

MEETING DATE: February 26, 2016

SUMMARY OF: NC Coalition on Aging Meeting

RECORDED BY: Marty Lamb, Secretary

<p>In attendance</p>	<p>Mary Bethel - President Bill Lamb - Past President Marty Lamb - Secretary Alan Winstead - Treasurer Heather Burkhardt - NC DAAS Mary Edwards - NC DAAS Lisa Nguyen - Former COA Intern Theresa Matula - Leg. Analysis Div., NC General Assembly Suzanne Merrill - NC DAAS Linda Shaw - NC PACE Association Karen Brewer - NC Assisted Living Association Carla Obiol - NC DOI Carol Meyer - Carolinas Center for Hospice and EOL Care Natalie Jones - WCHS Adult Services Lisa Jester - NASW-NC Melinda Munden - NC DOI/SHIIP Paola Learoyd - Randolph Cloud and Associates Julie Wiggins - NC Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging Janice Tyler - N.C. Association on Aging Margaret Toman - Friends of Residents in Long Term Care Margaret Kirkman - NC Adult Foster Care Association Catherine Goldman - Wake County Human Services Olene Ogles - AARP NC Bob Jackson - Center for Responsible Lending Polly Williams - NC Justice Center Hannah Rossi - NAMI NC Cara Townsend - Governor's Office Jillian Hardin - Region K Area Agency on Aging Tracy Colvard - Assoc. of Home and Hospice Care of NC</p> <p>Attended by phone conference call: Gina Upchurch - Senior PharmAssist Dee Hatch - OWL Dick Hatch - Access Dental Care Teresa Johnson Troupe - NC Adult Day Services Association Garman Troupe - Retiree from Resources for Seniors John Carrol - DSS Directors' Association (Rutherford County) Scott Herrick - Alzheimer's Association David Cottengim - Resources for Seniors</p>
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OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING : To update each other, to learn more about next session of NC General Assembly and to share plans for our N.C. Coalition on Aging Day at the Legislature

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

What key decisions were made during the meeting?

SUBJECT	SHARING
Introduction and Minutes approval	After introductions and introductory remarks, the minutes from the January 22 meeting by phone were approved.
Treasurer report	Report was presented by Treasurer Allen Winstead. Current balance is \$9,206.
Update	Updates have been e-mailed out twice since the last meeting. Further website refinements have been made. Bill shared that he has questions about posting the Updates that go out twice a month on the website for access by anyone as the Updates are a benefit to membership in the Coalition. One person said a summary of the Updates should be posted on the web. Marty Lamb said she thought we'd decided to keep Updates off the web. Cara Obiol said she thought those who could not join the Coalition and legislators might like to see the Update. Another said they thought they should be posted. The Executive Committee will discuss this issue further. The Coalition will be represented at the NC Association on Aging conference in March. NAMI NC and the NC Dept. of Insurance's Consumer Assistance Group have joined the Coalition and 4 individual members have joined as well. Numerous existing groups have sent in their membership renewal dues.
DAAS Report	Heather Burkhardt, Assistant Director at DAAS, announced that the retirement party for Sharon Wilder who is retiring as State LTC Ombudsman will be held this afternoon. Bill agreed to voice appreciation to Sharon on behalf of the Coalition at her party. Heather thanked the Coalition for their legislative priorities. The Adult Network of Care initiative is being done through CARES and an RFP went out. Catawba County Department of Social Services and a western NC partnership group were selected for this initiative. Heather will provide more information on this for a Coalition Update. Efforts are underway to address all the issues to bring the Ombudsman program in line with new federal regulations by July 1. North Carolina's system of local Community Advisory Committees may need to be shifted somewhat administratively. The responsibility for the Community Advisory Committees lies with County Commissioners and this will need to shift to the Ombudsmen. There are almost 1000 Community Advisory Committee members across the state. Any comments about this change are welcomed. She noted that DAAS is planning for work relative to NC-FAST in the future. Mary Edwards shared that on March 17-18, the Senior Tar Heel Legislature will meet in Chapel Hill. If anyone has resolutions they would like for the Senior Legislature to consider, contact her.
Teresa Matula, staff member from NC General Assembly	<p>Mary Bethel introduced Teresa Matula, Principal Legislative Analyst with the Legislative Analysis Division (previously called the Research Division) at the NC General Assembly. Mary noted that Theresa is knowledgeable on health and human services issues and has taken the lead on a number of issues including serving as staff of the former NC Study Commission on Aging. Theresa noted that she has worked at the General Assembly since 1998. She shared that the legislative staff are non-partisan.</p> <p>Teresa provided an informational handout about how to search the General Assembly website to find information and about relevant committees and meeting schedules. She explained that you don't have to be present at the Legislature to stay engaged. The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on HHS is meeting the second Tuesday of the month in the morning, and the Joint Oversight Committee on Medicaid is meeting that afternoon. Subcommittee meetings are also being held. Issues which impact older adults come up in many committees ranging from regulatory issues to insurance. Each committee has a website and handouts from meetings are posted. Many of the committee meeting rooms also have audio hookup available so you can listen to the meetings from home.</p> <p>Theresa provided an overview about how the General Assembly operates. The short sessions are in even numbered years. There are many limitations on what can be considered in a short session (ex. budget issues, recommendations from study commissions, bills that met crossover deadline). House and Senate Health committees have the third highest volume of bills that come</p>

