

MEETING DATE: January 22, 2016 - Meeting Held by Phone Conference Call Due to Inclement Weather

SUMMARY OF: NC Coalition on Aging Meeting

RECORDED BY: Marty Lamb, Secretary

TO:	D I S T R I B U T I O N	<p>Mary Bethel, President Kay Castello, Vice-President Bill Lamb, Past President Marty Lamb, Secretary Allen Winstead, Treasurer Teresa Johnson Troupe N.C. Adult Day Services Association Polly Williams, NC Justice Center Mary Edwards, NC DAAS Heather Burkhardt, NC DAAS Dee Hatch, OWL Dick Hatch, Access Dental Care Oleen Ogles, AARP NC Julie Wiggins, High Country AAA (NC4A representative) Janice Tyler, Orange County Dept. of Aging (NCAOA rep.) Margaret Toman, Friends of Residents in Long Term Care (FOR) Margaret Kirkman, NC Adult Foster Care Association Linda Shaw, NCPACE Association Gina Upchurch, Senior PharmAssist Dave Cottingen, Representative of Resources for Seniors Sarah Doughty, Healthy Ideas Program Gail Hall, Healthy Ideas Program Carla Obiol, NC Department of Insurance Ana Pardo, N.C. Justice Center Annette Kaiser, Carolinas Center Cara Townsend, Governor's Office Ted Fitzgerald, North Carolina State Board of Elections Jennifer Faulkner, North Carolina State Board of Elections</p>
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OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING : To look towards the coming year...

******PROGRESS AND DECISIONS******

What key decisions were made during the meeting?

SUBJECT	SHARING
Introductions	People introduced themselves. Phone conference was held due to inclement weather for this meeting.
Minutes	There were not corrections or additions to the minutes of the December 11, 2015 meeting. They were approved.

Treasurer's Report	Allen Winstead reported the balance last month was \$5,335.14. An additional \$270 in membership dues have been received since then along with a grant from AARP of \$3,000. There were some expenditures for office materials. A balance is left of <u>\$8,186.83.</u>
Update since last meeting	Mary Bethel reported that on the February 7 and 16 Updates were mailed to Coalition members. She asked if these were helpful, and there were responses that they were beneficial. She noted that we want to be timely with sharing information. She reported, as a follow up to a question asked at the last meeting, that federal legislation was passed related to Medicare Observation. Legislative committee meetings are in full swing in Raleigh. As a part of the discussion, Margaret Toman shared that a Raleigh co-housing alliance has been formed. Kayelilly Middleton is the contact person with the city for the co-housing initiative.
Web presence/ Social Media	Bill Lamb advised everyone to check out our website. We're keeping most recent information displayed and archiving other information. He also encouraged everyone to "like" us on Facebook too.
State DAAS Update - Heather Burkhardt	Heather Burkhardt reported that there are no new developments at DAAS at the moment. The Department of Justice settlement corrective action plan was due at the end of December. The Alzheimer's State Plan is being released in March. It is hoped the publicity about that will be broad.
Presentation on Election Law Changes and Assistance for Those without Valid ID	<p>Jennifer Faulkner and Ted Fitzgerald were introduced from the NC State Board of Elections to discuss the Voter ID initiative and efforts to implement the legislation requiring that valid ID's be presented in order to vote. More information can be obtained at MyVoterID.nc.gov. Each county has County Boards of Elections. There are 4 million voters as of November registered in North Carolina. 33 states have some type of voter ID requirements. In Mississippi their roll-out has gone well, and in Texas things have been more rocky, The State Board of Elections here has looked closely at those two states. (See Powerpoint). Mary asked if a person moved to a new county, could they vote absentee. The answer was "yes", but they need to be registered in their new county of residence as soon as possible. It was reported that no eligible voter will be turned away. A free voter ID can be obtained from DMV for people over 70, blind, homeless, or needed for purposes of voting. Certain requirements have to be met for the ID to be provided free of charge. Voters over 70 may use approved forms of ID's even if expired. One can request Voter ID outreach materials on the website for the Board of Elections. The information is free.</p> <p>Gina Upchurch commented on the bureaucracy of the voter ID requirements and the expense. She voiced concern that this legislation was passed for a problem that does not exist. She asked how to qualify for curbside voting. The response was that if a person cannot vote regularly due to disability or age or infirmity and wants curbside voting, they can request it. Voters are encouraged to think about their own situation.</p> <p>Linda Shaw asked if a Medicare card could be accepted as a valid ID. The response was "no." Linda asked how this could be changed. Response was that this would require legislative action.</p> <p>Gina asked about college students from out of state voting in North Carolina. The response from Ted and Jennifer was that a college student may not want to claim their residency here in order to vote. Gina asked about how the NAACP suit will affect all of this. Ted shared that if overturned, it will be appealed so the Board of Elections is acting as though current provisions will remain in place.</p> <p>A question was also raised about residents in long term care facilities voting. Ted stated that if they cannot leave the facility, an absentee ballot would make sense. Otherwise curbside voting or transportation to the polls would be an option.</p> <p>Mary reviewed our 2015 legislative priorities and action taken in the last legislative session on these. As noted on the agenda, the Executive Committee is recommending that the Coalition vote today on establishing priorities for the 2016 session. She stated that since this is a short legislative session, the Executive Committee is recommending that our recommendations for 2016 focus on trying to get action on those items from 2015 still pending. Coalition members were supportive of this recommendation.</p> <p>Mary asked if the Coalition wished to advocate for making the funding reinstated last year for the</p>
Establishing Priorities for the 2016 Legislative Session	

Home and Community Care Block Grant recurring funding. There was consensus for this being a priority for the 2016 legislative session. She also asked for discussion about funding for adult protective services (APS). There was agreement to ask for more funding. \$1.5 million dollars was discussed. Polly Williams asked that this be increased to \$2 million. Bill Lamb seconded this recommendation. It was also recommended that the funding request for the Block Grant be \$2 million in recurring funding. Mary asked if there were objections. There were none.

