



COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

NC Coalition on Aging September Update (9/20/17)

Annual Meeting and Luncheon This Friday: We hope to see many of you this Friday, September 22, for the Coalition’s annual meeting and luncheon that will be held at the N.C. State University Club at 4200 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh (the same location as last year). Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with the program starting at 12:00 noon.

The annual meeting and luncheon will provide Coalition members and other attendees the opportunity to network with each other. There will also be a few brief business items to discuss, and we will honor the 2017 recipients of our Pioneer Award which recognizes individuals who have made long-time outstanding contributions to the field of aging in North Carolina. Another highlight of the meeting will be the presentation by our keynote speaker, Dr. James H. Johnson, Jr. from the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. His presentation will be on “Bracing for the Silver Tsunami: Golden Dividends and Strategic Business Opportunities.”



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

Successful Crucial Conversation Luncheon on Aging Policy Issues: Special thanks to NC Policy Watch for hosting a well attended Crucial Conversation luncheon on August 15 in Raleigh on “The Silver Tsunami: What’s on the Policy Horizon for North Carolina’s Seniors?” Coalition President Mary Bethel and Past President Bill Lamb along with Coalition members Ana Pardo from the NC Justice Center Workers’ Rights Project and Charmaine Fuller Cooper from AARP North Carolina reviewed actions by the General Assembly in the 2017 legislative session related to aging and discussed policy issues and choices that lie ahead.

Coalition President Discusses Aging in North Carolina: Following the Crucial Conversation luncheon, Mary Bethel, President of the Coalition, sat down with Clayton Henkel with NC Policy Watch to discuss the “silver tsunami” in North Carolina and how the state is addressing the needs of our state’s older adults. To listen to the broadcast, click [here](#).

Coalition Comments on Proposed Program Design for State’s Medicaid Managed Care: In August, the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) released the proposed program design for moving the state forward with Medicaid managed care. DHHS welcomed feedback on the proposal and the Coalition submitted comments on September 8. Our comments focused on general aspects of program design as well as addressed issues specific to older adults and the ability of the aging and adult services network to assume an important role in service delivery, case management, information and referral, and care coordination. To see a copy of the Coalition’s comments, click [here](#).

DHHS notes that it will continue to work with providers, health plans, elected officials, advocates, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders to refine the proposed program design based on feedback. In late fall 2017, DHHS plans to release a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP) request for information (RFI) to solicit additional information from PHPs to assess interest in participation and market readiness. The RFI will include additional details about the DHHS plan for implementing Medicaid managed care. Also this fall, DHHS will submit an amended waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This will also be posted for public review and comment.

More Legislation to Repeal and Replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA): Just a few weeks ago, it looked like efforts to repeal and replace the ACA in the U.S. Senate were dead. On September 13; however, a new bill was introduced by Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Lindsay Graham (R-SC) that appears to be getting traction in the Senate. According to news reports, the bill would deconstruct all of the major programs created by the ACA, gather up the money, and give it to states in the form of block grants to run their own health care programs. It eliminated both the subsidies that help people buy individual health insurance policies and the reimbursements to insurance companies for offering price breaks on co-payments and deductibles to the lowest-income customers. It also rolls back Medicaid expansion that was adopted by 31 states and Washington, D.C. In addition, it would also increase costs for people age 50-64 in the individual market. To learn more, read an analysis of the bill by the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) and a good article by the [New York Times](#). Procedural rules related to a vote on the bill change at the end of September so the Senate has 10 days remaining to act on the legislation.

Medicare-for-All Bill Introduced: September 13 was a busy day. Also on that day, Sen. Bernie Sander (I-VT), along with 16 Democratic co-sponsors, released the Medicare-for All Act of 2017. This bill is intended to transition the American health care system to a single-payer

system. In addition to the bill text, Sen. Sanders released an [executive summary](#), [title summary](#), and [white paper](#) on financing options. The Act would establish the Universal Medicare Program (UMP) and, in doing so, make sweeping changes to this country's health care system. [Health Affairs Blog](#) has a helpful summary of the Act. With a Republican controlled Congress, the legislation has no chance of passing, but with the 2020 elections around the corner, it gives Democrats something to talk about for the next several years.

