chief of staff to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue where he coordinates execution of the Secretary's policy agenda for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), including regulatory and deregulatory initiatives, and acts as a point of contact for stakeholders throughout agriculture and rural communities. He previously worked as chief of staff for Sen. Thom Tillis and was the Senator's general counsel and senior policy advisor. From 2012 to January 2015, he was general counsel to Tillis when he was Speaker of the state House of Representatives. Before that he was general counsel to the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The law firm Brooks Pierce has hired **Matt Bales** as a government relations advisor. Bales previously served as the House caucus director for the N.C. Republican Party. Replacing Bales as director of the caucus is **Stephen Wiley**, who served as deputy director under Bales during the 2018 election cycle. Wiley most recently served as the executive director of the Carolina Partnership for Reform, a 501(c)(4) organization. (THE INSIDER, 5/06/19)

Former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli has joined a North Carolina lobbying firm. Kairos Government Affairs (KGA) has announced that the Republican, who was in office in Virginia from from 2010 until 2014, will join as a legal expert and policy advisor. He ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2013 and has more recently served as director of the Regulatory Action Center at the FreedomWorks Foundation. KGA's clients include a number of renewable energy companies and organizations as well as the NC Healthcare Association and RTI International. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 5/17/19)

Jack Preiss, retired Duke sociology professor and long-time advocate for low-income housing, died on April 14, 2019.

Upcoming Meetings: (Events New to the Calendar Are in Bold)

May 20, 2019 – National Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day – Sponsored by SAMHSA, the Administration for Community Living, and the National Coalition on

Mental Health and Aging – 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

May 21, 2019 - Webinar on Engaging, Training and Implementing Programs that Utilize Volunteers for Dementia Programs, 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to learn more about this event.

May 21-22, 2019 - Bringing It Home Conference on Ending Homelessness in North Carolina at McKimmon Center in Raleigh, NC.

May 22, 2019 – Webinar on Strengthening Benefits Access for Diverse Older Adults, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to register.

May 28, 2019 - Care4Carolina Meeting - Winston-Salem, Site to be announced – 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

June 2-5, 2019 - 2019 AIRS I&R Training and Education Conference - Atlanta, Georgia

June 5, 2019 - NC Oral Health Collaborative Oral Health Day 2019 - Bicentennial Plaza and Legislative Building – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

June 5, 2019 and 1st Wednesday of Each Month - Webinar Series: Moving Mountains, SNF Provider Training, Tools and Insight to Conquer 2019 Industry Changes. Contact Leslie at LeadingAge NC at leslie.roseboro@leadingagenc.org.

June 6, 2019 – Caregiver Summit: Navigating the Transitions of Life – Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center, Durham – 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

June 11, 2019 – Webinar on Access to Public Benefits for Older Immigrants, 2:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to register. Sponsored by the National Center on Law and Elder Rights.

June 17-20, 2019 - National Council on Aging Age+Action Conference (national conference focused on ensuring every person's right to age with their best possible health and economic security) - Renaissance Downtown Hotel, Washington, DC.

June 11, 2019 – 5th Global Summit on World Elder Abuse Awareness, Washington, D.C.

June 28, 2019 - Monthly Meeting of the NC Coalition on Aging at 10:00 a.m. in Room 104 of the Brown Building on the Dix Campus (801 Biggs Drive) in Raleigh NC.

July 30-August 1, 2019 - 2019 NC Social Services Institute - at Hickory Convention Center in Hickory, NC.

Resources/Articles

- Home Health Care News: [Starbucks, Best Buy and TripAdvisor Offer Employee Caregiver Benefits. Here is Why Home Care Agencies Should Care](#)
- AP News: [State's Seek Explicit Patient Consent for Pelvic Exams](#)
- AP News: [Trump Calls on Congress to End Surprise Medical Bills](#)
- NASUAD and NAC: [Caregiver in America: Growing Contributions with Little Support](#)
- Modern Healthcare: [The Health 202: Large Employers Don't Want Medicare-for-All](#)
- New York Times: [U.S. Birthrate Drops 4th Year in a Row, Possibly Echoing the Great Recession](#)
- AP: [Drugmakers will have to reveal medication prices in TV ads](#)
- WECT: [Born after 1957? The CDC says you might need a booster shot to protect against measles](#)
- Doc Wire: [Interview: "Buying Health" for NC Medicaid with Dr. Mandy Cohen](#)
- [New York Times: Many Americans Will Need Long-Term Care. Most Won't be Able to Afford It](#)
- NASUAD: [Disability in America: Experiences Across the Lifespan](#)

NC Health News: (click on story to open):

- [Adult Incontinence Products: An Undeniable, Expensive Need for Many Older People](#)
- [Treasurer Moves Forward with Health Care Pricing Plan Despite Uncertainty](#)
- [New Tech for Tuberculosis Patients](#)
- [Will North Carolina Dig Its Teeth Into Teledentistry?](#)
- [One Hundred Years in a Rural Clinic](#)
- [Diabetes Mortality Gap Widens for Rural Americans](#)
- [Melissa Crady Was Young, Vibrant and Among 199 North Carolinians Who Died from The Flu This Season](#)

NPR "On Aging" Series: To view a story, go to <https://www.npr.org/sections/aging/> and click on the story.

- **Lubrication And Lots Of Communication: Navigating A New Sexual Life After Menopause**
- **From Gloom To Gratitude: 8 Skills To Cultivate Joy**
- **After A Big Failure, Scientists And Patients Hunt For A New Type Of Alzheimer's Drug**
- **Measles Shots Aren't Just For Kids: Many Adults Could Use A Booster Too**

Additional NPR Stories: Click on the story to view.

- [In 'Ladysitting,' Lorene Cary Chronicles The End Of Her Grandmother's Life](#)
- [Age of Fraud: Are Seniors More Vulnerable to Financial Scams?](#)

Remaining Coalition Meetings for 2019:

June 28 (Brown Building)

August 23 (Brown Building)

September 27 (annual meeting at the NC State University Club)

October 25 (Brown Building)

December 6 (Brown Building).

Meeting Location, Time, and Call-In Number: Meetings will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in room 104 of the Brown Building on the Dix Campus (801 Biggs Drive) in Raleigh. 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#.

Have You Paid Membership Dues for 2019?

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.

For 2019, the membership dues remain the same as 2018 -- \$100 for agencies and organizations and \$20 for individual supporters. The Coalition has a hardship provision for those who which to join the Coalition but are unable to pay the full dues amount. To apply for this hardship provision, please contact Mary Bethel, Coalition Executive Director, 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 Executive Director, 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/>.