

**North Carolina Coalition on Aging
Friday, February 22, 2019 (10:00 a.m.)**

Room 240, Albemarle Building (325 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh)
Parking available in Parking Deck Adjacent to Building
Call-in Number: 1-866-215-3402; Passcode: 5080266#

Attending in Person:

Charmaine Fuller Cooper – AARP NC, Chair-Elect of Coalition Board
Mary Bethel – Ex. Director
Chad Walker – Secretary/Treasurer and Coalition Board Member
Bill Lamb – Friends of Residents - Long-Term Care, Past-President and Coalition Board member
Martha Fowler – SEANC, Coalition Board Member
Ray Riordan – The Carolinas Center, Coalition Board Member
Janice Tyler – NC Assoc. on Aging, Orange Co. Dept. of Aging, Coalition Board Member
Melinda Munden – NC SHIP
Nancy Warren – NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse
Nancy Ruffner – Navigate NC
Mary Edwards – NC Div. of Aging and Adult Services
Paola Learoyd – Randolph Cloud and Associates
Tony Davis – NC Div. of Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Alan, Winstead – Meals on Wheels of Wake County, Meals on Wheels NC
Karen Appert – Southern Gerontological Society
Shazia Keller – WG Alexander and Associates, NCBA Elder and Special Needs Law Section
Sal Cammarata – Alta Real Estate
Robin Iten Porter – NC PACE Association
Carol Kelly – Rethinking Guardianship, NC Guardianship Assoc.
Les Geller – SAGE Raleigh/LGBT Center
Kent Earnhardt – Advocate, Individual Member
Martha Lamb – Advocate, Individual Member
Davonda Holloway – Intern with Marty Lamb
Jo Paul – NC SHIP
Corinna Miller – United HealthCare
Harold Barnette – Institute for Family Caregiving
Joseph Wheeler – SAGE Raleigh/LGBT Center
Ana Pardo – NC Justice Center
Glenda Reed – Wake County Human Services Senior and Adult Services
Caroline Hale – Campbell Un. Senior Law Clini
Chanelle Croxton – National Domestic Worker’s Alliance
Tommy Goldsmith – NC Health News
Lisa Riegel – AARP NC
David Rhew – NC Public Transportation Association
2 Interpreters

Speaker – Theresa Matula, Legislative Analysis Division, NC General Assembly

Joining by Phone:

Joyce Massey-Smith – NC Div. of Aging and Adult Services
Leslie Jones – NC Division of Aging and Adult Services
Preston Craddock – Greene County Dept. of Social Services
Kay Castillo – NASW NC
George Smith – Johnston Co. STHL Delegate, Community and Senior Services of Johnston Co.
Rachel Miller – DayStay Adult Day Services, Individual Member
Jeff Horton – NC Senior Living Association
Natalie Sprague – United Way of NC/ NC 2-1-1
Scott Herrick – Alzheimer’s Association Eastern and Western NC Chapters
Leah Proctor – United Way of NC/NC 2-1-1
Kristen Brannock – Resources for Seniors (Wake County)
Julie Wiggins – High Country Council of Govts.
Nicloe Niegl – High County Council of Govts. Area Agency on Aging

Opening Remarks and Introductions – Charmaine Fuller Cooper – Chair Elect of Board

Approval of Minutes from January 25, 2019 Meeting

- One minor correction was noted (Correct amount for Healthy Opportunities pilot programs is \$650,000,000 not \$650,000)
- Nancy Warren – motion to approve, Ken Earnhardt- seconded: Approved by all.

Treasurer’s Report – Chad Walker, Secretary/Treasurer

- Presented handout. Proposed balance is \$19,670,91.
- Approved by all.
- Members were encouraged to renew membership if have not done. Can check with Chad/Mary if unsure of status.

Activities and Updates Since December Meeting

Mary Bethel shared the following information:

- Update for February was e-mail this morning.
- Spam with e-mail from Mary has been solved ;
 - Why Mary shows up as “Mary Alice Bethel” (changed her user name)
- Met with Lee Lilley (Gov’s Office) to discuss Coalition’s priorities . Do not yrt know what Governor has in budget.
- Participated in partnership event with NC Housing Finance Agency on advocacy for Housing Trust Fund on January 25.
- Continue to be engaged with Care 4 Carolina which has a new director, Erica Palmer Smith.
- Annual Meeting on Sept. 27 - NCSU University Club has been secured for this. Suggestions for any potential speakers should be directed to Mary.
- We are on a workgroup with the Rural Health Alliance related to aging.
- Mary has been invited to be on an IOM Serious Illness Task Force.
- We submitted comments on the CAP-DA waiver renewal application.
- Website has been update. The fact sheet on our priority issues is now posted.

- Support continues to grow for adequate funding for adult protective services among aging groups.
- Tommy Goldsmith was thanked for his articles including the one on the need to increase the personal needs allowance.
- Check calendar of activities on website. There is a lot going on.

Update from the NC Department of Health and Human Services and the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) - Joyce Massey-Smith gave her report by phone

- Prepaid Health Plans (PHP's) have been announced – DAAS is participating in on-boarding for PHP's.
- May is Older American Month.
- IOM Serious Illness Task Force will be convening soon.
- Not sure yet of Governor's proposed budget. DAAS has been meeting with the Office of State Budget and Management on requests. She recommends aging groups advocate with one voice.
- DAAS will be having sessions with the Center for Supporting Families that is working on the DSS regionalization effort.
- Work on the State Aging Services Plan is wrapping up.
- DAAS is doing more on social media.
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is coming up.
- DAAS has filled the Legal Services Developer position that has been vacant.
- DAAS has been working on developing a partnership with the Div. of Mental Health/Development Disability/Substance Abuse Services to increase community inclusion of persons with mental illness and development disabilities.
- Work continues on opioid initiatives.
- DAAS will present at the first meeting of the House Aging Committee.
- County Aging Profile can be found online on DAAS's website.