Deal Reached to Temporarily Raise Debt Ceiling and Keep Government Running: Much to the dismay of Republican Congressional leaders, President Trump reached a deal with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi on December 6 to raise the debt limit and to do a continuing resolution to keep the government operating for three months (until December 15). This stopgap funding measure was added to the Hurricane Harvey aid package. The move buys additional time for Congress to try to solve many sticky issues regarding funding for programs, immigration, health care, and a longer-term increase in the government's borrowing authority to avoid a default. To read more about the deal, click [here](#).

Carolinas HealthCare System and UNC Health Care Announce Partnership: Health care advocates in the state are still trying to sort out what the recently announced joining of efforts between Carolinas HealthCare and UNC Health Care will mean for the health care landscape in the state. These hospital systems, the largest in the state, are forming a company to oversee their joint operations under a new corporate name with a headquarters to be determined. The partnership will create one of the largest non-profit health care networks and academic research centers in the country. Red flags are being raised in some circles that the partnership will result in higher health care costs because they will have more bargaining clout with insurers. The following resources offer helpful information about the partnership:

- [State's Two Largest Health Care Systems Combine, Raising Questions About Effect on Patients](#)
- [Health Care Partnership Needs Scrutiny \(OpEd\)](#)
- [A Response on Health Care \(Letter to Editor by Carolinas HealthCare and UNC Health Care Leaders\)](#)
- [Control Could Be an Issue in Health Care Partnership](#)

Redistricting Maps Sent to Federal Judges: Revised maps for electing members of the NC General Assembly have been sent to the federal judges who ruled that the maps currently being utilized were the result of racial gerrymandering. The plaintiffs in the case have filed an official

objection to the maps with the federal court. The filing states that while the court found 28 state House and Senate districts to be unconstitutionally racially gerrymandered, state lawmakers altered 116 districts and the plaintiffs object to 12 of them. Articles about this include:

- [Public Pans GOP Maps Proposed for Redistricting](#)
- [Redrawn Maps OK'D, Head Back to Judges](#)
- [After Plaintiff Objection, Redrawn Legislative Maps Now in Hands of Federal Court](#)
- [Redistricting is Fundamental to Equality at the Ballot \(by former Congresswoman Eva M. Clayton\)](#)

Goings and Comings of Legislators: Recent actions and announcements related to the membership of the General Assembly include the following:

- Republican Dan Barrett of Advance has been appointed to replace Sen. Andrew Brock of Mocksville who resigned in June. Barrett has been a Davie County commissioner and once ran for governor. He will fill out Brock's term through the end of 2018.
- Rep. Bill Cook (R-Beaufort) has announced that he will not run for re-election when his term is up. He was drawn into a Democratic-leaning district in the new election maps just proposed by his colleagues in the General Assembly.
- Rep. Chris Mills (R-Pender) resigned from the State House of Representatives effective September 15 to spend more time with his family. Former Pender County Republican Party Chairman Bob Muller was selected to fill the House seat vacated by Mills.
- Sen. Chad Barefoot (R-Wake) has announced that he plans to retire from the General Assembly at the end of his term to spend more time with his family.
- Four term Sen. Tommy Tucker (R-Union) has announced that he will not run for re-election when his term ends.

General Assembly Returns in October: State lawmakers will return to Raleigh again at 12 p.m. on October 4. This marks the third time for them to convene since their regular session ended in June. Under the adjournment resolution approved, they will be able to take votes on just about any issue they want. The resolution specifies more than 13 criteria for what bills can be considered. Some potential matters include veto over-rides, redrawing the state's judicial districts, impeachment proceedings (Rep. Chris Mills had proposed relative to Secretary of State Elaine Marshall), and proposed amendments to the state constitution.