	<p>through committees to end up in the budget. As a staff member, she works with bill sponsors and committees to provide information.</p> <p>Summaries of legislation passed last session are available on-line at the General Assembly website. She explained how to “pull up” a specific bill to find out information about its status. There is not a summary of every bill introduced available through her Division, but the UNC School of Government does have this. Her Division develops bill summaries when requested by the legislature and heard in committee. She responded to questions and shared additional information about how to find information about pending or passed legislation. She noted that the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem of the Senate have policy staff.</p> <p>Theresa distributed a summary of Substantive Enacted Legislation Pertaining to Health and Human Services passed in the 2015 legislative session. She pointed out key bills and responded to questions. Theresa was thanked for a most informative presentation.</p>
Coalition on Aging Day at the Legislature	<p>Teresa Troupe, Chair of the Committee to plan the Day at the Legislature, was not able to be at the meeting, but she sent along an overview of plans to date. The date for the Day at the Legislature will be May 10. In addition to this being a time to share information with legislators about our priority issues, this is also being planned as a day where Coalition members will be available to answer questions from legislators, legislative staff and guests at the General Assembly as well as share information about resources. The 1300 quadrant of the Legislative Building has been reserved for the Coalition and the plan is to have tables in the quadrant “manned” by Coalition members. Tentative topic areas for the tables are family caregiving, finances, health and wellness, home and community based services, residential care and nursing homes, rights and protections, and retirement. A draft handout of a flyer about the Coalition’s priorities that can be shared on this Day was distributed. Any Coalition member that does not want their name on the flyer as a supporter of our legislative priorities should let Mary Bethel know by the end of next week. A copy of this and any additional materials on our priorities will be posted on the Coalition’s website. Additional questions about the Day at the Legislature were addressed. More details about this special Day will be forthcoming in the weeks to come.</p>
Presentation on Two Coalition Priorities	<p>Mary noted that at the suggestion of Bill Lamb, each of the Coalition’s five priority issues will be discussed in detail at Coalition meetings leading up to the April convening of the General Assembly for the short legislative session. Charmaine Fuller Cooper with AARP NC had been invited to this meeting to discuss House Bills 816 and 817. Due to a last minute conflict, she could not attend but she did send handout materials about House Bill 817 on the uniform adult guardianship legislation which included an AARP initiated sign on petition in support of this legislation. Mary Bethel reviewed these materials and also reviewed House Bill 816 which calls for a study of the needs of working caregivers. She noted that this bill originated from a Caregiver workgroup convened by AARP NC in 2014-15, and it originally called for amending the state’s labor laws to allow four hours of unpaid caregiver leave in a twelve month period for short-term caregiving responsibilities. Mary reported that House Bill 816 and 817 were both passed without opposition in the House. They were sent to the Senate Rules Committee and did not move from there. Questions from those present were entertained on both bills. Carol Meyer moved that the Coalition sign on to the petition in support of House Bill 817, and Olene Ogles seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. Mary will notify Charmaine of this.</p>
Other business	<p>Bob Jackson who was representing the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) was recognized to bring an issue before the Coalition. He started by noting that many groups in the state led the fight against predatory lending in North Carolina in the early 2000’s and our state legislature banned pay day loans in the state. The Coalition on Aging has supported these consumer protection efforts. Over the years this industry has made several attempts to sneak back in. At the federal level the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is developing national rules dealing with day pay lending. Their proposed draft rules are a little weak. CRL is circulating a draft letter that will go to Richard Cordray, Director of CFPB, calling for strong national rules. Over 135 state, regional, and local organizations have signed on in support of this letter, and Bob asked if the Coalition would consider signing on also. After discussion, Polly Williams recommended we sign on to the letter. Someone suggested we should have time to read the letter fully first before</p>