David Rhew asked a question about the protest period for the PHP's not selected and can proposals be made public. Kent Earnhardt shared that NC Legal Aid has program for seniors.

Presentation by Theresa Matula, Principal Legislative Analyst with the Legislative Analysis Division, NC General Assembly

- She shared information about:
 - Bill Drafting Division
 - Legislative Analysis Division
 - Divided by areas
 - Fiscal Research Division
- This past year, the Joint Oversight Committee of HHS couldn't really have meetings because they kept getting called back into session. Information type sessions are going on now.
 - Odd year - long session (typically convene in January and end in mid-summer)
 - Even year- short session (typically convening in May and end in mid-summer)
- Efforts are underway to create the ability to view meetings online.
- Senior Chair has been named for some of the Committees.

- She shared Schedule/Important Dates Handout.
- Bills must go back through the Rules Committee which can slow down the process.
- May 9th is crossover deadline.
- Spring Break has been schedule the week after Easter.
- The Aging Subcommittee of the Joint Oversight Committee on HHS did not continue but could be re-established if leadership decided to do so.
- Former Rep. Nelson Dollar who was the House senior budget chair (lost his re-election bid) is now a senior policy advisory to House Speaker Tim Moore.
- A question was asked about the budget process and the speculation that there might be a piece meal approach to approving the budget instead of approving one big budget. This way the whole budget would not be held up for disagreements. Theresa acknowledged that this rumor is circulating.

Update on Federal and State Developments

Mary Bethel shared the following information.

- The legislative session is in full swing and the chambers have set deadlines for bill requests/fillings.
- Four members of the House have introduced legislation to create a nonpartisan commission to draw the state’s congressional and legislative districts.
- There will be new elections in the 9th and 3rd Congressional districts.
- Gov. Roy Cooper will deliver his “State of the State” address on Feb. 25.
- The State Board of Elections is seeking public comment on photo ID rules.
- July 15 is the date set for the gerrymander trial.
- DHHS announced the PHP’s on Feb, 4. As noted earlier, there will likely be appeals.
- March SNAP benefits for all recipients will be distributed March 3.
- The state is on track to have a \$150.8 million revenue surplus.
- The remaining federal FY19 appropriations have been enacted.
- The 2019 federal poverty levels have been released.
- CMS has issued a new informational bulletin on the Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019.
- CMS has launched a new “what’s covered” app that lets people with original Medicare check whether Medicare covers a specific medical item or service.
- Medicare Advantage open enrollment period goes until March 30.
- Draft information is out on federal aging program funding.

Plans for Day at the Legislature

- On overview of the Day was provided.
- Handouts for the Day are a fact sheet on the Coalition’s priorities and a handout on the latest aging demographic data.
- Focus issues for the day are APS, HCCBG, and closing the coverage gap.
- Advocacy training will be provided after the meeting.

Membership Renewal – Members were encouraged to do so if have not renewed yet.

Sharing by Coalition Members

- Lisa Riegel noted that AARP is looking for support letters for AP(Advance Practice) RNs being able to practice fully. She will send out information about this and collect support letters from those who can write one.
- Carol Kelly announced that the Rethinking Guardianship Summit is sold out. The U.S. Senate Committee on Aging has released a report on guardianship. The Rethinking Guardianship group will be working to draft legislation relative to some of the recommendations.
- Janice Tyler reminded everyone that the NC Assoc. on Aging Annual Conference is March 14-15 in Asheville.
- Bill Lamb shared that Friends of Residents in Long Term Care will have their Advocacy Day on April 3. Their priority issues are increasing the personal needs allowance and additional funding for the Ombudsman Program.
- Shazia Keller provided the number for the Legal Aid line: 877-579-7562. The hours for intake are 9-11am and 1-3pm.
- George Smith announced that the Senior Tar Heel Legislature will visit the General Assembly on March 13.
- Karen Appert reminded everyone that the 40th Annual Conference of the Southern Gerontological Society will be at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Miramar Beach, Florida on April 9-13. Next year's meeting will be in Norfolk, Va. They have an Endowment Fund and want to give grants for unique/innovative things.
- Harold Barnette shared that Willetha Barnette is talking with first year medical students at UNC and is a senior advisor to two medical students. He also noted that Duke has a five year program to look at reducing disparities in legal planning.
- David Rhew stated that the NC Dept. of Transportation has reorganized its Divisions and biking, PED and public transportation are being combined.
- Alan Winstead noted Meals on Wheels has fund raising events coming up.
- Ana Pardo reported that the Medicaid Expansion Advocacy Day is Feb. 27.
- Chad Walker noted that NC CARE 360 is starting community influencer sessions and aging programs need to be at the table for these.
- AARP Lobby Day is March 6.
- AARP has collected petitions in opposition to a proposed insurance rate hike and will be dropping these off to the Dept. of Insurance.

Other Business - None

Adjourn

Following the meeting, Ray Riordan provided training on how to be an effective advocate for 14 Coalition members.