Interim Committees Named: House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate leader Phil Berger have announced appointments to the respective oversight committees and named their chairs for the legislative interim. Interim committees include:

House

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services: Reps. Gale Adcock (Advisory), William Brisson, Carla Cunningham, Josh Dobson (Co-Chair), Nelson Dollar, Beverly Earle, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Bert Jones, Donny Lambeth (Co-Chair), Chris Malone, Greg Murphy, Donna White

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice: Reps. William Brisson, Nelson Dollar (Co-Chair), Josh Dobson, Verla Insko, Bert Jones, Donny Lambeth (Co-Chair), Chris Malone (Advisory), Greg Murphy

Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee: Reps. Bill Brawley, Dana Bumgardner, Becky Carney, Charles Graham, Kelly Hastings, Frank Iler (Co-Chair), Grier Martin, Rodney Moore (Advisory), Michele Presnell (Vice Chair), Phil Shepard, Scott Stone, John Torbett (Co-Chair)

Senate

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services: Sens. Louis Pate (Chair), Dan Bishop, David Curtis, Jim Davis, Valerie Foushee, Ralph Hise, Joyce Krawiec, Gladys Robinson, Jeff Tarte, Tommy Tucker, Mike Woodard

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and N.C. Health Choice: Sens. Ralph Hise (Chair), Dan Bishop, Valerie Foushee, Joyce Krawiec, Louis Pate, Gladys Robinson, Tommy Tucker

Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee: Sens. Jim Davis (Chair), Warren Daniel, Cathy Dunn, Joel Ford, Rick Gunn, Kathy Harrington, Tom McInnis, Wesley Meredith, Bill Rabon, Erica Smith-Ingram, Terry Van Duyn

Social Security Scam: Gale Stallworth Stone, the acting inspector general of the Social Security Administration, is warning of a scam to defraud people out of their Social Security checks. With the scam, someone posing as a Social Security Administration (SSA) employee calls from a phone number with a 323 area code. In some cases, the caller tells the victim they are due a 1.7% cost-of-living adjustment increase in their Social Security benefit. The imposter then asks the victim to verify his or her personal information, including name, date of birth, and Social Security number in order to receive the increase. If the imposter is able to obtain this data, the person can use it to contact the SSA and request changes to the victim's direct deposit, address and phone number.

Protecting Personal Data from Hackers: With the revelation by Equifax, the credit reporting firm, that hackers have stolen financial and consumer data on at least 143 million customers in the U.S., there is increased awareness about taking steps to protect personal data from fraudsters. Equifax has created a website (euqifaxsecurity2017.com) where consumers can find out if their

personal data has been compromised. Consumers can enroll in complimentary identity-theft protection and credit-file monitoring. The credit protection service is free for 12 months for consumers – not just breach victims – who sign up by November 21. The AARP Fraud Watch Network also recommends that consumers:

- Check your credit report with the other big credit bureaus, TransUnion and Experian.
- Add a fraud alert to your credit report. This notifies lenders and creditors checking your credit report to take additional steps to verify your identification before extending credit in your name.
- Check credit card and bank statements for unauthorized purchases or withdrawals.
- Consider an identification protection service.

NC Public Transportation Division Strategic Plan Community Workshops: The NC Department of Transportation is developing the Public Transportation Statewide Strategic Plan to improve bus, rail, and paratransit services across the state by better matching transit services to the needs of North Carolinians. In October, stakeholders and the public are invited to provide input at community workshops across the state as part of the Public Transportation Statewide Strategic Plan. The workshops are free and open to the public. No registration is necessary to attend. For more information on the Statewide Strategic Plan and the community workshops, click [here](#).

Notes and Updates

The **U.S. Senate Appropriation Committee** has **approved legislation that protects aging services' FY18 funding** from the proposed cuts proposed by the U.S. House and the Trump Administration. To read more about this and the status of federal budget deliberations, click [here](#).

The annual **Open Enrollment period for Medicare health and drug (Part D) plans** is October 15 – December 7.

A three judge federal panel has set **October 16 as the trial date** to determine whether North Carolina Republican legislators used illegal, excessive partisanship last year in drawing **congressional districts** that favored Republicans.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2016 North Carolina experienced a drop in the number of **individuals without health insurance to a record low of 10.4%**.