<p>Organizational Announcements:</p>	<p>signing on. Another person said the Executive Committee should review and make the decision about signing on. Bill Lamb seconded a revised motion by Polly that the Executive Committee review this and make the decision about sign on. The motion was approved. Carol Meyer mentioned that as people get older, their money may not last and older persons are very vulnerable to predatory lending practices. (note: The Executive Committee reviewed all the material from the CRL, including the draft letter, and made the decision to have the Coalition sign on. Susan Lupton, the contact for CRL, was notified of this decision).</p> <p>Julie Wiggins reported that Area Agencies on Aging are still collecting data for the development of their four year area plans. Most Area Agencies are still able to receive public input. Input for a particular region can be sent directly to that Area Agency on Aging. The Association has had some conversations about Medicaid reform. The aging network wants to play a role in providing community based services under reform. Janice Tyler, representing the NC Association on Aging, said that March 7-8 is their conference. She also reported that nationally known Dr. Bill Thomas will be doing a session in Chapel Hill on April 21. On March 17 a death with dignity panel discussion will also be held at the Friday Center from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Margaret Toman and Bill Lamb announced that Friends of Residents in Long Term Care is turning a new page and beginning a lawyer referral service. Margaret Kirkman reported that the NC Adult Foster Care Association meeting is this Friday, and they will be discussing concerns about consistency of surveys and oversight. Wake County Human Services staff reported they are seeing increased caseloads for adult protective services and guardianship. They have 40 persons for each worker. Tracy Colvard shared that the Association for Home and Hospice Care of NC will be participating in a program called “Bring the Vote Home” which is focused on education to assure voting rights are honored.</p> <p>Bill Lamb reported that Friends of Residents in Long Term Care will be trying to put together an advocacy initiative soon on voting absentee. Carol Meyer with the Carolinas Center reminded everyone that their one day symposium on Palliative Care and Advanced Directives is April 7 at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. There will be clinical and administrative tracks. Linda Shaw said the NC PACE Association conference will be held April 28-29 (flyers were available for those who wanted them). She put in a plug for additional PACE programs across the state. Representatives from the NC Department of Insurance reported that this is SHIIP’S 30th year. SHIIP has a strong partnership with community health centers across the state to reach Medicare recipients. Carla Obiol noted the problems many people are having with enrollment in BC/BS plans. Her staff in the Department of Insurance has been getting many questions about this matter. Homeowners and auto insurance questions are also received by the Department. To help address questions the public has about insurance issues, the Department has developed a speakers’ bureau that is very willing to talk with organizations and groups. Call Carla or Melinda Munden to request a speaker. Mary Bethel asked for further information about this so it could be included in the next Update.</p> <p>Mary Bethel reminded everyone that copies of the Coalition membership application form were available to take home and share with others who might be interested in Coalition membership. The next Coalition meeting is March 18 at the Division of Aging and Adult Services at 10:00 a.m.</p>
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HANDOUTS

Meeting agenda. Treasurer’s reports. Information provided by AARP NC on uniform adult guardianship. Copy of House Bill 816. Copy of Substantive Enacted Legislation Pertaining to Health and Human Services passed in 2015. Coalition on Aging Legislative priorities flyer. Handout on the Coalition’s Legislative Day. Informational sheet on the General Assembly website and how to use. Draft letter to Richard Cordray and materials on pay day lending.

Who	Assignments	WHEN
<p>Executive Committee</p>	<p>Have continuing discussion about whether Updates should appear on the website</p> <p>Review letter to Richard Cordray with CFPB and decide if Coalition will sign on to this. Notify Susan Lupton with CRL of decision</p>	<p>Next Executive Committee meeting</p> <p>ASAP</p>

Heather Burkhardt	Route written information on Adult Network of Care recipients to Mary Bethel	ASAP
Carol Obiol	Route written information to Mary Bethel on DOI speaker's bureau	ASAP
Mary Bethel	Compile and mail out twice monthly Updates to membership	
Bill Lamb	Recognize/share thanks to Sharon Wilder on behalf of the Coalition at Sharon's retirement party	February 26, 2016 afternoon

******NEXT MEETING******

Day / Date / Time	WHAT	Where
Thurs, March 18th 10:00am until noon	Monthly meeting	Division of Aging and Adult Services conference room on Dix campus