Mary reported that according to data shared with the Alzheimer's Task Force, there were 17,043 APS reports in 2009. In state fiscal year 2014, this number increased to 22,824.

Heather Burkhardt was asked to provide an update on the Home and Community Care Block Grant and the funding for APS. She reported that effective January 1, 2016, there were 9,477 people on the waiting list for Block Grant services such as home delivered meals and in-home aide services. In reference to APS funding, she stated that \$2 million in state funding was removed for APS in 2011-2012 and this was replaced with \$1.2 million in Social Services Block Grant funding which is now used in 53 counties. The need for APS services is increasing as noted above. She reported that 63% of APS reports are for self-neglect, 23% for caregiver neglect, 13% for exploitation, and 5% for physical abuse.

Gina Upchurch stated that she hates taking Medicaid off the table as a priority. Mary Bethel said it was her opinion that the Legislature had taken all the action it planned to take with Medicaid reform at this time, and in the short session they won't be looking at Medicaid. We need to be flexible however if things change. Gina voiced that she understood.

House Bill 816 (Study the Needs of Working Caregivers) and House Bill 817 (Enact Uniform Law on Adult Guardianship) which passed the House with no opposition were discussed next. It was the recommendation of all those on the call to continue to support these bills in the 2016 session. Linda Shaw remarked that she hoped at some point the Coalition would think about the issue of family caregiving more broadly.

Gina Upchurch asked about re-establishing the Study Commission on Aging as an additional priority. She asked about the difference between the Senior Tar Heel Legislature and Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, which Mary Bethel explained. Mary Edwards said she is staff to both groups, and she'd be happy to fill her in on these. Gina requested that information about these groups be put on the Coalition website. Linda Shaw suggested that at some point the Coalition look at recommending expanding programs such as PACE which support people to live in their own homes. Bill Lamb suggested we not blur our message for right now. Dick Hatch supported that and thought we should particularly focus on advocating for House Bill 816 and House Bill 817 that have passed the House. He also stated that he wished to strongly support the reinstatement of the Joint Legislative Study Commission on Aging. Linda Shaw said PACE is a larger discussion we may approach later.

After this discussion, a motion was made by Oleen Ogles and seconded by Kat Castello to approve the following as our legislative agenda for 2016:

- **Increase state funding for the Home and Community Care Block Grant by \$2 million to help address the waiting list for services to help older adults stay in their homes**
- **Pass House Bill 816 (Study the Needs of Working Caregivers)**
- **Appropriate \$2 million in state funding for adult protective services**
- **Pass House Bill 817 (An Act Enacting the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceeding Jurisdiction Act of 2015)**
- **Establish a North Carolina Study Commission on Aging as a vehicle for research and action regarding legislation pertaining to older adults**

The motion was approved unanimously.

Advocacy Day

Teresa Troup reported on plans for the Coalition's Advocacy Day at the Legislature. People who have volunteered to assist with the planning for this include Kay Castillo, Helen Savage, Frances Messer and Mary Bethel. It looks like the best day to have this is May 10 or 11.

Discussion and vote on budget for year	Next on the agenda was a vote on the budget for the Coalition for 2016. The proposed budget was shared at the December meeting and sent again electronically to all members. The budget includes a proposed dues increase with a new membership category for individuals. There is also a hardship provision for those who cannot pay the full amount of dues. Mary requested questions or comments. Linda Shaw asked what time frame the dues cover. Mary responded that dues are for a calendar year. Linda then moved that the budget be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
Other Business and Organizational Announcements	<p>Mary Edwards said that she met with the Adult Partnership to Prevent Adult Abuse group last week and asked that we save the date for May 20 for their conference.</p> <p>Mary Bethel reminded everyone that the 2016 Palliative Care Symposium will be on April 7th in Chapel Hill at the Friday Center.</p> <p>Dick Hatch mentioned our need for aging advocates in the Senate. Teresa Troup reminded everyone that the Election Primary date has changed from May to March.</p> <p>Carla Obiol shared that there are still problems with enrollment into BCBS health plans. If issues come up about this, people can be directed to the Department of Insurance at 855-408-1212.</p> <p>Janice Tyler reported that the N.C. Association on Aging conference is March 7-8 at the Pinehurst Hotel. Nominations for the Association's Excellence in Aging Awards are due February 5. Dr. Bill Thomas will also be speaking at a conference at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill on April 21. It was recommended this information be provided for the website.</p> <p>Mary Bethel mentioned we need to look at the State Plan on Aging and determine which Plan objectives would be most relevant for action by the Coalition. There are a number of demographics in the Plan that can be utilized.</p>

HANDOUTS

Treasurer report and copy of Power Point had been emailed previously. Since the meeting was held by phone, there were no handouts at meeting.

Who	Assignments	WHEN
Mary Bethel	Send out notices to membership	February 2016
All	Report to Mary or Bill Lamb the announcements of meetings and conferences for posting on website	Ongoing

****NEXT MEETING****

Day / Date / Time	WHAT	Where
Friday Feb 26, 2016 10:00am until noon	Monthly meeting	Division of Aging and Adult Services conference room on Dix campus. Guest speaker: Theresa Matula with Legislative Analysis Division in N.C. General Assembly