Unaffiliated voters now make up the second-largest group of voter registrations in North Carolina. There are more registrations in that category than registered Republicans. North Carolina now has 2,640,726 (38.9%) registered Democrats, 2,056,294 (30.3%) registered as

unaffiliated, 2,055,758 (30.3%) registered Republicans, and 33,474 (0.5%) registered Libertarians. To read more about this, click [here](#).

Gov. Roy Cooper has announced that the Governor's Crime Commission has awarded \$73 million in grants to support criminal justice programs in communities across North Carolina. Among the funding announced was a **grant to assist victims of elder abuse in Guilford County**.

A study from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University says that North Carolina's **certificate of need (CON) laws** hurt rural access to healthcare and increase spending. The study is disputed by the NC Hospital Association which questions some of the conclusions of the report including one that claims that changing CON laws would allow more hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers in rural communities.

NC SPIN, a locally produced, independent political talk show, **now airs on Fox50** on Sundays at 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. It had previously aired on WRAL but moved due to WRAL expanding its local news coverage on Sundays. Its 1,000th show will air on December 31.

Approximately 50,000 **customers of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina** who have been exempt from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and got to keep their old health insurance (grandfathered plans) will have to **switch to ACA plans in 2018** because these plans are being eliminated. This will result in larger premiums for many of these customers. Read more about this [here](#).

Friends of Residents in Long Term Care is seeking nominations until September 30 for **The Sharon Wilder Advocacy Award and Facility (Nursing Home and Assisted Living) Best Practice Awards**. The Sharon Wilder Award is made to honor an individual's service in protecting consumer rights and improving the quality of long term services and supports in North Carolina. The Best Practice Award is made to highlight a facility's efforts to adopt programming which reflects person-centered values, supports the rights of residents and improves quality of care.

- Application for 2017 Facility Best Practice Award - [CLICK HERE](#)
- Application for 2017 Sharon Wilder Advocacy Award - [CLICK HERE](#)

AARP has presented "Capitol Caregiver Awards" to former Governor Pat. McCrory and four members of the General Assembly who helped pass the Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act in 2016. Legislators honored are Rep. Jean Farmer-Butterfield (D-Wilson), Rep. Pat Hurley (R-Randolph), Rep. Greg Meyer (D-Orange), and Rep. Rena Turner (R-Iredell).

The newest Coalition on Aging member, the [North Carolina Oral Health Collaborative](#), has produced a report ["Portrait of Oral Health in North Carolina."](#) According to the report, 21% of North Carolinians over age 65 have lost all of their natural teeth.

First in Families of North Carolina has received a **grant from the National Council on Aging** to assist adults with disabilities, their caregivers and seniors living in the community to access federal and local benefits that might help them save money. To find out more about the program, go to www.becnc.org/.

The **health insurance navigator program** which assists people in the state to enroll in health insurance through the Affordable Care Act health exchange has been notified that it will receive the **same level of funding as last year**. There had been confusion over funding for this year. Legal Aid of North Carolina which is the lead agency for the NC Navigator Consortium, a group of 14 health care, social service and legal aid organizations around the state, will receive \$2.44 million. The period of time to enroll in an ACA plan has been cut from 90 to 45 days this year. Enrollment begins November 1 and goes through December 15. Click [here](#) to read more on this.

Federal legislation has passed, as a part of the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017, that will open the door for the marketing of **over-the-counter hearing aids** for adults over the age of 18 with mild to moderate hearing loss. The FDA is charged with developing the regulations for this.

The State Health Plan will hold **Medicare Outreach Events across the state for State Health Plan members** this fall to share information about 2018 health plan options. To find a list of outreach events, click [here](#). Open enrollment for plans is September 30 – October 31.

September 22 is the 10th annual **Falls Prevention Awareness Day**. NCOA will host a Facebook Live broadcast at 3:00 p.m. that day about preventing falls. To learn more about this and about fall prevention resources, click [here](#).

NCOA has written a short **guide to what seniors should know about tapping home equity** products. To review this, click [here](#).

The **National Information and Referral Support Center** will hold a **webinar on Understanding Medicare** from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on October 10. Join this webinar to learn about Medicare eligibility and coverage options as well as educational resources from Medicare Made Clear. The webinar will also address frequently asked questions regarding Medicare options. Pre-registration is required for this webinar. To register go to: <https://nasuad.webex.com/nasuad/onstage/g.php?MTID=e249c27dc304ad551bf11db7c08cc56a6>

The Administration on Aging within the Administration for Community Living commissioned a supplemental issue of *Generations* through its National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center in an effort to advance the establishment and enhancement of dementia-capable home and community-based systems. It is titled **Supporting People with Dementia and Their Caregivers in the Community**. The *Generations* supplement is comprised of 18 articles authored by experts in a broad range of dementia care and advocacy topics. The *Generations* publication is free and can be downloaded [here](#).

From Research to Standard Practice: Advancing Proven Programs to Support Family Caregivers of Persons Living with Dementia, a report from the AARP Public Policy Institute,

discusses what is known about effective programs to support family caregivers and emphasizes evidence-based programs for family caregivers of persons living with dementia. The report provides four recommendations to ensure a broader reach and wider impact for improving the lives of family caregivers and those for whom they care. To read the report, [click here](#).

Educating Adults about Chronic Disease Self-Management, a new issue brief from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), details the presence of chronic conditions in the United States. It also discusses self-management programs, and focuses on programs that rely on peer leaders who educate small groups about chronic disease self-management. The briefing also offers options for states and localities to consider related to implementing and sustaining chronic disease self-management programs. [Click here](#) to read the briefing.

On Sunday, September 24, Spectrum News' 30 minute public affairs **In Focus show will address health care in rural North Carolina**. The segment will feature Rep. Josh Dobson (R-McDowell), Mark Holmes (Sheps Center), Jay Briley (Vidant Duplin Hospital), Carla Obiol (Care4Carolina), Patrick Woodie (NC Rural Center), and Stephanie Nantz (Office of Rural Health). The program will air at 11:30 a.m. and re-air on the same day at 8:30 p.m.

Richard Stegenga has been hired as the Deputy Division Director for Business Operations for the NC Division of Social Services. He comes to this position after serving since 2014 as the Assistant Director of Business Operations for Durham County Department of Social Services.

Linda Coleman, a former NC House legislator who has run twice for lieutenant governor has announced that she **will run for the 2nd Congressional District seat** currently held by Rep. George Holding.

George McCoy, former director of the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, died on August 23. Born with hemophilia, George was instrumental in establishing what would become Hemophilia of NC. He was always an advocate for persons with disabilities.

C.R. Edwards who represented Cumberland County for **eight years in the NC House and four years in the NC Senate** died on August 23.

Jonathan Kappler will become the **executive director of the NC Free Enterprise Foundation** (NCFEF) effective October 4. He previously worked for NCFEF and is currently serving as interim vice president of federal relations and director of state government relations for the UNC system.

Robert Andrews has been **hired by the Republican National Committee as the new state director for North Carolina**. He previously served as grassroots director for Governor Pat McCrory's re-election campaign and also worked as a legislative assistant in both the NC House and Senate.

Brian Simpson has left his Public Affairs Specialist position with the Raleigh office of the Social Security Administration to take a job with the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants.

The Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation (FHLI) is seeking a President/CEO to lead the organization in its mission to develop and support innovative programs and partnerships that advance affordable and sustainable quality health services, build health leaders, and improve the overall health of communities in North Carolina and beyond. For more information and how to apply, click [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings/Events (not previously reported)

September is National Senior Center Month

September is PACE Month

September 18-22 is Malnutrition Awareness Week – Click [here](#) for more information.

September 17- October 15 – Dementia Series: Navigating the Long Unknown at Westminster Presbyterian Church (3630 Old Chapel Hill Road) in Durham (Sundays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Music Room)

September 20, 2017 – 2017 Educating American Tour presented by Alzheimer’s Foundation of America at Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham (4700 Emperor Blvd.) from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

September 28, 2017 – Centralina Area Agency on Aging Annual Aging Conference at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (3400 Beatties Ford Road) in Charlotte from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

October is Resident’s Rights Month

October 10, 2017 – Research in Your Backyard: Spotlight on Innovative Research in Eastern North Carolina at East Carolina Heart Institute (115 Heart Drive) in Greenville from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

October 21, 2017 – Friends of Residents in Long Term Care fall event: SPEAKEASY for Those Who Need Our Voice at Glenaire Retirement Community (4000 Glenaire Circle) in Cary (featuring the Casablanca Orchestra) from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m.

October 27, 2017 – Business of Health Care: Adapting to an Aging Economy at Kenan Center at the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC Chapel Hill from 7:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

September 30, 2017 – Alzheimer’s NC Triangle Walk and Run at Koka Booth Amphitheater (8003 Regency Pkwy.) in Cary

November is Family Caregiver Month

November is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month

November 3, 2017 – High Country Care Transitions Summit at Yadkin Valley Events Center (within Holiday Inn Express, 1700 Winkler Street) in Wilkesboro from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

June 23, 2018 – Triangle Expo for LGBTQ Aging Adults at Five Points Center for Active Adults (2000 Noble Road) in Raleigh from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

Articles/Resources:

NPR Aging Series

- [Bemoaning Budget Cuts, Health Care Navigators Say Feds Don't Get It](#)
- [Many Nursing Homes Aren't Prepared For Even Basic Emergencies](#)
- [Get Off The Couch Baby Boomers, Or You May Not Be Able To Later](#)
- [Serious Nursing Home Abuse Often Not Reported To Police, Federal Investigators Find](#)
- ['Smart' Pill Bottles Aren't Always Enough To Help The Medicine Go Down](#)
- [6,000-Year-Old Knee Joints Suggest Osteoarthritis Isn't Just Wear And Tear](#)
- [Nearly 1 In 5 Hospice Patients Discharged While Still Alive](#)

[Stay Out! Hospitals Try to Prevent Patient Readmissions](#) (NC NPR program)

[VA Prepares for PBS Vietnam Documentary; It May Trigger Some Vets' PTSD](#)

[Vacationing in Later Years: 6 Tips That Will Make You a Smarter Traveler](#)

[Alzheimer's Link? UNC Researchers Find One](#)

[8 Die at Florida Nursing Home In Irma's Aftermath](#)

[Nursing Home Deaths Prompt New Rules by Florida Governor](#)

[Alcohol Abuse is Rising Among Older Adults](#)

[6 Tips for Managing Sleep Problems in People with Alzheimer's](#)

[When Is It Best to Claim Your Social Security Benefits?](#)

[Census Figures: Poverty Remains a Roadblock in N.C.](#)

[Save Meals on Wheels Funding from Federal Budget Cuts](#) (News and Observer OpEd)

[After Disability Check Glitch, State Wants Its Money Back](#) (from former NC state employees)

[Healthcare Groups, Lawmakers Push Medicare to Promote Advance Directives](#)

[Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can](#) (Resources from Administration for Community Living)

[Under 'Observation,' Some Hospital Patients Face Big Bills](#) (highlights plight of 84 year old woman from North Carolina)

[Experts Say 2017-2018 Flu Season Could Be Severe](#)

[The Real Reason the US Has Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance](#)

[Big Employers Embrace Health Plan Status Quo](#)

[Credit Bureaus Ease Medical Debt Payment for a Few](#)

[Tax Overhaul Plan Faces Resistance from Fans of Deductions](#)

[Meds-to-Beds Programs Aim to Prevent Rehospitalization](#)

[Carolina Meadows Retirees Help Immigrant Staff Members Attain Dreams of Citizenship](#)

[Local Government Pension Need Cost-of-Living Boost](#) (News and Observer opinion)

[Writers from Their 40s to Over 100 Reflect on Growing Old](#)

Submitting Information for Updates – If you have news or information on activities and events you would like to have included in an *Update* to Coalition members, please send details to Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at mmbethel72@gmail.com. The Coalition also posts a master calendar of aging related events and activities on the Coalition's website.

Have questions about the Coalition on Aging or need more information, including information about joining the Coalition or renewing membership, please contact us at mmbethel72@gmail.com or check out our website at <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/>.